



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK

Special Council Meeting Minutes - 31 March 2026



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

A **Special Council Meeting** was held at **5:30 PM** on **Tuesday 31 March 2026** in the **Council Chambers**, Administration Centre at 99 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park.

Her Worship the Mayor Karen Vernon
16 April 2026

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1 Declaration of opening

Mayor Karen Vernon opened the meeting at 5:38 pm and read out the Acknowledgment of Country.

Acknowledgement of the traditional owners

Ngany djerapiny Wadjak – Noongar boodja-k yaakiny, nidja bilya bardook.

I am honoured to be standing on Whadjuk - Nyungar country on the banks of the Swan River.

Ngany kaaditj Noongar moort keny kaadak nidja Wadjak Noongar boodja. Ngany kaaditj nidja Noongar birdiya – koora, ye-ye, boorda, baalapiny moorditj Noongar kaadijtin, moort, wer boodja ye-ye.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and respect past, present and emerging leaders, their continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continues to be important today.

Ngany youngka baalapiny Noongar birdiya wer moort nidja boodja.

I thank them for the contribution made to life in the Town of Victoria Park and to this region.

2 Announcements from the Presiding Member

2.1 Announcements from the Presiding Member

2.1 Recording and live streaming of proceedings

In accordance with regulation 14I of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, this meeting is being audio and video recorded and live streamed on the Town's website.

Under clause 39(1) of *the Meeting Procedure Local Law 2019* I do not give permission for any other person to record the proceedings of this meeting. By being present at this meeting, members of the public consent to the possibility that their image and voice may be live streamed to public. Recordings are also made available on the Town's website following the meeting.

2.2 Public question time and public statement time

As this is a Special Council Meeting, any public questions or statements must relate to the business of the agenda.

There are guidelines that need to be adhered to in our Council meetings and during question and statement time people speaking are not to personalise any questions, or statements about Elected Members, or staff or use any possible defamatory remarks.

In accordance with clause 40 of the *Town of Victoria Park Meeting Procedures Local Law 2019*, a person addressing the Council shall extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates and shall comply with any direction by the presiding member.

A person present at or observing a meeting shall not create a disturbance at a meeting, by interrupting or interfering with the proceedings, whether by expressing approval or dissent, by conversing or by any other means.

When the presiding member speaks during public question time or public statement time any person then speaking, is to immediately stop and every person present is to preserve strict silence so that the presiding member may be heard without interruption.

2.3 No adverse reflection

In accordance with clause 56 of the *Town of Victoria Park Meeting Procedures Local Law 2019*, both Elected Members and the public when speaking are not to reflect adversely on the character or actions of Elected Members or employees.

2.4 *Town of Victoria Park Meeting Procedures Local Law 2019*

All meetings of the Council, committees and the electors are to be conducted in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and the *Town of Victoria Park Meeting Procedures Local Law 2019*.

3 Attendance

Mayor	Mayor Karen Vernon
Banksia Ward	Cr Claire Anderson Cr Scott Ingram Cr Peter Melrosa Deputy Mayor Lindsay Miles
Jarrah Ward	Cr Andra Biondi Cr Sky Croeser Cr Jack Gordon-Manley Cr Daniel Minson
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Carl Askew
Chief Operations Officer Chief Community Planner Chief Financial Officer	Ms Alison Luobikis Mr David Doy Mr Duncan Olde
Manager Governance and Risk	Mr Brett Douglas
Meeting Secretary Public Liaison	Ms Winnie Tansanguanwong Ms Tomoko Kidahashi
Public	0

3.1 Apologies

Nil.

3.2 Approved leave of absence

Nil.

4 Declarations of interest

4.1 Declarations of financial interest

Nil.

4.2 Declarations of proximity interest

Nil.

4.3 Declarations of interest affecting impartiality

Nil.

5 Public question time

As there were no public in the public gallery, public question time opened and closed at 5.41pm.

6 Public statement time

As there were no public in the public gallery, public statement time opened and closed at 5.41pm.

7 Presentations

7.1 Petitions

Nil.

7.2 Presentations

Nil.

7.3 Deputations

Nil.

8 Method of dealing with agenda business

Nil.

9 Reports

9.1 WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion

Location	Town-wide
Reporting officer	Manager Governance and Risk
Responsible officer	Manager Governance and Risk
Voting requirement	Simple majority
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discussion Paper Electoral Reform [9.1.1 - 11 pages]2. Town of Victoria Park Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 15 October 2024 [9.1.2 - 128 pages]3. City of Gosnells Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 10 March 2026 [9.1.3 - 91 pages]4. City of Armadale Corporate Services Committee Minutes - 17 March 2026 [9.1.4 - 250 pages]5. City of Canning Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 17 March 2026 [9.1.5 - 172 pages]

Summary

WALGA has stated that it is seeking to obtain sector feedback that will ensure WALGA's positions reflect the sector's current views and enable timely and effective engagement with the anticipated State Government reform proposals.

Recommendation

That Council advise the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) that it supports Option ____ as outlined in this report.

Background

1. In June 2025, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government, expressed support for a four-year election cycle, citing concerns about voter fatigue and the rising costs of conducting biennial elections.
2. These messages were repeated in Minister Beazley's address at WALGA's 2025 Local Government Convention, which also raised the possibility of compulsory voting.
3. On 13 February 2026, a WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper was released by WALGA, requesting Council-endorsed feedback to inform WALGA's advocacy on anticipated Local Government electoral reforms. Specifically, the expected proposal by the State Government for full spill elections every 4 years; and compulsory voting at Local Government elections.
4. Due to an administrative error, the WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper was not sent to the Town, with the Town being made aware of it via a third party.

5. A Concept Forum was held on 24 March 2026 to discuss the matters the subject of the WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper, and the position of the Elected Members was mixed. Notes will be circulated from that meeting once they are finalised.

Discussion

6. A similar paper was discussed at the Town of Victoria Park Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 October 2024, Resolution 238/2024, with Council supporting 4-year terms with a 2-year spill (as it currently stands) and compulsory voting at Local Government Elections.
7. The key elements of the impact of the proposed changes are ventilated in the WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper. Notably:
 - i. elections are currently managed by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC).
 - ii. a change to a four-year cycle with a four-year spill would reduce costs by reducing the number of elections. However, the cost of each election may increase. This is delineated in the Discussion Paper;
 - iii. the WAEC uses the number of vacancies and expected participation rates to inform quotations for the conduct of elections;
 - iv. full spill elections would double the number of vacancies, with possible increased costs associated with printing and postage and increased staffing for the count. However, in-person elections become more cost effective than postal elections at higher participation rates.
8. The current position of our SECCA Partner and WALGA Zone colleagues is detailed in the attachments below:

Relevant documents

1. WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper;
2. Attachment 3 City of Gosnells Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 10 March 2026 (see page 11 to 13)
3. Attachment 4 City of Armadale Corporate Services Committee Minutes - 17 March 2026 (see page 248 to 250)
4. Attachment 5 City of Canning Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 17 March 2026 (see page 17 to 18)

Options for Consideration

The following options are listed for Council to consider:

Option 1:

- i. support a 4-year term, with half spill elections every 2 years
- ii. support Compulsory voting at Local Government Elections; or

Option 2:

- i. support a 4-year term, with full spill every 4 years

- ii. support compulsory voting at Local Government Elections; or

Option 3:

- i. support a 4-year term, with full spill every 4 years; and
- ii. non-compulsory voting at Local Government Elections; or

Option 4:

- i. support a 4-year term, with half spill elections every 2 years; and
- ii. support non-compulsory voting at Local Government Elections.

Legal and policy compliance

[Elections D2025/059060](#)

[Section 4.5 of the Local Government Act 1995](#)

[Section 4.65 of the Local Government](#)

Financial implications

Current budget impact	There is no immediate budget impact.
Future budget impact	If changes are made, there will be a budget impact. However, the exact impact is not capable of being determined at this time.

Risk management consideration

Risk impact category	Risk event description	Risk rating	Risk appetite	Risk Mitigation
Financial	Not applicable	High	Low	Not applicable
Environmental	Not applicable		Medium	Not applicable
Health and safety	Not applicable		Low	Not applicable
Data, Information Technology and Cyber	Not applicable		Medium	Not applicable
Assets	Not applicable		Medium	Not applicable
Compliance Breach	Not applicable		Low	Not applicable
Reputation	The Town does not provide a position		Low	TREAT by endorsing a position on the Local Government Elections by WALGA
Service delivery interruption	Not applicable		Medium	Not applicable

Engagement

Internal engagement

Elected Members	Concept Forum held to inform on options of Discussion Paper
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Strategic alignment

Civic Leadership

Community Priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL3 - Accountability and good governance.	Providing feedback to WALGA on advocacy positions relating to Local Government Elections may impact future change on this issue.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council advise the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) that it supports Option ____ as outlined in this report.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconded: Cr Daniel Minson

That Council:

1. Supports continuing half spill elections every 2 years
2. Supports continuation of voluntary voting
3. Advises WALGA that should full spill elections every 4 years be preferred by the sector generally, there should be transitional arrangements so that the first full spill elections occur no earlier than 2029 to preserve the rights of those persons elected to Council in 2025;
4. Supports the State Government introducing electronic voting for all local government elections to reduce the costs of elections for ratepayers and to improve the convenience of participation for electors, subject to a positive feasibility report on the viability of electronic voting.

Reason:

1. As State and Federal government elections are held every four years, there is sense in having local government elections align with adoption of a 4 year cycle. However, there is considerable merit in retaining corporate knowledge through elections every two years, allowing continuing councillors to support incoming councillors.

2. Whilst compulsory voting has benefits, it may have unintended consequences for local government. In particular, when combined with optional preferential voting, it is likely to lead to increased political party influence through voting tickets forming to run for council, which is likely to undermine and erode the independence of local government.

3. If a full spill were introduced in 2027, those members elected in 2025 would lose half of their four-year term, which appears fundamentally inequitable and unfair. If the local government sector broadly supports a four-year full spill, our position is that transitional arrangements are required to protect those elected in 2025. Specifically, the first full spill should not occur earlier than 2029 (and could occur later), ensuring elected members have the opportunity to serve the terms to which they were elected.

4. In relation to electronic voting, this has emerged as a current topic of discussion and may offer a way to better support electors. Moving to compulsory voting or full four-year terms would significantly increase election costs, potentially doubling them. Any measures that could reduce costs for ratepayers should be considered.

Electronic voting presents potential benefits, including improved accessibility, inclusivity, and convenience, reducing the need for physical voting. If increased convenience encourages greater participation, whether under voluntary or compulsory voting, it is worth considering and raising at this time.

With the agreement of the Mover and Seconder, each item will be put to the vote separately.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconder: Cr Daniel Minson

That Council:

1. Supports continuing half spill elections every 2 years.

Carried (9 - 0)

For: Mayor Karen Vernon, Cr Claire Anderson, Deputy Mayor Lindsay Miles, Cr Scott Ingram, Cr Andra Biondi, Cr Daniel Minson, Cr Peter Melrosa, Cr Jack Gordon-Manley and Cr Sky Croeser

Against: Nil

AMENDMENT

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconder: Cr Daniel Minson

That Council:

2. Supports continuation of voluntary voting.

Carried (7 - 2)

For: Mayor Karen Vernon, Cr Claire Anderson, Deputy Mayor Lindsay Miles, Cr Scott Ingram, Cr Andra Biondi, Cr Daniel Minson and Cr Peter Melrosa

Against: Cr Jack Gordon-Manley and Cr Sky Croeser

AMENDMENT

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconder: Cr Daniel Minson

That Council:

3. Advises WALGA that should full spill elections every 4 years be preferred by the sector generally, there should be transitional arrangements so that the first full spill elections occur no earlier than 2029 to preserve the rights of those persons elected to Council in 2025;

Carried (9 - 0)

For: Mayor Karen Vernon, Cr Claire Anderson, Deputy Mayor Lindsay Miles, Cr Scott Ingram, Cr Andra Biondi, Cr Daniel Minson, Cr Peter Melrosa, Cr Jack Gordon-Manley and Cr Sky Croeser

Against: Nil

AMENDMENT

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconded: Cr Daniel Minson

That Council:

4. Supports the State Government introducing electronic voting for all local government elections to reduce the costs of elections for ratepayers and to improve the convenience of participation for electors, subject to a positive feasibility report on the viability of electronic voting.

Carried (7 - 2)

For: Mayor Karen Vernon, Cr Claire Anderson, Cr Scott Ingram, Cr Andra Biondi, Cr Daniel Minson, Cr Peter Melrosa and Cr Jack Gordon-Manley

Against: Deputy Mayor Lindsay Miles and Cr Sky Croeser

AMENDED RECOMMENDATION AND COUNCIL RESOLUTION (44/2026):

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconded: Cr Daniel Minson

That Council:

1. Supports continuing half spill elections every 2 years
2. Supports continuation of voluntary voting
3. Advises WALGA that should full spill elections every 4 years be preferred by the sector generally, there should be transitional arrangements so that the first full spill elections occur no earlier than 2029 to preserve the rights of those persons elected to Council in 2025;
4. Supports the State Government introducing electronic voting for all local government elections to reduce the costs of elections for ratepayers and to improve the convenience of participation for electors, subject to a positive feasibility report on the viability of electronic voting.

10 Public question time

As there were no public in the public gallery, public question time opened and closed at 6.15pm.

11 Public statement time

As there were no public in the public gallery, public statement time opened and closed at 6.15pm.

12 Meeting closed to the public

Nil.

12.1 Matters for which the meeting may be closed

Nil.

12.2 Public reading of resolutions which may be made public

Nil.

13 Closure

There being no further business, {person} closed the meeting at 6:15 pm.

I confirm these minutes to be true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Council/Committee.

Signed:

Dated this:

Day of:

2026