



Are you interested in representing your Zone on the WALGA State Council?



What is WALGA?

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is the single association for Local Governments in WA, representing the political and strategic interests of Local Government at State and Federal levels.

WALGA is a member-based organisation, with all 142 country and metropolitan Local Governments in WA being members of the Association. Member Local Governments are regarded as the “shareholders” of the Association and the focus of activities is to be directed towards the provision of political advocacy and services which meet their collective needs.

The Association provides a broad range of functions for its members. These include:

- Political leadership and advocacy on Local Government issues to the State and Australian Governments.
- Exerting influence over government policy to achieve Local Government interests.
- Developing policy and legislative initiatives representing the interests of members.
- Seeking funding opportunities to assist in the delivery of Local Government services.
- Providing services which result in financial savings to members and enhance the capacity of Local Governments to deliver services to their communities.
- Promoting the credibility and profile of Local Government.
- Facilitating strategic and information links between Local Governments.



What is the State Council?

The State Council is the governing body for WALGA. It is made up of 12 metropolitan representatives, 12 country representatives and the Association President. State Council's primary role is to govern the successful operation of the Association through the Chief Executive Officer and senior management. Without intending to limit the general role of State Council, the broad functions and responsibilities include:

- (i) strategy formulation and policy making for the Association;
- (ii) development, evaluation and succession of the Chief Executive Officer;

- (iii) monitoring financial management, including approving the annual budget;
- (iv) monitoring and controlling compliance and organisational performance;
- (v) ensuring effective identification, assessment and management of risk;
- (vi) promoting ethical and responsible decision making;
- (vii) ensuring effective communication and liaison with members and stakeholders; and
- (viii) ensuring an effective governance framework and culture for the Association.

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What is the role of State Councillors?

State Councillors have ultimate responsibility for the overall successful operations of the Association. The Association's Corporate Governance Charter states *that "a State Councillor shall, in good faith, behave in a manner that is consistent with generally accepted procedures for the conduct of meetings at all State Council meetings"*.

The principal roles of State Councillors relate to:

- All major policy positions and issues.
- The strategic direction of the Association.
- Financial operations and solvency.
- All matters as prescribed by law.

Broadly speaking, there are five fundamental duties that State Councillors must fulfil:

- (i) A duty to act in good faith.
- (ii) A duty not to gain advantage by improper use of their position.
- (iii) A duty not to misuse information.
- (iv) A duty to act with due care and diligence.
- (v) A duty not to operate whilst insolvent.

State Councillors are required to consistently act in the "best interests of the organisation as a whole". This effectively means that the duties of a State Councillor are owed to all Members. Whilst it is recognised that State Councillors must represent the interests of their respective Zones, the interests of the collective membership must always come first.

State Councillors are expected to comply with WALGA's Corporate Governance Charter and Code of Conduct.

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So what makes an effective State Councillor?

According to the Association's Corporate Governance Charter, an effective State Councillor is a person who has the following attributes:

- Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a director of WALGA.
- Capacity to devote sufficient time to responsibilities on State Council.
- Legitimacy and confidence in the eyes of Member Local Governments.
- Ability to exercise objective judgement.
- Capacity to retain a holistic focus on Local Government issues.