



MEDIA RELEASE

from

Sandra Boulter LGEMA Chair on behalf of LGEMA committee
0427 508 582

Local Government Elected Members' Association Inc (LGEMA)

ROOT CAUSES OF THE CITY OF NEDLANDS' FAILED GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENTⁱ

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

For short version read yellow highlights

Please do not believe everything you have heard about the causes of the City of Nedlands' (Nedlands) *difficulties* on the news, in the media, from Nedlands' Commissioners, some former Nedlands Councillors and some Post newspaper letters.

Listen to and believe former Crs Rebecca Coghlan and Kerry Smyth, independent accountant Craig Ross who reported in 2024 to Councilⁱⁱ about the root causes of the disclaimed 2022/23 financial audit, and former CEO Shannon's reports to Council about Nedlands' finances and development assessment issues. Some, including the Department of Local Government, appear to wish you would not.

To the extent that they can be found, primary source records in the public domain inform the following chronologyⁱⁱⁱ, which first sets the context into which the audit disclaimer of opinion landed, before the subsequent resignations of *all* the Nedlands senior executive employees.

Between 2011 > 2024 now former Cr McManus^{iv} was a member of the Nedlands Audit and Risk Committee^v (Audit Committee).

Between 2012- 2018 G. Trevaskis was Nedlands CEO^{vi} with Mayor^{vii} Max Hipkins.

Between 2019 – 2021 M. Goodlett was Nedlands CEO with Mayor Cilla de Lacy

Between 2019 – 2024 now former Cr McManus was Chair of the Audit Committee until his 2024 resignation^{viii}.

On 15 August 2019, the WA Office of the Auditor General (OAG) delivered a performance audit report on *Fraud Prevention* in Local Government^{ix}, in which Nedlands was a sampled entity. The report found that all the sampled entities, including Nedlands, could be doing more to prevent fraud. The then CEO was required to publish an action plan report on the Nedlands website in response to this audit, and action that plan.

Between 2020 – 2024 Nedlands' internal auditor made 320 internal audit recommendations which were recorded on an audit log.

On 25 August 2020 at the 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council considered the proposed use of Allen Park A Class reserve for development^x.

Between July 2021 – December 2023 W. Parker was Nedlands CEO with Mayors C. de Lacy and then F. Argyle.



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In June 2022, in response to a request to provide comments on the state government's proposed development application for the WA Children's Hospice to be determined by the WAPC, Nedlands Council voted not to support the development application. The McGowan/Cook governments made unfounded allegations against Nedlands Council as Management Body of Allen Park's 120-year-old Class A reserves of not maintaining Allen Park's Class A reserves, of 'blocking' the development of both the WA Children's Hospice and the hospice community parkland, and of so-called *bastardry* regarding construction access^{xi}. The government's unfounded allegations against Nedlands Council have been widely disseminated by the media since 2020 and were oddly conflated with other purported reasons for Minister Beazley dismissing the Nedlands Council of four, nearly five years later in July 2025.

In August 2022, an Internal review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee was undertaken by Moore Australia (auditor) who recommended changes to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference, which employee Director of Corporate Services¹ M. Cole recommended against at the 20 November 2023 Audit Committee meeting, with which members present agreed and so resolved, thus ignoring Moore's recommendations^{xii}.

On 22 May 2023, at an Audit Committee meeting^{xiii} there was an *audit entrance meeting* commencing the Nedlands 2022/23 financial report audit by RSM Australia on behalf of the OAG.

Between May and November 2023, OAG contracted auditor, RSM Australia, presumably interacted with Nedlands CEO and employees about the financial audit throughout this time, noting the Nedlands Council Workforce plan at the time showed ~**19 employees** in financial roles.

On 27 July 2023, the WAPC, chaired by David Caddy, approved development of the hospice development on the Allen Park A Class Reserve, despite the June 2022 Council resolution against and DFES^{xiv} not supporting the hospice bushfire management plan. The WAPC preferred the *independent assessment* of the proponent's bushfire management plan undertaken by *Strategen* over the DFES objections.

On 31 August 2023 (effective 1 December 2023), CEO Parker resigned as Nedlands CEO during the 2022/23 OAG audit, having secured the Wanneroo CEO position.

Between October and November 2023 warnings about the upcoming audit results were given to Nedlands' senior employees, but not passed onto Council or the Audit Committee at the time.

In October 2023, at the Local Government general elections, Nedlands electors changed some Council members^{xv}.

On 20 November 2023^{xvi}, the Audit Committee^{xvii} held a meeting but the agenda prepared by the CEO and Nedlands senior employees did not include a report on or warning about the OAG 2022/23 audit status or failures identified to date. External auditor matters were not discussed. An update from Moore Australia in a report authored by Director of Corporate Services M. Cole made no mention of the 22/23 audit results and stated that there were *no financial implications to this report*. Nedlands

¹ responsible for financial management



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employees had notice of the only WA Local Government disclaimer of opinion^{xviii} on its 2022/23 financial report from the OAG before this meeting. No-one present at this meeting declared an interest affecting impartiality or conflict of interest^{xix}, including none of the employees who knew of the audit results.

On 29 November 2023, the Manager of Financial Services resigned.

On 19 February 2024, the minutes of the Audit Committee show those present^{xx}, no disclosures of interest affecting impartiality or conflict of interest^{xxi} made from any employees or contractors, and presentation of the OAG Audit disclaimer and management letter. The author of the report, Director of Corporate Services M. Cole stated, *There are no financial implications to this report. There may be budget implications when the report's recommendations are addressed in detail, where operational impacts are estimated and considered by the Administration, and then by Council at the appropriate time. There is no immediate budgetary implication to receiving this report.*

The Committee resolved to *receive the Audit update from RSM Australia for the audit of the City for the year ending 30 June 2023 and noted with concern the disclaimer of opinion from the Office of the Auditor General.* One cannot discern from the minutes that the author of the report or the meeting majority that anyone was aware or concerned that the state of the Nedlands financial records was seriously amiss.

On 27 February 2024, the audit disclaimer was presented to Nedlands' governing body, its Council, over three months after notice was given to Nedlands' senior employees.

On 11 March 2024, at a Special Council meeting, a prompt good governing Council majority decided to appoint an independent consultant to advise it directly about the root causes of the failed audit opinion, so as to bypass a conflicted administration.

On 12 March 2024, Cr McManus resigned as chair of and member of the Audit Committee, on the day following the Council decision to appoint an independent consultant accountant to find out the root causes of the OAG audit opinion.

On 20 March 2024, Council appointed^{xxii} independent consultant accountant Craig Ross to undertake a root cause analysis of the 2022/23 disclaimer of audit opinion and other governance initiatives, (less than **one month** after Council received formal notice of the OAG audit report) and to report *directly* to Council thus bypassing a conflicted administration. Craig Ross's employment involved being embedded amongst Nedlands employees with whom he engaged on a daily basis.

On 1 May 2024, Council appointed Keri Shannon as CEO (within **3 months** of receipt of the OAG audit report). CEO Shannon was from outside the usual Local Government CEO pool and more highly qualified than many Local Government CEOs, holding a Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance), Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance and a Graduate Diploma in Local Government.

On 1 June 2024, Cr McManus resigned from Council.



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On 26 June 2024, Craig Ross completed his root cause report on the OAG 2022/23 audit disclaimer revealing serious issues **around a decade in the making**. The report described the lack of underlying supporting documentation cited by the OAG including unreconciled infrastructure and property records, incomplete plant and equipment asset registers^{xxiii}, incomplete transition reconciliations to OneCouncil and numerous IT system related issues. Ross also reported formally on progress on these findings against the management report^{xxiv}, which progress was published. Disappointingly, the Commissioners removed the link to the Ross report from the Nedlands website after a complaint from former CEO Parker about the media release announcing the report. The Commissioners appear to have taken credit for the identification and repair work started, but not able to be finished, by Shannon and Ross who had been appointed by the dismissed Council.

On 1 July 2024, Craig Ross delivered his report to the Audit Committee.

On 2 July 2024, the Director of Corporate Services, M. Cole finished services at Nedlands after a resignation some months earlier.

On 22 July 2024, Moore reported² outstanding items on its audit log to the Audit Committee with 308 items outstanding for over 300 days, 9 items over 200 days and 9 items over 100 days³; which items were a high priority for CEO Shannon.

In August 2024, the Director of Technical Services, M. MacPherson resigned, and finished service at Nedlands in November 2024.

In or around September 2024 the Director of Planning and Development T. Free resigned but continued service at Nedlands until March 2025.

In October 2024, the Ross report was made available to the public.

Around December 2024, CEO Shannon on the basis of and following independent expert advice, amended the recommendations of the Nedlands development assessment employees^{xxv}. CEO Shannon recommended to Council that their recommendation to the WAPC should include a transition zone in the Village Precinct Plan, as Council wanted on behalf of the community. The WAPC, with D. Caddy as Chair, did not follow the Council recommendation.

In March 2025, the Director of Planning and Development T. Free finished service at Nedlands.

Around May 2025, CEO Shannon amended the recommendations of the Nedlands development assessment employees^{xxvi}, so as to recommend to Council that it recommend refusal of an extension of the Tawarri Hot Springs state government development approval. Council had rejected the proposal in 2022. The WAPC granted the extension against Council's recommendation.

² Moore Internal Audit Report 1 July 2024 included in the Audit Committee agenda 22 July 2024

³ it is unclear when this audit log had been previously reported to the Audit Committee



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On 7 July 2025, four Councillors (Crs Hodsdon^{xxvii}, Bennett^{xxviii}, Amiry, Youngman) resigned from Council, after exhibiting a pattern of disrupting meetings in what appears to have been a concerted effort to deny some meeting quorums by leaving meetings early, or being absent without notice or authorised leave^{xxix}. These resignations left only the three effective Councillors (R. Coghlan^{xxx}, K. Smyth, B. Brackenridge), and the Mayor. Thus, the Local Government Minister Beazley was empowered to dismiss these hardworking good governing Councillors who were part of the majority Council who had hired Craig Ross and CEO Shannon against the wishes or advice of acting CEO Free, the Department of Local Government, and some of the resigned minority Councillors. The Minister could have reduced the Council quorum, allowed the remaining Councillors to continue to govern well with CEO Shannon's support, and called an immediate election for the vacant positions, but the Minister dismissed the remaining Councillors.

On 25 July 2025, three Commissioners were appointed to govern Nedlands, with Chair D. Caddy a former WAPC Chair (2018-2024), Deputy Chair B. Sandri being a WAPC board member who was former joint owner of Urbanista a private town planning business (2016-2023) and member C. Hart who was CEO of Real Estate Institute of WA (2022-2025). Given the OAG and Ross reports revealing the critical state of affairs in financial and IT management, it is surprising that none of the Commissioners had relevant financial qualifications. One of the first tasks of the Commissioners appears to have been to review CEO Shannon's performance.

On 26th August 2025, the Commissioners formally revoked Nedlands Council's *Local Planning Policy 5.9 Primary Controls for Apartments*, which had been adopted by Council to restrict apartment development by enforcing stricter controls on height, building bulk, and scale that aligned with existing neighbourhood character, and to complement/combat *State Planning Policy 7.3 Volume 2 Apartments*^{xxxi}. This Council policy aimed to prevent excessive built form that could adversely impact adjoining property amenity and streetscapes^{xxxii}.

On or around 20 October 2025, the Commissioners replaced legally and financially qualified CEO Shannon with Acting CEO A Kyron^{xxxiii}.

In November 2025, LGEMA through its associate member Peter Tarranto, checked Nedlands for its *Financial Interests Register* being the most important risk management tool publicly available. The Register is required to hold all the primary and annual returns, and all meeting disclosures; so they can be compared by *any* person interested in conflicts of interest generally or in a particular matter. Nedlands did not have a Register to produce at its offices on request as required by LG Act s.5.88^{xxxiv}. So whether or not the Commissioners and acting CEO Kyron had completed accurate primary returns was unable to be ascertained at the time of the request or compared against their meeting disclosures, in breach of the LG Act.

On 30 January 2026, Keri Shannon's employment as a strong independent expert Nedlands CEO ended.

On 14 February 2026, the Commissioners are reported to have stated, *anyone seeking to gain election to the City of Nedlands [must] be aware of the financial aspects that have been uncovered*^{xxxv}. How badly the Commissioners have misrepresented and confusingly narrowed the issue. Years of a



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systemic state of financial mis-management at Nedlands is the bigger picture, which has brought Nedlands to its knees in term of its finances, assets and records. So many people have been paid so much money to do a job they simply did not do^{xxxvi}.

On 28 March 2026, the WA Electoral Commission will conduct a postal election^{xxxvii} to elect a new Council whose first jobs will be to develop and adopt an interim budget^{xxxviii} and appoint a new CEO. Nominations to stand for Mayor and/or Councillor were open between 5 February and 12 February 2026. The Commissioners have been in *caretaker period* from 12 February 2026^{xxxix}.

ELECTION OUTCOME

Watch out who you vote for at the upcoming Nedlands elections. This short history of recent events could be a guide for electors because it shows that this is not a poll about Mayor Argyle as some would wish (the Mayor inherited a financial management disaster not of her making); but it can, and arguably should, be a ***poll about accountability for Nedlands failed financial management.***

CONCLUSION

While being burdened by serious legacy governance issues, let us all hope that a renewed Nedlands Council can understand the wisdom from past errors and look forward in the public interest of serving Nedlands ratepayers.

The City of Nedlands is but a microcosm of the state of WA Local Government. There is widespread regulatory capture, unmanaged conflicts of interest, at least grey corruption of the development assessment system, employee skills that may not match those required by their position, poor standards of Elected Member and employee training, and a state government and Department of Local Government without the capacity or desire to regulate or reform Local Government, or failure to recognise or deliberately ignore^{xl} the root causes of Local Government operational and governance failures.

Every one of the very many statutory points, from where the poor state of the Nedlands financial records should have been picked up, failed the Nedlands electors and ratepayers over many years.

In 1995, it was Parliament's statutory intention that the new *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) would result in Local Governments delivering better decision-making, greater community participation in their decisions and affairs, greater accountability to their communities, and more efficient and effective government^{xli}. Furthermore, the LG Act requires the *general function* of Local Governments to provide good governance^{xlii} performed having regard to the need to promote *inter alia* economic, social and environmental sustainability^{xliii}. Council is required to govern and performance manage its CEOs, not merely put blind trust in them as the CCC keeps telling us. The LG Act has successfully achieved few, if any, of its intentions. The recent Nedlands saga properly understood helps us^{xliv} understand why not, because it shows a good governing Council trying to govern well being thwarted at every turn, inside and outside its walls by those with other agendas.

END, subject to endnotes below



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On behalf of LGEMA

LGEMA: Local Government Elected Members Association Inc. supporting LG Elected Members striving for LG best practice good governance with integrity

Website: [lgema.org.au](https://www.lgema.org.au)

Facebook: please follow, like, share the LGEMA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LGEMA-Local-Government-Elected-Members-Association-109085037148677>

Post: PO Box 284, Cottesloe, WA 6911

Whadjuk People:

LGEMA acknowledges the Whadjuk people who are the traditional custodians of the land we are working on. LGEMA acknowledges and respects the continuing culture of the Whadjuk people and the contribution they make to the life of Cottesloe and this region.

Disclaimer: Any advice is general only, is not legal advice and should not be relied on for a specific issue.

Incorporated 7 August 2019 **AIRN** A1030822L **ABN** 14455851094

ⁱ a much broader opinion piece on this issue is available to some applicants on request

ⁱⁱ Council is required to govern Nedlands *and* the CEO, be responsible for performance of the Nedlands functions, oversee the allocation of Nedlands' resources and decide Nedlands' polices: LG Act s.27 as it was then

ⁱⁱⁱ putting this chronology together has been fraught with difficulties of access to Nedlands records; any corrections, additions please email enquiries@lgema.org.au

^{iv} whose Councillor role included to represent the interests of Nedlands District electors, ratepayers and residents, and provide leadership and guidance to the District community: LG Act s.2.7(1)&(b) as it was then

^v Audit Committee is responsible for oversight of and reporting to Council about the Annual Financial Report (see required content in *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* (Financial Regs) Reg.36), audit opinions, risk management: Audit Regs Reg.16; review annual Compliance Audit Return and report result to Council: Audit Regs Reg.14

^{vi} Council must decide by absolute majority that a potential CEO is suitably qualified: LG Act s.5.36(3)(a) as it was then; and whose performance Council must review at least once a year: LG Act s.5.38 as it was then

^{vii} whose role included to provide leadership and guidance to the District community, liaise with the CEO: LG Acts.2.8(1) as it was then

^{viii} who Ross reported failed to appreciate the severity of warnings repeatedly issued by the auditors, which emphasised the importance of accurate and timely supporting documentation as required by the LG Act s.7.12 and s.7.12A, Audit Regs Reg.9A

^{ix} OAG *Fraud Prevention in Local Government* 15 August 2019

^x August 2020 > ongoing in 2026,

^{xi} The government made the above allegations despite:

- The Government and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) by-passing Nedlands Council in 2020 with a subdivision/ excision of land proposal for Allen Park.
- Through no fault of Nedlands Council, the Government not lodging its development application with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) until December 2021. The development application was not heard by the WAPC until July 2023. (Nedlands Council's comments for not supporting the development application are contained in the minutes of the OCM of June 2022).
- Council minutes of March 2024 and February 2025 showing that Nedlands Administration and Nedlands Council acted more than reasonably in granting the hospice developers generous construction access to the Allen Park Class A Crown reserves having regard to the restrictions contained in the Metropolitan Region Scheme.
- WAPC minutes of July 2023 showing the same land which was excised for the hospice in 2020 and for the 'hospice park land' in 2025 had been well-maintained at all relevant times by Nedlands Council.

The excision of additional Class A reserves by the Government in 2025 for hospice parkland having been the subject of a development proposal by Nedlands Council as community parkland since December 2017. (Nedlands Council's 'Whadjuk Norn Bidi Parkland' proposal overturned as a result of the government's excision of that land in 2025.)

^{xii} Audit Committee meeting minutes 20 November 2023

^{xiii} 22 May 2023 City of Nedlands Audit Committee meeting, included Councillors L J McManus (Presiding Member), Mayor F E M Argyle (Mayor), Cr R **Senathirajah**, Cr A Mangano, and Cr O Combes; employees present but not committee members included CEO W R Parker, M R Cole, L J Kania, S Mettam, E Van Der Wiele, and S Billingham; and Guests Matthew Beavers -



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Engagement Director, RSM; Pranjal Sudhir Bhate - Engagement Manager, RSM; Punitha Perumal - Associate Director Financial Audit, OAG; Michelle Shafizadeh - Director, Moore Australia (Nedlands internal auditor); Nick Goosen - Associate Director, Moore Australia

^{xiv} WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services

^{xv} Council majority and Directors referred to by some as *the boys' club*; where change might have been sooner if voting in Local Government elections was compulsory, noting WA and SA are the only remaining local government jurisdictions without compulsory voting

^{xvi} first audit committee meeting after 2023 Local Government elections

^{xvii} present were Mayor Argyle, Councillors McManus (Presiding Member), **Hodsdon** (online from 5.52pm until 6.10pm), **Coghlan** (from 6.01pm), Amiry (online) Smyth, **Bennett** (online); employees (not committee members as prohibited by LG Act): Acting CEO Free, Director Corporate Services Mr M. Cole, Executive Officer N Ceric; **Invited Guests:** Mr G Baw Community Member, Mr B Silence Supervisor Moore Australia

^{xviii} statement issued by OAG auditor refusing to express an opinion on Nedlands' financial statements because they were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to conclude if they were accurate

^{xix} **interest, employee** for the purpose of the Employee Code of Conduct, and employee advice and reports to Council and/or committee meetings includes direct and indirect financial, and proximity interests, and **is as follows:** An employee interest means *an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest; and includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association:* LG Act s.5 Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 (Admin Regs) Reg 19AA. Furthermore, an employee with a **conflict of interest**, being an interest in any matter to be discussed at a council or committee meeting attended by the employee, must disclose the nature of the interest in a written notice given to the CEO before the meeting; or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed: Admin Regs Reg 19AD: see Nedlands Employee Code of Conduct required under LG Act s.5.51A, about which the Nedlands official website states, *the City of Nedlands' Code of Conduct for employees, which aims to ensure ethical behaviour, professional relationships, and good governance in all work-related activities. It emphasizes the importance of acting ethically, transparently, and in accordance with the law and City policies. The code covers various aspects, including community interaction, diversity, workplace health and safety, use of city assets, and conflict of interest. Employees are expected to uphold high standards of service, report any breaches of the code, and seek guidance when needed;* noting senior employees held to higher standard of conduct than other employees: *Phillip Trestrail v City of Karratha* 2024 WAIRC 00870 (*Trestrail*) para.38; former serious breach (now specified breach) of employee code of conduct is a serious breach of employment agreement: *Trestrail* para.68; noting part overturned in *Phillip Trestrail v City of Karratha* 2025 WAIRC 00820

^{xx} Councillors McManus (Presiding Member), Councillors **Hodsdon** (observer from 5.45pm), **Coghlan** (online then in person from 5.58pm), Amiry (online until 5.48pm), Smyth (from 6.50pm), **Bennett**; employees T Free (Acting CEO), M. Cole (Director Corporate Services), N Ceric (Executive Officer), L Kania (Coordinator Governance & Risk); Community Committee Members G Baw and K Laurence; **Invited** Mr B Silence (Supervisor, Moore Australia); **Guests** Mr M Beevers (Partner RSM), T Srisikantharaja (RSM), Ms P Perumal (Director Financial Audit, OAG)

^{xxi} see *supra* footnote xix

^{xxii} Special Council meeting 11 March 2024 that considered 2022/2023 Nedlands Annual Report, wherein Council resolved:

1. pursuant to s.5.45(2)(a) of the Local Government Act Authorises selected Independent Consultants to:

a. Undertake a review of the Findings Identified in the OAG's Final Audit report for the year ended 30 June 2023 ("Audit Issues");

b. Prepare a report and provide it to the Council within 3 months recommending the required actions to remediate the Audit Issues including the preparation Special Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 11 March 2024 11 | Page of an implementation plan for the required actions and the required staffing to resolve the Audit Issues;

c. Undertake a peer review and gap analysis of the administration's proposal for the remediation of the Audit Issues and implement actions for Council to review within 3 months; and

d. approves by absolute majority a variant in the 2023/24 Annual Budget for \$50,000 for the Independent Consultant to be funded from anticipated savings at the end of June 2024; and

2. instructs the Acting CEO to instruct staff to assist the Independent Consultants by providing all required information, documentation and access to all the City's accounting records and information systems.

^{xxiii} ageing assets issues were known to Nedlands from at least 2023; it was known that significant resources would have to put into IT or ageing assets as identified by CEO Shannon: How did it get to this is the obvious question?

^{xxiv} as provided for in Audit Regs Reg.10(4) and required to be given to the Nedlands Mayor and CEO, and LG Minister: LG Act s.7.9(1) & Audit Regs Reg.10(4)

^{xxv} as required by her statutory CEO functions: LG Act s.5.41(b) as it was then



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^{xxvi} as required by her statutory CEO functions: LG Act s.5.41(b) as it was then

^{xxvii} has nominated to stand for Councillor at upcoming election

^{xxviii} has nominated to stand for Mayor, and Councillor at upcoming election

^{xxix} video recordings of these meetings are on the Nedlands website, and recorded on meeting minutes; LG Minister Beazley told ABC Radio Perth in May 2025 she was "at the end of my tether" at the council's "very obvious dysfunction", including compliance and transparency issues, and its failure to get enough councillors to attend meetings so resolutions could be passed; thus rewarding those Councillors who were not turning up by dismissing those who were

^{xxx} has nominated to stand for Councillor at upcoming election

^{xxxi} and to help overcome LPS 3 imposed on Nedlands by state government 16 April 2019; noting in 2019 Nedlands had more DAs than Joondalup and Stirling together and 20 extra Council meetings, which Commissioner Caddy would have known as he was WAPC chair at the time

^{xxxii} some statutory development assessment employees tend not to like removal of their many discretions

^{xxxiii} who has the benefit of the Craig Ross report

^{xxxiv} and shockingly, neither did any other LGEMA audited Western Suburbs Local Government

^{xxxv} The POST newspaper, 14 February 2026

^{xxxvi} The LG Minister, DLGSC public servants, Nedlands Council, Nedlands Audit Committee, Nedlands senior management, Nedlands auditors

^{xxxvii} an in-person election might have been fairer

^{xxxviii} the current budget is for 6 months only

^{xxxix} LG Act s.1.4A(1)(a); LG Act s.1.4A(2)(c)

^{xl} see the many recommendations ignored from the *WA Legislative Council report Local Government Review Panel Final Report* May 2020; and from *What Happens Next? Beyond a Finding of Serious Misconduct: Examining the responses to a finding of serious misconduct and building integrity in public agencies* JSCCC Report No 11, 30 11 2023; and many Local Government related Crime and Corruption Commission reports; and all the OAG financial and performance audits

^{xli} LG Act s.1.3(2)

^{xlii} LG Act s.3.1(1)

^{xliii} LG Act s.3.1(1A)(a)(i)

^{xliv} along with the many disturbing Local Government (Council and CEO) financial and performance audits undertaken by the OAG, which the Department of Local Government seems unwilling to fix or is unable to do so: see for example that OAG report on the failure of the Department to regulate Local Governments, which continues: see *Regulation and Support of the Local Government Sector* 30 April 2021

^{xlv} Keri Shannon and Sandra Boulter founded LGEMA in 2019 to foster improvement in Local Government governance, with Keri departing LGEMA membership before appointment as Nedlands CEO; Craig Ross is a Chartered Accountant who gave a financial records presentation to a LGEMA members' forum well prior to his Nedlands appointment.