



Annual Report Summary 2021

Acknowledgment of Country

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live.
We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture
and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

*We support local government's capacity and knowledge to strengthen relationships
with Victoria's Aboriginal communities and for it to encourage greater unity,
knowledge, cultural awareness and respect for the first occupants of our land
– through its strong community links and local representation.*

The voice for local government



The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 councils.

The MAV is an influential force, supporting a strong and strategically positioned local government sector. Our role is to represent and advocate the interests of local government, lobby for a 'fairer deal' for councils, raise the sector's profile, ensure its long-term security and provide policy advice, strategic advice, capacity building programs and insurance services.

The MAV is a membership association, accountable to its constituent members through State Council and an elected Board. Membership of the MAV is discretionary, and participation in our insurance schemes, procurement program, events and other activities is voluntary.

In 2020-21, all 79 Victorian councils were members of the MAV.

[Read more about our 142 year history.](#)

President's Overview

This Municipal Association of Victoria **Annual Report Summary 2021** documents our performance this year, but it is more than a performance report. It tells the story of our partnership with our member councils and how we advocate and influence issues of interest and importance.

Response to the pandemic and other emergencies

Victorian councils have worked tirelessly to manage the local government response to the public health restrictions and then, to support the implementation of the vaccine program.

This extended crisis has touched every corner of the state. It required a significant effort from councils to show leadership, navigate the challenges and provide continued support and service to their communities and businesses.

Community services, especially maternal child health services, community care and children's services, were subject to particular challenges as they continued to serve the needs of the broader community while responding to the needs of positive cases and their primary and secondary close contacts during outbreaks.

Many councils went above and beyond to support community members isolating and quarantining at home. Even councils themselves were impacted by staff in home quarantine.

Storms and flood affected many communities in June and a number of councils provided specialised staff and equipment to assist in the recovery process. We were pleased that the **MAV Inter-council Emergency Resource Sharing Protocol** was successfully utilised in this process.

Moving forward, the MAV will continue to work with councils to understand the complex needs of communities and businesses and meet with State agencies to assist in the recovery process.



MAV President
Cr David Clark

President's Overview

Supporting social change

In a year when there was a significant shift in attention to the discriminatory practices against women in politics and more broadly, the workforce, the MAV was instrumental in the work required to raise the profile of the new requirements under the Gender Equality Act 2020.

This ground-breaking work came into effect on 31 March this year. Our consultation efforts – including **Gender Equality and Preventing Violence Against Women Survey of Victorian Councils** – helped to pave the way moving forward.

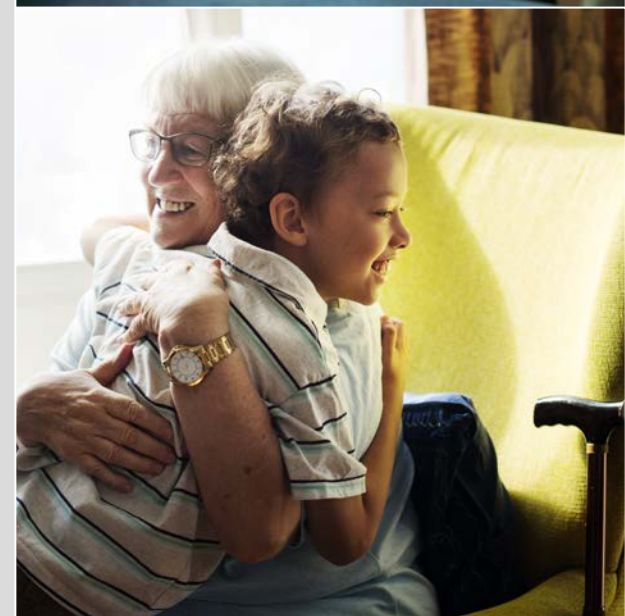
The MAV also negotiated the **Early Childhood Enterprise Agreement** (on behalf of councils), including increased DET funding for local government signatories, and transitioned all councils onto the state-wide **MCH database Child Development Information System (CDIS)** and then successfully transferred it to the State Government.

Our continuing partnerships with the Department of Health and VicHealth for place-based programs centred around communities connected councils with up-to-date evidence-based research and programs in preventative health and building in young people's voices into local decision-making.

Supporting the **Victorian Local Government Disability Planners Network** enabled sharing of information between councils so they can make a real difference in lives of people with a disability.

The MAV's submission to the **Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System**, which included input from several councils, described the numerous ways that councils work towards improving population mental health. It asked that local government's role is properly recognised in place-based mental health responses.

Similarly, a submission to the **Royal Commission on Aged Care** emphasised the importance of public sector oversight in the planning and program funding allocation for community care services for older people.



President's Overview

Influencing better policy and practice

The influence of the MAV was evident in the Victorian Government's commitment to introduce a **container deposit scheme**, on environment protection reforms and the secured agreement to develop an MoU between MAV and EPA about councils' co-regulatory roles under Environment Protection Act.

Successful advocacy for councils also helped to ensure that they were provided with early details about the new regulatory changes being established by the EPA for **onsite septic tank/wastewater fees** so that they could plan their 2021 budgets.

Similarly, the MAV has been effective in advocating for reform of the Building Act and for **wind farm noise issues** to no longer be a council issue under Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

The MAV is also renowned for developing and maintaining effective partnerships with key stakeholders. We collaborated with the Department of Transport to establish a **freight policy reference group**, facilitate sector engagement in state projects and work together on investigating and addressing 'first and last kilometre' impediments.

Significant initiatives were also undertaken on **active transport** – a project that was funded by VicHealth and used to improve engagement between councils and the State Government on a range of active transport issues including approvals, road safety and movement and place.



President's Overview

Working with other levels of government

The Federal Government's May Budget included additional funding for a range of programs delivered by councils. The most significant announcement for the sector was the additional **\$1 billion extension of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program** until 2022-23.

The MAV works with organisations, like **ALGA**, and will continue advocating to the Federal Government to partner with councils to deliver initiatives and services to communities. Councils know their local communities best, and we make sure services get delivered where they are most needed.

Victorian councils have called for a voice on National Cabinet. It is unreasonable for the voice of local communities, as represented through local government, to be excluded from this intergovernmental forum and the national decision-making process.

The MAV also welcomed the 2021/22 Victorian Budget in May, with its investment in mental health and jobs. The emphasis on new services and attracting more health professionals to rural and regional areas was particularly welcomed.

Another good news story was the continued funding for several ongoing programs such as **\$41.1 million over two years for the school crossing supervisor program**. This funding gives communities much needed certainty, however, this commitment to the equitable sharing of costs between state and local government should be ongoing.

We welcomed the extension of funding for universal access for early childhood - this is an issue MAV has consistently and strongly advocated for over many years.



President's Overview

Diversity and representation

We were delighted to congratulate the successful candidates in the 2020 council elections and the results confirmed an increase in the diversity of councillors across the state.

Victoria now leads the country in terms of the proportion of female councillors, representing a total of 43.8 per cent of councillors. This is a marked increase from our previous high of 38 per cent.

We welcomed the election of six councillors who identify as having Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. Aboriginal Victorians taking on leadership roles in their local communities is vital to building stronger connections and embedding their needs and aspirations into the critical work and functioning of local government.

There were 28 openly LGBTIQ+ candidates elected to 20 local councils across the state – a positive and significant increase from the 11 candidates at the 2016 elections. Around half of the successful candidates were newly elected.

This election showed that communities around Victoria recognise the importance of having elected representatives that reflect the diversity of the communities they represent.

The MAV had its own election in March. I was humbled to be elected President for the next two years alongside 12 Board members, who represent 12 regional groupings of councils.



President's Overview

Challenges and achievements

We faced disappointments this year. The MAV Board was put in an unenviable position when WorkSafe Victoria (WorkSafe) – as both the Scheme's regulator and competitor – refused the MAV's application for renewal of approval as a self-insurer. This decision was upheld by the Supreme Court in March, and the Board felt there was no other choice but to move forward to suitable 'wind down' arrangements with WorkSafe. Given the implications for our staff, contractors and valued members, it was by no means an easy discussion or decision. Despite our disappointment, the MAV will continue to operate in the best interest of our **WorkCare** members in the years ahead and this includes negotiations on future payment liabilities.

We also had several firsts to celebrate – our first MAV State Council meeting for 2021 was held in May, it was our first State Council since October 2019 and my first occasion as Chair. **State Council** is the Parliament of Local Government, where we deal with the issues affecting our constituents and communities. We debated and resolved many important, relevant and timely matters that affect not just our own municipalities, but the sector as a whole, including the adoption of the **MAV Strategy 2021-2025**.

This sound strategy, which is fully supported by the sector, will ensure the MAV remains a strong, effective and progressive voice for local government and continues to enable councils to support and strengthen their local communities. Among the many motions from members, there was a proposed change to **MAV Rules**. As with any organisation, a review of its governance model is an opportunity to ensure it is meeting contemporary expectations. The review of the MAV rules is planned to be delivered by mid-next year and will involve whole-of-sector engagement on how we operate.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts and commitment. We fully appreciate the membership of all 79 Victorian councils. We now look forward to further our partnerships, supporting our councils and communities through the recovery from the pandemic, and the delivery more positive outcomes for councils and communities.

Thank you

Cr David Clark
MAV President



MAV
STRATEGY
2021-25

Message from the CEO

Across Victoria, councils have once again led the way in supporting their communities and each other throughout challenges, opportunities, and emergencies. From the introduction of technological innovations to securing best value procurement deals and engaging with communities during the pandemic health restrictions and responding to extreme weather events.

Your MAV team also worked tirelessly – often behind-the-scenes - to support, represent and advocate on behalf of councils during these challenging times. This 2020-21 Annual Report Summary provides an insight to the outcomes achieved through strong leadership by the MAV, advocacy for the sector and influence of other levels of government to partner and work with councils.

As with many organisations, our expectations for the year were outlined in the 2019-21 Strategic Plan long before we had any idea of the impending challenge from the COVID-19 pandemic. We had identified the need for further organisational improvements, engagement for a review of the MAV rules, and an expansion of our learning, conferences and events. It goes without saying that our plans for the year had to change or be put on hold. The MAV, which has a small but dedicated team, were proudly able to pivot and turn our attention to the pandemic priorities.

Maintaining relationships with State Government, which has always been key to the MAV's advocating and influencing policy on matters of importance for the sector, was critical throughout the pandemic. The MAV hosted meetings and forums with our 79 CEOs and arranged for key state government senior staff to provide briefings and take feedback on government policy and the restrictions. Our understanding of the issues faced by councils meant that we were often able to provide practical advice to councils much more quickly than state processes allowed.

This was particularly vital given councils' critical work support communities and businesses through the COVID-19 crisis, and there will continue to be a strong need for leadership by the MAV. In the year ahead, we will remain focused on advocacy for the sector and influence other levels of government to partner and work with councils in the social and economic recovery.



MAV Chief Executive
Kerry Thompson

Message from the CEO

Guiding this work will be the *2021-25 MAV Strategy*. This strategy, which was developed through engagement with our member councils, sets out the future focus and expectations of the MAV, and more broadly the local government sector. It is a commitment to serve the interests of our member councils via our services, support and advocacy for local government and evolved from the achievements of previous work. But it is not just outwardly focused. It is also a commitment to ensure that MAV is a proactive, responsive and agile organisation, one that continues to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

A significant decision this year was the wind down the MAV WorkCare Scheme - Victoria's only dedicated local government workers' compensation self-insurance scheme – in April. We are proud of the results that MAV WorkCare achieved in occupational health and safety, return-to-work and claims management.

The MAV made good progress in implementing the 2018 recommendations of the Victorian Auditor-General. These related to the governance and operation of the LMI scheme including a revised pricing model, a review of the LMI scheme's operating structure and a review of the Insurance Board tenure and composition, which resulted in new independent members being appointed. In the year ahead, actions will be undertaken to address the remaining outstanding recommendations. This includes the completion of the tender for a service provider to the scheme and a governance review.

MAV Procurement supported more than \$250m in expenditure via MAV contracts with councils utilising on average 12 MAV contracts. One of the challenges was the team operated at a less than full complement of staff over the past year, however, with change came the opportunity to reflect and introduce new ideas. A review of contracts, systems and reporting has been undertaken to ensure that the service remains effective and efficient.

While there have been both challenges and achievements, the MAV continues to serve and deliver positive outcomes for councils and their community. We are often described as a "small organisation with a big impact" and this is thanks to a shared commitment from the Board, staff and our contractors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the extraordinary work they undertook last year. We have worked closely together in the best interest of the local government sector to ensure that we are there for our communities during these extraordinary and most challenging times.

Kerry Thompson
Chief Executive



MAV Board

President



Cr David Clark

Deputy President (Rural)



Cr Ruth Gstrein

Deputy President (Metro)



Cr Rohan Leppert



Cr Jennifer Anderson



Cr Kris Bolam



Cr Murray Emerson



Cr Kylie Grzybek



Cr Joseph Haweil



Cr Jami Klisaris



Cr Kathy Majdlik



Cr Tom Melican



Cr Aaron Scales



Cr Brett Tessari

*Board member
profiles are provided
in the accompanying
**Board & Governance
Reports 2020-21***

MAV Insurance Board

Rob Spence (Chair), John Bennie, Cr David Clark, (from March 2021), Cr Murray Emerson, Cr Josh Gilligan (November 2020-March 2021), Michael Guilmartin, Dion Lester, Kate Reid, Bruce Richards, Cr Coral Ross (until October 2020), Katrena Stephenson, Kerry Thompson, Kerrie Williams, Paul Woodhouse.

MAV WorkCare Board

Marilyn Duncan (Chair),
Cr David Clark (from March 2021), Janet Dore,
Andrew Elliott (from December 2020),
Cr Josh Gilligan (November 2020-March 2021),
Cr Coral Ross AM (until October 2020),
Kerry Thompson.

*Details about our
governance
performance are
available for viewing
and download at
mav.asn.au.*



MAV Board – acknowledgments



Cr Coral Ross AM

Former President – Cr Coral Ross AM

Former MAV President and Boroondara councillor, Coral Ross, retired at last year's local government elections after 18 years of dedicated service as a councillor for the City of Boroondara, including three terms as mayor.

Coral was elected as President of the MAV in March 2019. She was also interim President of the MAV from November 2016 to March 2017 and served as a board member of the Australian Local Government Association for two terms.

Coral is renowned as a strong advocate for women in local government and served as National President of Australian Local Government Women's Association, Deputy Chair of the Australian Gender Equality Council and a director of the National Rural Women's Coalition.

In 2018, she was awarded the prestigious Churchill Fellowship to investigate improving gender equality in local councils and was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

This year, Coral was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).



Cr Josh Gilligan

Interim President – Cr Josh Gilligan

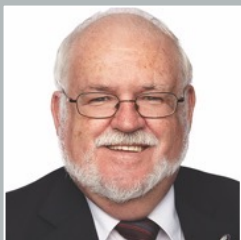
Cr Josh Gilligan, of Wyndham City Council, was elected by the management board following the retirement of Cr Ross. We would like to acknowledge and thank Cr Gilligan for his work as MAV's interim President through to March this year and show the Boards appreciation for the two terms he served as representative of the Western Metropolitan Region.

Vale Cr Malcolm Hole

Former MAV Board member and long-term Wellington Shire Councillor, Malcolm Hole, passed away in April this year.

Cr Hole had been serving his seventh term as councillor for Wellington Shire's Northern Ward after having been first elected in 2000.

Cr Hole had served as Mayor in 2002 and 2006, as Deputy Mayor in 2019 and in 2015 was elected a member of the MAV Board.



Cr Malcolm Hole

Details about our governance performance are available for viewing and download at mav.asn.au.

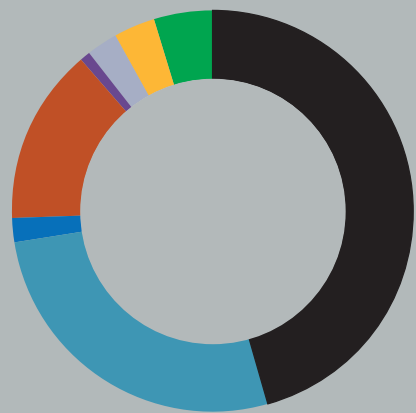


Financial Overview

Summary of financial results for the year ended 30 June 2021

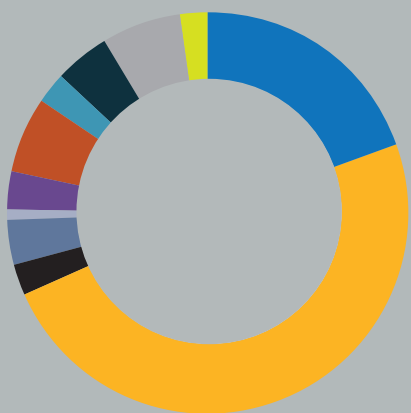
In accordance with the requirements of the *Municipal Association Act 1907*, and applicable accounting standards; the economic activity of the MAV, MAV Insurance and MAV WorkCare is reported to members as an economic entity within the combined annual accounts. The combined activities are shown as the combined accounts and the MAV, being the parent entity, is shown as the MAV General Fund. The LGE Health Plan is reported to members separately.

Revenue by category 2020-21



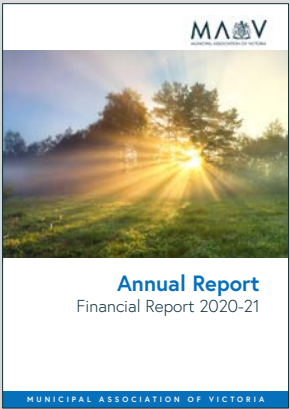
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Subscriptions/premiums | Seminars and sale of publications |
| Reinsurance and other recoveries | Sponsorship, membership and tender income |
| Other | Grants |
| Work Care Scheme wind-down recoveries | Investments |

Expenditure by category 2020-21



- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Reinsurance expense | Administration |
| Insurance claims | Grants and projects |
| Other | Work Care - ceased self insurer expenses |
| Scheme management | Impaired Recoveries |
| WorkSafe Self Insurer Levy | Salary and payroll costs |
| | Stamp duty |

Detailed Financial Reports for MAV, MAV Insurance, MAV WorkCare and LGE Health Plan are available for viewing and download at mav.asn.au.



Financial Overview

Summary of financial results for the year ended 30 June 2021 (continued)

MAV Combined

The MAV financial statements include the activities of MAV Grants, Projects and Events, MAV Insurance and MAV WorkCare.

The financial result of the MAV Combined entity for 2021 was a surplus of \$11.1 million (2020 deficit of \$4.3 million) with net assets increasing from (\$2.5 million) to \$8.6 million. The results include:

- A small deficit resulting from the MAV General Fund – relating to the timing of Grants funding and expenditure
- A surplus resulting from MAV Insurance
- A overall surplus resulting from MAV WorkCare, including wind-down expenses and recoveries.

Consistent with the 2021-22 budget, it is expected that MAV Combined will achieve an operating surplus in 2021-22 and remain in a positive asset position throughout 2021-22.

MAV Insurance

The combined MAV Insurance operating surplus for 2019 was \$1.913 million, resulting in a further increase in the asset position at 30 June 2021 to \$2.113 million – the healthiest position since 2012.

The Commercial Crime Scheme returned a modest operating surplus in line with budget.

The LMI Scheme produced a surplus of \$1.908 million, returning increasing the asset position to \$2.002 million at 30 June 2021. The Scheme increased net premium income by \$12.5 million with net claims expenses increasing by \$7.6 million for the year.

MAV Insurance expects the asset position to moderately improve during 2021-22.

MAV WorkCare

MAV WorkCare's results were impacted by the wind-down of the Scheme with the net asset position being recorded a nil at 30 June 2021.

Investment income improved during the year and the Scheme recorded an operating surplus for the year before wind-down expenses and recoveries are taken into account.

The WorkCare Scheme is now operating as a ceased self-insurer until 30 June 2027.

Detailed Financial Reports for MAV, MAV Insurance, MAV WorkCare and LGE Health Plan are available for viewing and download at mav.asn.au.



Strategic Plan Outcomes

Planned activities

<i>Member Priority</i>	<i>Agreed objective</i>
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	<i>Lead the development of an evidence base and policy roadmap to inform a sustainable financial model for local government.</i>
WASTE & RESOURCE RECOVERY	<i>Be a trusted advisor to councils and lead advocacy for investment and reform to the waste and resource recovery system to expedite the transition to a circular economy.</i>
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	<i>Lead the agenda on sector priorities and elevate these with State and Federal Government to advance the interests of our communities.</i>
TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE	<i>Evaluate available evidence to develop a policy and advocacy framework that prioritises community connectedness and economic viability.</i>
SOCIETAL & SOCIAL POLICY CHANGES	<i>Facilitate local government creation and support of resilient and cohesive communities, with fair and equitable access to universal community services.</i>
PLANNING & BUILDING	<i>Planning and building regulatory systems serve the interests of communities and respect the role of local government.</i>
BUSINESS & DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	<i>Lead and facilitate sharing of best practice and innovation that improves community engagement, business efficiency and equity of infrastructure and access for all councils.</i>
CLIMATE IMPACTS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	<i>Advocate for government leadership and investment that supports councils and communities to mitigate and remain resilient to climate-related impacts and emergencies.</i>
POPULATION CHANGE	<i>Advocate for assistance for councils to manage the impacts of population growth and decline.</i>
IMPROVE OUR PROCESSES	<i>Improve our business, governance and communication processes to increase efficiency, leverage partnerships, strengthen engagement, address capability gaps.</i>

Unplanned activities relating to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our ability to complete planned activities in 2020-21.

The MAV Strategic Plan 2019-21, which identified actions in consultation with our member councils, was intended to guide our work program for this financial year.

2020-21 presented unprecedented challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies.

Being a small team of expert and dedicated staff and consultants, we revised our plans to enable a rapid response to the pandemic and other challenges as well as keeping in mind the planned activities and advocacy on identified priorities.



Performance Highlights

FUNDING

We helped councils to address financial sustainability by securing funding certainty, reducing red-tape reporting costs and exploring new funding streams and savings opportunities.



\$636.3 million in Federal Financial Assistance Grants funding with indexation maintained.



\$1 billion extension to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



Financial support packages for rural and regional councils to assist them respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in their communities.



\$200,000 for short and long-term council initiatives to increase walking and cycling.



\$4.2 million for councils for new three-year tobacco education and enforcement service agreements.

Note: The performance highlights presented in this Report represent outcomes achieved by the MAV in collaboration with numerous stakeholder groups including councils, the Australian Local Government Association, industry groups, unions, and state and federal government departments.

REPUTATION

We improved the reputation of local government by raising the profile of sector issues, influencing government policy reviews and reforms, and improving our information and campaigns.



Briefing Members of Parliament on **councils' supporting role** through the COVID-19 pandemic for local communities and business.



Raising the profile of the **Gender Equality Act 2020**, which came into effect on 31 March



Agreement for an MoU between MAV and EPA on **councils' co-regulatory roles**.



Advocating to the Victorian Government for a state/local government partnership on **social and affordable housing**.



Submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's **Mental Health System** to recognise local government's significant role.

EFFICIENCY

We improved sector productivity by strengthening procurement practices; encouraging sharing of services, technology and business processes, and addressing capacity and capability challenges.



Negotiating the Early Childhood Enterprise Agreement.



Transitioning councils onto the state-wide MCH database Child Development Information System (CDIS).



Submissions were made to the Royal Commission on Aged Care on planning and program funding allocation for community care services.



45 councils utilised the MAV Procurement contract for **energy efficient street lighting** hardware replacement programs to realise CO2 reductions and energy and maintenance cost savings worth nearly \$3 million.



MAV Procurement implemented a new end-to-end **procurement and contract management** system and supplier reporting platform.

INNOVATION

We encouraged innovation and collaboration by driving business transformation, addressing digital access and equity issues, and enabling innovation partnerships.



MAV Technology Awards for Excellence recognised efforts in the use of technology to improve council service delivery and efficiency.



An agreement with Australia Post to provide **Bill Payment Services** for local government delivered price reductions through the use of the SecurePay product, and estimated savings of \$1 million across the sector.



Renewing our partnership with the Department of Health that provides funding for staff resources for us to collaborate on **population health prevention measures** which improve place-based community wellbeing, including through **municipal public health and wellbeing planning**.

Performance Highlights

ADVOCACY AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

We increased and improved our advocacy and engagement activities and outcomes.



23 submissions contributing to strategy development, discussion papers and proposed changes to legislation.



More than **200 key stakeholder meetings**.



79 tailored member benefit reports to member councils.



171 professional development conferences, webinars and events with **15,623 participants**.



69 member newsletters. **11,204 subscribers** to MAV Bulletin and other newsletters.



700+ members share digital knowledge on MAV Tech Yammer network.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We strengthened our community engagement to improve the reputation of local government.



344,214 visitors to the Vic Councils website



342,539 visitors to the MAV website



40,905 social media followers



4,403 Council jobs promoted through 105,000 page views of Council Careers Victoria in partnership with LinkedIn. Followers' growth Council Careers Victoria

PROCUREMENT SERVICES

We improved council capability through strategic aggregated procurement activities.



35 Leap program participants assisting councils to identify cost savings and efficiency opportunities in procurement



All 79 member councils used and gained cost savings



39 public tender programs undertaken including 10 National Procurement Network collaborations

INSURANCE AND WORKCARE SERVICES

We reduced council exposure to risk with insurance offerings tailored specifically for local government.



79 Victorian and 29 Tasmanian councils renewed their insurance with the LMI scheme



\$25.4 million was paid out in MAV insurance claims



More than **1,000 advice requests** for legal matters and help desk queries regarding claims, risk, policy and underwriting



30 members of the Work Care Scheme



791 injured workers received benefits with **\$12 million** paid to injured workers

Year in Review



JULY 2020

MAV and Freight Victoria Partnership: a two-year partnership was established to support councils to work with the State Government to implement the Victorian Freight Plan 'Delivering the Goods'.

Impact of COVID-19 on aged care: a submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety looked at the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the aged care sector. Thirty councils completed an online survey to inform key learnings and recommendations.

Preventing violence against women: recommendations on family, domestic and sexual violence were based on the collective experience of, and lessons learnt by, Victorian councils working for over a decade to prevent violence against women and to promote gender equality.

Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety: the MAV submission proposed that the Commonwealth Home Support Program be retained and managed under joint governance arrangements. It highlighted the importance of public sector oversight in planning and program funding allocation for community care services for older people.

MAVTV online: a program of 19 webinars/council case studies and workshops was held between July and September, attracting a total audience of 1000+.



AUGUST 2020

EM COVID briefing: MAV hosted a session for council emergency management staff to share the key learnings from the management of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Stand for Council: a series of 57 sessions held for 45 councils 'Stand for Council Community and Candidate Information Sessions' were held for prospective council election candidates and community members from across Victoria.

Walking and cycling forums: the MAV, with VicHealth and councils, looked at how the COVID-19 restrictions provided an opportunity to increase walking and cycling in the community to help keep people safe, fit and healthy.

Consultation on LGBTIQ Strategy: issues relevant to LGBTIQ people and communities across Victoria and the ways that councils are currently working towards improving the lives of LGBTIQ people were considered in a submission to the State Government.

MAVHACK 2020: more than 50 participants exploring how data sharing can accelerate COVID-19 recovery in local communities.



SEPTEMBER 2020

Outdoor activation guidance: resources and guidance provided through the MAV website fast-tracked information available to councils to enable businesses open as quickly as possible as the public health restrictions eased.

Walking and Bike Riding Resource Hub: the hub was launched by the MAV to strengthen the capability of local government to plan, design, deliver, activate and evaluate walking and bike riding programs and projects.



Year in Review



OCTOBER 2020

New National Disability Strategy: the MAV submission asked that local government's role to support people with disabilities and carers across Victoria be acknowledged and supported by the Commonwealth Government.

Waste governance reforms: in our submission to an options paper on the new waste Act and waste authority, we argued that the focus should be less on heavy-handed regulation and more on a facilitative and supportive role to accelerate the transition to a circular economy

Renewable energy webinar: MAV Procurement continued its webinar series with contract management specialists and energy experts – this was an interactive, engaging discussion on the renewable energy options available to local government.

Statewide Maternal and Child Conference: in collaboration with DHHS, this conference was held in a virtual format for the first time and some 1400 people attended.

2020 MAV Technology Awards for Excellence: "the Smart City Achievement of the Year" was awarded to the City of Whittlesea, Banyule City Council, Moreland City Council, Mitchell Shire Council and Nillumbik Shire Council for their "Northern Melbourne Smart Cities Network - enabling data to drive change" project.

Local Government elections: candidates stood for election to one of 75 councils across Victoria at the 2020 council elections.



NOVEMBER 2020

Container Deposit Scheme: having successfully advocated for the introduction of a container deposit scheme (CDS), our attention turned to the design of the scheme with a submission on the scheme's governance structure and participation on the DELWP-hosted CDS Advisory Group

Heavy Vehicle National Law Review: the MAV proposed that councils should continue to be the decision-maker for general and restricted access to local roads through notices, pre-approvals and permits.

Councillor Inductions: newly elected councillors, returning and past councillors were all welcomed in an online induction program that provides an overview of the role, responsibilities and relationships of a councillor.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: the MAV partnered with the Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria and the Victorian Council of Social Service to coordinate the delivery of the state-wide 'Respect Women: Call it out' campaign.



DECEMBER 2020

Emergency management: the Protocol for Emergency Management Resource Sharing was updated in partnership with the State and councils.

Stormwater management: the MAV's submission on the Draft EPA Urban Stormwater Management Guidance noted an urgent need for continued improvements manage and minimise the risk of harm to human health and the environment.

Mayoral Inductions: information on the role of mayor under the LG Act 2020, chairing council meetings, and building a productive relationship with the CEO was provided.

Victorian Local Government Rating System reform: the government's response to the Local Rating System Review was described by the MAV as "only going some of the way to providing much-needed taxation reform". Broad support for rates as a legitimate form of taxation was welcomed.



Year in Review



Councillor Development & Mayoral Program: this program was delivered to develop councillor knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibility. It includes Land Use Planning & Building, Understanding Council Finances, Meeting Procedures, Chairing Council Meetings, Strategic Planning and Decision Making, Bullying & Harassment Prevention, Sexual Harassment Prevention, Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Conflict Management, Media training, Social Media training, Presentation Skills, Speed Reading, and Managing the CEO Employment Cycle.

Promoting water safety: the MAV promoted the need to be vigilant around water as the drowning statistics from Life Saving Victoria (LSV) reflected 35 people lost their lives between 1 July to 28 December 2020. It was the worst six months from July to December Victoria has recorded since drowning records began.



Environmentally-Sustainable Design (ESD): in collaboration with CASBE, we advocated for a consistent approach to achieving state-wide ESD objectives in the planning system. In addition to a submission, we participated in several working groups focused on ESD reforms to the planning system.

Planning for Green Wedges: we supported better land use planning protections for green wedge areas and agricultural land via direct advocacy and a submission to a DELWP consultation paper.

Victoria's Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy: the MAV submission strongly supported the 10 objectives and commended the draft strategy's broad and integrated approach.

Statewide MCH Conference: the MAV and DHHS ran the biannual MCH conference again in a virtual format under the titled "COVID and beyond". Keynote speakers shared their insights and lesson from the never-before seen challenges of 2020 on children and their families.

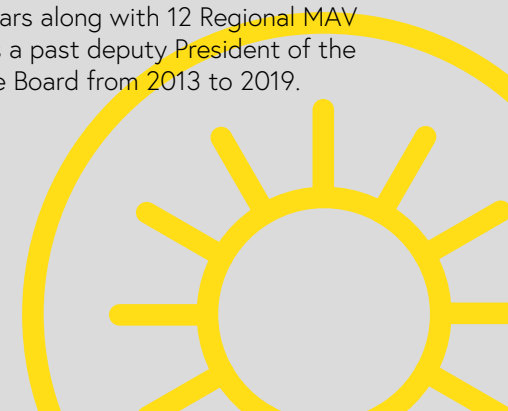
Call to improve recycling and reduce litter: with the shift to takeaway dining, especially during lockdown last year, we published an Op-ed calling for more action on product stewardship from the state and federal governments and promoting the importance of waste avoidance.



National Road Safety: the MAV called for local government to be better supported to deliver improved road safety outcomes through capability building and increased funding, as well as better protect vulnerable road users, given they represent more than a third of deaths across the road network.

Response to the COVID-19 crisis: this extended crisis requires all levels of government to come together and support the community and businesses as they move towards recovery. In a submission to the State Budget, the MAV drew upon the experiences of councils in responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on their communities.

MAV President and regional Board member elections: Cr David Clark, of Pyrenees Shire Council, was elected President for the next two years along with 12 Regional MAV Board Members. Cr Clark was a past deputy President of the MAV Board and served on the Board from 2013 to 2019.



Year in Review



APRIL 2021

Accessible public transport: with one in five Australians having a disability, access to public transport is critical and improves connection and equity. The MAV broadly supported the intent of the 16 areas of reform, as well as amendments, to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002.

Amendments to Crown land camping rules: in response to sector feedback, we provided a submission and engaged in direct advocacy to DELWP on proposed changes to the prohibition on camping on Crown land water frontages. Our advocacy aligned with that of other key stakeholders, resulting in a significant backdown from the State.

Social and affordable housing: while a record investment in building new social and affordable housing was welcomed, ongoing funding and other support structures were called for in the 10-year strategy. The MAV identified the key goals policies, and strategies to ensure sustainability of the social and affordable housing system over a longer timeframe.

MAV Technology Awards for Excellence: congratulations went to Yarriambiack Shire Council for winning the Victorian Achievement of the Year for their "ICT Business Transformation".

MAV Technology Champions of Change Conference: Held at Marvel Stadium over three days, included a Trade Exhibition featuring more than 50 technology exhibitors, masterclasses, roundtables, plenary sessions and site tours.



MAY 2021

Public land legislation review: following the release of the "Realising the value of Victoria's public land" consultation paper, the MAV held a forum and lodged a submission to give voice to councils' concerns, including regarding the potential impact of the proposed reforms on councils' liability exposure.

MAV State Council Meeting: more than 162 representatives attended the first in-person State Council meeting since October 2019. The meeting, which was held at the Melbourne Town Hall, enabled members to vote on matters of importance.

Marketing meet and greet: MAV Procurement hosted a virtual "meet and greet" with suppliers selected to form the new Media, Marketing & Digital Communications Services panel.



JUNE 2021

Fix our Building Regulatory System: the Victorian Government's release of the "Framework for Reform" discussion paper was welcomed by the MAV. The discussion paper captures many of the proposals developed by the MAV through consultation with councils. We hope that the eventual reforms will see a sustainable role for councils in building compliance, ensuring greater independence in the building approval system.

Gender Equality Act implementation: this online Leadership Forum focused on local government's implementation of the Gender Equality Act (2020). Dr Niki Vincent, Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector, attended along with a panel of local government experts.



MAV Member Councils 2020-21

Alpine Shire Council
Ararat Rural City Council
City of Ballarat
Banyule City Council
Bass Coast Shire Council
Baw Baw Shire Council
Bayside City Council
Benalla Rural City Council
City of Boroondara
Brimbank City Council
Buloke Shire Council
Campaspe Shire Council
Cardinia Shire Council
City of Casey
Central Goldfields Shire Council
Colac Otway Shire Council
Corangamite Shire Council
City of Darebin
East Gippsland Shire Council
Frankston City Council

Gannawarra Shire Council
Glen Eira City Council
Glenelg Shire Council
Golden Plains Shire Council
City of Greater Bendigo
City of Greater Dandenong
City of Greater Geelong
Greater Shepparton City Council
Hepburn Shire Council
Hindmarsh Shire Council
Hobsons Bay City Council
Horsham Rural City Council
Hume City Council
Indigo Shire Council
City of Kingston
Knox City Council
Latrobe City Council
Loddon Shire Council
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Manningham Council

Mansfield Shire Council
Maribyrnong City Council
Maroondah City Council
City of Melbourne
City of Melton
Mildura Rural City Council
Mitchell Shire Council
Moirā Shire Council
City of Monash
Moonee Valley City Council
Moorabool Shire Council
Moreland City Council
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Mount Alexander Shire Council
Moyne Shire Council
Murrindindi Shire Council
Nillumbik Shire Council
Northern Grampians Shire Council
City of Port Phillip
Pyrenees Shire Council

Borough of Queenscliffe
South Gippsland Shire Council
Southern Grampians Shire Council
City of Stonnington
Strathbogie Shire Council
Surf Coast Shire Council
Swan Hill Rural City Council
Towong Shire Council
Wangaratta Rural City Council
Warrnambool City Council
Wellington Shire Council
West Wimmera Shire Council
Whitehorse City Council
City of Whittlesea
City of Wodonga
Wyndham City Council
City of Yarra
Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Yarriambiack Shire Council

Detailed Reports



*This **MAV Annual Report Summary 2021** is supported by more detailed information that can be accessed at <https://www.mav.asn.au/news-resources/publications/2021-annual-report>.*

Annual Report Summary 2021

Municipal Association of Victoria
Level 12, 60 Collins Street, Melbourne
GPO Box 4326, Melbourne 3001
Phone: 03 9667 5555
Email: inquiries@mav.asn.au
Website: <https://www.mav.asn.au/>