

6.3 NOTICE OF MOTION: Mayor John Carey – Request Review of City of Vincent Membership to the WA Local Government Association (WALGA)

That Council REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to Council by May 2016 reviewing the costs, benefits, advantages and disadvantages of the City of Vincent continuing to be a member of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

REASON:

WALGA is a member-based Association with almost all local governments in the State (including the City of Vincent) being long-standing WALGA members. The City of Nedlands though is not a WALGA member.

By its nature, WALGA's decisions and directions are driven by its member base, which is largely comprised of non-metropolitan local governments, representing around three quarters of all local governments in the State.

In recent times, WALGA's position on key policy and political matters (as set by the majority of its local government members) has been very different to the positions adopted by the City of Vincent, particularly in relation to the introduction of improved transparency and accountability measures across the sector. In those important instances, the position adopted by WALGA 'on behalf the local government sector' has not been representative of the City of Vincent's views.

In view of the above, it is considered timely for Council to discuss whether the City should continue to be a WALGA member if the views of the majority of the Association's members are so substantially different from our own.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS:

WALGA membership provides the City with access to a range of resources and services, including Human Resource advice, sector-wide procurement, subsidised advertising rates, and staff and Council Member training. Many of these benefits are, however, now available from other sources or suppliers.

A full analysis of the costs, benefits, advantages and disadvantages of the City remaining a WALGA member would be provided in the report back to Council on this matter.

In the 2014/15 financial year, the City's membership to WALGA (inclusive of conference registration, training and subscriptions for specific services) amounted to approximately \$52,000 (excl. GST).