

# Municipal Association of Victoria

---

Owen Harvey-Beavis  
Manager, Economic Data and Policy Development

# Overview

---

- History of local government in Victoria
- Size and scale of local government
- Local government services

# Brief History

---

- Earliest councils were established in the 1840s
- Rural councils grew from road boards
- Metropolitan councils were established around existing settlements
- Local Government Act 1874
- Municipal Association of Victoria established 1879
- 1901 – 208 councils existed
- 1994 – 210 councils reduced to 78
- 2008 – 79 councils

# Local Government in Victoria

---

- 79 councils
- Governed by 631 democratically elected councillors
- Employs 38 600 people
- Annual revenue of \$5 billion
- Responsible for \$47 billion in community assets
- Provide more than 100 services to Victorian communities
- Smallest council: \$7 million in revenue
- Largest council: \$400 million in revenue

# Local Government Funding Sources

---

- 53.4% in rates (at the extremes 32% and 74%)
- 17.8% in fees, fines and charges
- 14.4% in specific purpose grants
- 8% in general purpose payments (untied revenue)
- 6.3% in other sources

**Local government collects three cents of every dollar raised in Australian taxes.** The Commonwealth receives approx 70% and the States receive 27% of total taxation revenue.

# Local Government Services

---

- Earliest services were focused on the property – roads, drainage, water, etc
- Starting in the 1940s, the role expanded into human services
- More than 100 services from cradle to grave
- Services often fill a need within the community
- Local laws for community safety, peace and order

# Examples of Local Government Services

---

- Infrastructure – roads, drains, bike paths, etc
- Planning – strategic and statutory
- Human services – aged care (HACC), maternal and child health, childcare
- Recreation – sporting ovals, parks and gardens
- Emergency management
- Environment services
- Waste management
- Parking regulation
- Libraries

# Local Government Statistics

---

- Service 128,434 kms of roads (approx 85% of the State's road network)
- Maintain more than 1000 grassed sports surfaces
- Collect 1 million tonnes of kerbside garbage pa
- Collect 540 000 tonnes of recyclable materials pa
- Collect 259 000 tonnes of green organic waste pa
- Spend \$40 million on public street lighting pa
- Loan 50 million books from 310 public libraries to 2.5 million registered library users pa
- Provide free internet access for more than 1.8 million bookings pa
- Process more than 49 500 planning applications pa
- Provide 500 000 maternal and child health consultations pa
- Provide 306 600 immunisations to preschool and secondary school children pa

# Conclusion

---

- Councils are diverse organisations
- Responsible for broad range of services and responsibilities
- Reliant on other levels of government for funding, but retain substantial level of control over own source revenue