City of Perth

Minutes

Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee Meeting

15 June 2026

Approved for release

Maria Cooke
A/Chief Executive Officer
19 June 2026

Minutes to be confirmed at the next Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee Meeting

These minutes are hereby certified as confirmed.

Presiding member's signature _____ Date _____

POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE February 2026	
Establishment and Appointment	The Committee is established having regard to, and to assist Council in fulfilling its responsibilities under, including but not limited to: a) Section 2.7(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, which provides that it is the role of Council to determine the local government's policies; b) Part 3, Division 2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* relating to the making, amending, revoking and review of local laws; c) Section 3.11 of the *Local Government Act 1995* relating to offences under local laws.
Purpose	In line with the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Policy, Legislation, and Governance Committee (the Committee) is to: a) Support Council in fulfilling its responsibility under section 2.7(2)(b) of the Act in determining the policies of the local government. b) Assist Council in carrying out its legislative functions in the making, amending, revoking and reviewing of local laws under Part 3, Division 2 of the Act.
Role and Function	The role of the Committee is to provide guidance and assistance to Council in fulfilling its policy, legislative, and governance responsibilities, including: a) Developing and reviewing Council Policies and Local Laws in accordance with an endorsed workplan and making recommendations to Council at the next available Ordinary Council Meeting; b) Considering any other matters referred to the Committee by resolution of Council.
Membership	a) The Committee shall comprise a minimum of four (4) Elected Members appointed by Council for a two-year term in accordance with the electoral cycle; b) The Presiding Member and Deputy Presiding Member of the Committee shall be appointed by Council; and c) The Chief Executive Officer (or their nominee) and other staff as necessary, shall attend meetings to provide advisory and administrative support.
Meetings	a) The Committee shall meet as set out in the Council and Committee Meeting Dates schedule as adopted by Council and at such other times determined by the Presiding Member as required to discharge its functions; b) Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the City of Perth Standing Orders Local Law 2009; c) Other persons may appear before the Committee to address specific agenda items, as requested, by the Presiding Member in consultation with the CEO. d) Agendas shall be issued at least 10 calendar days in advance for scheduled meetings, or 72hrs for Special Meetings.

	e) Quorum for a committee meeting is set by section 5.19 of the Act.
Delegation	a) This Committee has no delegated authority and no authority to implement its recommendations without resolution of Council. b) The Committee is a formally appointed Committee of Council and is responsible to that body. c) The Committee does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has legislative responsibility.
Reporting	a) Minutes of each Committee meeting shall be forwarded for inclusion on the agenda of the next practicable Ordinary Council Meeting; and b) All recommendations of the Committee shall be referred to Council for determination.

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1. Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee Meeting for the City of Perth open at 4:01pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Presiding Member respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we met, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people of Western Australia, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

3. Attendance

Members in Attendance

Lord Mayor	Bruce Reynolds
Councillors	David Goncalves (Presiding Member)
	Liam Gobbert
	Lisa Ma

Officers in Attendance

A/Chief Executive Officer	Maria Cooke
Executive Director	Michelle Bell
Alliance Manager Council Governance and Policy	Charlie Clarke
Executive and Governance Graduate	Jacob Armstrong

Observers

Local Government Monitor Carol Adams.

Public Gallery

There were no members of the public in the gallery.

3.1 Apologies

Councillor Viktor Ko

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Committee Resolution (PALCC-26/06-001)

Mover: Councillor Liam Gobbert

Seconder: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds

That the Committee CONFIRMS the minutes of the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee Meeting held on 28 April 2026 as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNOPPOSED (4/0)

For : Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds; Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves; Councillors Liam Gobbert and Lisa Ma

Against : Nil

5. Correspondence

Nil.

6. Disclosures of Interests

Nil.

7. Reports

7.1 Statutory review of City of Perth Local Laws

Responsible Officer	Charlie Clarke – Alliance Manager Council Governance and Policy
Voting Requirements	Absolute Majority
Attachments	Nil.

Purpose

To seek Council approval to finalise the statutory review of the following local laws:

1. *Health Local Law 2000;*
2. *Activities on Land Local Law 2001;*
3. *New Street Alignments Local Law 2005;*
4. *Public Trading Local law 2005;*
5. *Standing Orders Local Law 2009; and*
6. *Fencing Local Law 2015.*

Recommendation

That the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee recommends that Council:

1. NOTES that, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, no submissions were received during the public submission period in response to the public notice given of the statutory review of the following City of Perth Local Laws:
   a. *Health Local Law 2000*
   b. *Activities on Land Local Law 2001*
   c. *New Street Alignments Local Law 2005*
   d. *Public Trading Local Law 2005*
   e. *Standing Orders Local Law 2009*
   f. *Fencing Local Law 2015*
2. DETERMINES that in accordance with section 3.16(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following local laws are to be amended, and will be brought back to the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee for consideration in October 2026:
   a. *New Street Alignments Local Law 2005*
   b. *Fencing Local Law 2015*
   c. *Public Trading Local Law 2005*

3. DETERMINES that in accordance with section 3.16(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the following local laws will remain unchanged:

   a. Health Local Law 2000

   b. Activities on Land Local Law 2001

   c. Standing Orders Local Law 2009

Background

1. On the 9 December 2025 Council approved a review of the following local laws:

   a. *Health Local Law 2000;*

   b. *Activities on Land Local Law 2001;*

   c. *New Street Alignments Local Law 2005;*

   d. *Public Trading Local law 2005;*

   e. *Standing Orders Local Law 2009; and*

   f. *Fencing Local Law 2015.*

2. In accordance with the decision of Council of the 9 December 2025, the City advertised the intent to review the local laws and called for public submissions. Notice was given in the West Australian on 18 December 2025 and the Notice was also placed on the City's website and notice boards, at Council House and the library, from 18 December 2025 – 19 February 2026.

3. No submissions were received in response to the public notice.

4. The second tranche of local government reforms, the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024,* was assented to on 6 December 2024.

5. Part of the reforms included changes to local law review requirements, which commenced on 7 December 2024.

6. The statutory requirement for local governments to review local laws every 8 years has been extended to 15 years. Transitional provisions apply, providing that any local law not reviewed within 15 years of its commencement, or within 15 years of its last review, will be repealed.

7. Transitional Provisions in the *Local Government Act 1995* (Schedule 9.3) were applied to the City's existing local laws, to determine when their next review was required.

Local laws that commenced between 7 December 2016 and 6 December 2024 and had not been due for review.	Local laws that were reviewed between 7 December 2016 and 6 December 2024 (from start to finish).	For local laws that were under review, but the review had not been completed before 7 December 2024	Local laws that were overdue for review, and the process had not commenced for a review, must be reviewed before 6 December 2026
• Outdoor Dining Local Law 2019 – next review date 10 June 2034, • Parking Local Law 2017 – next review date 13 March 2032.	• Local Government Property Local Law 2005 – next review date 23 September 2039. • Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2017 – next review date 23 September 2039.	• Nil	• Health Local Law 2000; • Activities on Land Local Law 2001; • New Street Alignments Local Law 2005; • Public Trading Local law 2005; • Standing Orders Local Law 2009; • Fencing Local Law 2015

8. The local laws being considered as part of this report fall into the category of local laws that were overdue for review, and the process had not commenced for a review. These local laws must be reviewed before 6 December 2026.

9. If a review is not completed before this date, those local laws will be revoked and no longer applicable or enforceable.

10. The delay in undertaking these reviews appears to be the result of an historical absence of structured systems and processes within the City to ensure local laws were reviewed at the intervals required under the relevant legislation. As a result, a number of local laws became overdue without a coordinated program in place to monitor review timeframes or initiate timely reviews.

11. Since 2022, the City has implemented improved governance frameworks, systems and processes to address this gap. This includes establishing a more structured approach to tracking legislative review requirements and prioritising the progression of overdue reviews. As part of this program, the City is actively working to bring all local laws into compliance and will continue to embed these practices to support ongoing, timely review and development of local laws in accordance with legislative obligations.

Discussion

Health Local Law 2000

12. The *City of Perth Health Local Law 2000* has not undergone the statutory review process since its initial commencement on 19 June 2001 and was last due for review before 19 June 2009.

13. It is recommended that this local law is reviewed for currency, particularly since the introduction of the *Public Health Act 2016*.

14. The *Public Health Act 2016* does not make provisions for local laws, however, local laws related to public health may still be made under the *Local Government Act 1995.*

15. This local law is recommended to remain unchanged at this time. While it is understood that the final implementation of the Public Health Act 2016 will cause this local law to be revoked, the administration recommend that this local law remain in its current form to allow the administration additional time to consider any existing provisions of the local law that are considered to be necessary to continue following the implementation of the Public Health Act 2016.

16. It is intended that the administration will develop new local law provisions (either as an addition to an existing local law or as a standalone new local law), made under the Local Government Act to ensure it can continue to fulfill the City's obligations under the Local Government Act 1995.

Activities on Land Local Law 2001

17. The *City of Perth Activities on Land Local Law 2001* was last reviewed 22 June 2004, when it was determined that amendments were required. No action followed. The local law was then due for review before 22 June 2012.

18. The administration has not provided any feedback to suggest that this local law requires any amendments to its current form and is therefore recommended to remain unchanged.

New Street Alignments Local Law 2005

19. The *City of Perth New Street Alignments Local Law 2005* has not undergone the statutory review process since its initial commencement on 4 May 2005 and was last due for review before 4 May 2013.

20. The administration has provided feedback that this local law requires amendment.

Public Trading Local Law 2005

21. The *City of Perth Public Trading Local Law 2005* was last reviewed on 10 December 2013 when it was determined that the local law remain unchanged. The local law was then due for review before 10 December 2021.

22. The administration has provided feedback that this local law requires amendment.

Standing Orders Local Law 2009

23. The *City of Perth Standing Orders Local Law 2009* has not undergone the statutory review process since its initial commencement on 27 October 2009 and was last due for review before 27 October 2017.

24. It is anticipated that the upcoming standardised meeting procedures will repeal local laws relating to meeting procedures, however, these regulations are still being developed as of the date of this report and the commencement date is unknown.

25. When this report was presented to Council for review at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 9 December 2025, the administration advised that the recommendation would be for this local law to remain unchanged pending the outcome of public consultation.

26. No submissions were received during the public consultation period, and the recommendation for this local law to remain unchanged therefore remains the same.

27. Although the State Government is currently developing standardised meeting procedures local laws, it is still necessary for the City to complete its review of this local law to prevent its automatic revocation on 6 December 2026. If the standardised procedures are not finalised by that time, Council will still require a local law to regulate the conduct of meetings.

28. Amending the local law at this stage is not recommended, as the relatively short period in which any changes would be in effect would result in an ineffective and inefficient use of officer and elected member time, requiring them to familiarise themselves with new provisions only to repeat the process once the State Government's standardised meeting procedures are introduced.

Fencing Local Law 2015

29. The *City of Perth Fencing Local Law 2015* has not undergone the statutory review process since its initial commencement on 1 March 2016 and was last due for review before 1 March 2023.

30. The administration has provided feedback that this local law requires amendment.

Consultation

31. Local public notice was given of the proposed local law review, in accordance with sections 1.7 and 3.16(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Decision Implications

32. If Council approve the officer's recommendation, the City will have completed its statutory review process.

33. If Council does not approve the officer's recommendation, the local laws will not be reviewed by the statutory deadline and will then be revoked and no longer application or enforceable.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

Strategy	
Strategic Pillar (Objective)	Well-Governed City
Related Documents (Issue Specific Strategies and Plans):	Nil.

Legislation, Delegation of Authority and Policy	
Legislation:	*Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*. Local law reviews must be in accordance with section 3.16. Local public notice must be given in accordance section 1.7 and regulation 3A.
Authority of Council/CEO:	Council Making local laws is a legislative function of local government.
Policy:	Nil.

Financial Implications

34. Nil.

Further Information

Nil.

Committee Resolution (PALCC-26/06-002)

Mover: Councillor Liam Gobbert

Seconder: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds

That the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee recommends that Council:

1. NOTES that, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, no submissions were received during the public submission period in response to the public notice given of the statutory review of the following City of Perth Local Laws:
   a. *Health Local Law 2000*
   b. *Activities on Land Local Law 2001*
   c. *New Street Alignments Local Law 2005*
   d. *Public Trading Local Law 2005*
   e. *Standing Orders Local Law 2009*
   f. *Fencing Local Law 2015*
2. DETERMINES that in accordance with section 3.16(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following local laws are to be amended, and will be brought back to the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee for consideration in October 2026:
   a. *New Street Alignments Local Law 2005*
   b. *Fencing Local Law 2015*
   c. *Public Trading Local Law 2005*
3. DETERMINES that in accordance with section 3.16(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the following local laws will remain unchanged:
   a. *Health Local Law 2000*
   b. *Activities on Land Local Law 2001*
   c. Standing Orders Local Law 2009

CARRIED UNOPPOSED (4/0) BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

For: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds; Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves; Councillors Liam Gobbert and Lisa Ma

Against: Nil.

7.2 Suspension of Travel During State of Emergency

Responsible Officer	Wendy Attenborough – Executive Director Governance and Strategy
Voting Requirements	Simple Majority
Attachments	Nil.

Purpose

To present a Notice of Motion, which was deferred by Council to the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee on 29 April 2026.

Recommendation

That the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Suspend all international and interstate travel for Elected Members and Administration for the duration that the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources (Declaration of State of Emergency) Order 2026 remains in effect.

2. Notwithstanding this suspension, travel may be undertaken in exceptional circumstances where it is deemed critical to the City's operations or legislative obligations, subject to the prior written approval and discretion of the Chief Executive Officer and Lord Mayor.

Background

1. Councillor Catherine Lezer raised this matter as a Notice of Motion for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 April 2026.
2. At that meeting, Council resolved to defer the matter to the next Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee meeting.
3. As the item originated as a Notice of Motion, the City sought advice regarding the implications of referring the matter to a Committee where the originating elected member is not a Committee member.
4. The advice received can be summarised as follows:
    a. The motion once deferred is a 'primary motion' for the purposes of clause 13.10(1) of the Standing Orders;
    b. The motion should be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee; and
    c. The Councillor who raised the motion would not be required to formally move the motion for that agenda item to be considered by the Committee.
5. Accordingly, the motion, now treated as a primary motion, is presented for consideration by the Committee and, subsequently, Council.

Discussion

6. Australia's National Fuel Security Plan (the Plan) states that: *"Global conflict is causing an unprecedented shock to global oil and gas supply, pushing up fuel prices for Australian consumers and businesses. The global outlook remains unpredictable and volatile. While Australia is in a secure position currently, it's the responsibility of all governments to plan for every scenario*".
7. The Plan has four escalating levels: 1. Plan and prepare; *2. Keep Australia moving (current settings);* 3. Taking targeted action; and 4. Protecting critical services for all Australians.
8. Responsibilities sit across different levels of government and industry partners that work collaboratively for the benefit of the broader community and economy.
9. The State is continuing preparations for a potential escalation to Level 3 and 4 of the Plan. If that occurs, Federal and State Governments will develop a nationally consistent approach for practical measures to reduce fuel demand and prioritise efforts to secure supply from strategic partners.
10. WA Premier Roger Cook has imposed an international (only) travel ban on Ministers, senior officers, and heads of Government Trading Enterprises (GTEs).
11. Interstate travel remains unaffected.
12. The State Government ban will be in place until it is reviewed on 31 July 2026. Any requests for "unavoidable or essential trips" require direct approval from the Premier.

Consultation

13. Nil.

Decision Implications

14. The City of Perth Act 2016 (WA) articulates the City's role in strengthening the local, national and international reputation of the Perth metropolitan area, and the importance of maintaining intergovernmental relationships at State, national and international levels, including under section 8(1)(g) and (i).

15. Suspending travel by Administration and Elected Members is likely to be a moderate impact on operations and is not expected to cause any lasting challenges to the City's ability to fulfil this function if/when the mooted travel ban is lifted.

16. At the time of writing, there are no confirmed international travel activities for the Lord Mayor, Elected Members or Senior Officers for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year.

17. Planned or contemplated interstate travel for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year for the CEO (or delegate), Lord Mayor and Elected Members includes:

    a. Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra from 22-25 June 2026. 3 x Elected Members are contemplating attendance along with 1 x CEO/GM. Estimated total $21,006.

    b. Two confirmed CCCLM meetings with potential for a third:

        i. Meeting in Canberra in June in conjunction with ALGA NGA. No additional cost.

        ii. CCCLM AGM in Canberra in September. Estimated total = $9,000.

        iii. TBC meeting in October- December. Estimated total = $9,000.

    c. MoU renewal or expansion – Denpasar, Indonesia in December. Estimated total = $9,400.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

Strategy	
Strategic Pillar (Objective)	A Well-Governed City
Related Documents (Issue Specific Strategies and Plans):	G1. A leading Council.

Legislation, Delegation of Authority and Policy	
Legislation:	City of Perth Act 2016 (WA), section 8(1)(g) and (i). Describes the City's role in strengthening the local, national and international reputation of the Perth metropolitan area, and the importance of maintaining inter-governmental relationships at State, national and international levels.
Authority of Council/CEO:	N/A
Policy:	CP 4.5 National and International Engagement

Financial Implications

18. Adoption of the proposed Notice of Motion would result in budget savings, as indicated within the report.

19. Financial information provided in this report does not include planned travel at officer level (below GM level).

Further Information

20. Nil.

Officer Recommendation

Mover: Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves

Seconder: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds

That the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Suspend all international and interstate travel for Elected Members and Administration for the duration that the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources (Declaration of State of Emergency) Order 2026 remains in effect.

2. Notwithstanding this suspension, travel may be undertaken in exceptional circumstances where it is deemed critical to the City's operations or legislative obligations, subject to the prior written approval and discretion of the Chief Executive Officer and Lord Mayor.

During debate Deputy Lord Mayor Goncalves moved a motion as follows:

Committee Resolution (PALCC-26/06-003)

Mover: Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves

Seconder: Councillor Lisa Ma

That the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee suspend the following clause of the City of Perth Standing Orders Local Law 2009.

- Clause 7.11

CARRIED UNOPPOSED (4/0)

For : Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds; Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves; Councillors Liam Gobbert and Lisa Ma

Against : Nil.

Debate reverted back to the substantive.

Committee Resolution (PALCC-26/06-004)

Mover: Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves

Seconder: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds

Councillor Liam Gobbert foreshadowed an alternate motion in the event that the motion under debate is lost.

That the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Suspend all international and interstate travel for Elected Members and Administration for the duration that the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources (Declaration of State of Emergency) Order 2026 remains in effect.

2. Notwithstanding this suspension, travel may be undertaken in exceptional circumstances where it is deemed critical to the City's operations or legislative obligations, subject to the prior written approval and discretion of the Chief Executive Officer and Lord Mayor.

LOST (0/4)

For: Nil.

Against: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds; Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves; Councillors Liam Gobbert and Lisa Ma

Councillor Gobbert moved an alternate motion as follows:

Committee Resolution (PALCC-26/06-005)

Mover: Councillor Liam Gobbert

Seconder: Councillor Lisa Ma

That the Policy Legislation, and Governance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Does not support the suspension of all international and interstate travel for Elected Members and Administration for the duration that the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources (Declaration of State of Emergency) Order 2026.
2. Acknowledges that all Elected Member international and interstate travel occurs in accordance with Council Policy 4.5 – National and International Engagement.

CARRIED UNOPPOSED (4/0)

For: Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds; Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves; Councillors Liam Gobbert and Lisa Ma

Against: Nil.

Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves moved a motion as follows:

Committee Resolution (PALCC-26/06-0067)

Mover: Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves

Seconder: Councillor Liam Gobbert

That the Policy, Legislation and Governance Committee reinstate the following clause of the City of Perth Standing Orders Local Law 2009.

- Clause 7.11

CARRIED UNOPPOSED (4/0)

For : Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds; Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves; Councillors Liam Gobbert and Lisa Ma

Against : Nil.

8. Motions of which Previous Notice has been Given

Nil.

9. General Business

Nil.

10. Items for Consideration at a Future Meeting

Nil.

11. Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 4:52pm.