



MAV State Council

Resolutions

Friday 13 October 2023

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Planning Reform

Submitted by: MAV Board

Resolution:

That State Council:

1. In **acknowledging**:
 - a) the Operation Sandon special report by IBAC;
 - a) Victoria's Housing Statement – The Decade Ahead 2024-2034 and its housing targets; and
 - b) the planning reforms already gazetted without notice as a subset of the Housing Statement;
2. In **affirming** the ambition of Local Government to address both the housing supply and housing affordability crises in Victoria, in line with long-standing calls from the sector for comprehensive reform to facilitate this;
3. In **asserting** that any reforms to overcome the housing affordability and supply crisis must be based on a complete understanding of the causes of the crisis, many of which fall outside the planning system, and a public process grounded in evidence and honesty;
4. In **recognising** that democratically vested planning powers lie with both Local Government and the State Government and that any fundamental reforms to the planning system require genuine consultation and engagement between the two levels of Government and the planning profession if they are to succeed; and
5. In upholding the democratic imperative for communities to influence the way Victoria is planned;

Does hereby resolve:

6. To **confirm** that Local Government stands ready to facilitate the increase in housing necessary to house Victorians;
7. To **endorse** "Local Government's Vision for Planning in Victoria" as the basis for the MAV's planning reform advocacy, noting its focus on:
 - a) Delivering the housing Victorians need;
 - b) The need to embed sustainability and inter-generational equity;
 - c) The social licence of the planning system;
 - d) Effective and efficient decision making grounded in local communities;
 - e) Committing resources to where they make the most difference;
 - f) Continuous improvement; and
 - g) Integrity, Accountability, and Transparency;
8. To **engage** with all Councils on the question of the preferred spatial distribution of new homes across Victoria and how democratic governance reforms could better facilitate the strategic planning of that distribution;
9. To **express** serious concern about the disconnection between planning reforms, already gazetted without notice, and the recommendations of the Operation Sandon special report, as well as the selection of Activity Areas without first seeking any local knowledge held by Local Government;

10. To **commit** to good faith engagement with the State Government to work in genuine partnership on further planning reforms, including and especially a thorough review of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the development of Plan Victoria and Activity Centres, in the interests of ensuring a system that works to provide supply and affordability while retaining integrity, accountability, transparency and the ability for local communities to add value to community, regional, metropolitan and State-wide plans and development;
11. To **formally request** that the Planning Minister enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the MAV that establishes this partnership and enables genuine input and improvement from the Local Government sector to any and all fundamental planning system reforms.

CONSOLIDATED MOTIONS

Under the MAV Rules 2022, motions or items which relate to the same subject may be consolidated into a single matter, with such amendments as the Board in its discretion determines are warranted, prior to inclusion in the business papers and circulation to delegates (Rule 17.2).

C1. Affordable housing and homelessness sector support

Resolution:

1. Increase social housing stock across the state to address homelessness and improve living standards of existing social housing including increased support for residents to maintain their tenancy; extending the Big Housing Build by funding an increase in social and affordable housing to at least 60,000 dwellings over 10 years; and committing to a target for priority local government areas.
2. Urgently develop a state-wide social and affordable housing strategy that addresses housing need across a range of tenures, from emergency housing to long term community and private rental housing.
3. Provide adequate funding for the homelessness sector for sufficient staffing of homelessness service agencies to deliver critical wrap-around services for individuals with complex needs and who have experienced long term homelessness to develop skills to exit homelessness, live independently and retain their housing. This includes funding for out-of-hours (before 9 am and after 5 pm) assertive outreach. This is in line with the Council to Homeless Persons' 2023/24 state budget submission that called on the Victorian Government:

“... to invest an additional \$47.5 million in 2023-24 (\$220.6 million over four years) to continue and grow the From Homeless to a Home program to support at least 2,100 households (growing to 2,400 by year 4) for as long as that support is needed to sustain that home (page 4, State Budget Submission 2023–24 - Council to Homeless Persons website (chp.org.au)).”
4. Directly support local government homelessness response by funding the establishment of assertive outreach services and community connector roles, based in councils to lead prevention activities and guide service coordination efforts.

Consolidated motions:

- Housing and homelessness sector support - Boroondara City Council (Motion 1)
- Affordable housing and homelessness – Brimbank City Council (Motion 2)
- Homelessness and affordable housing – Wyndham City Council (Motion 3)

C2. Building resilience into flood-prone communities

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Work with councils to ensure that flood hazard controls within the Victoria Planning Provisions are fit for purpose.
2. Implement a state-led process for ensuring flood mapping is up to date and incorporated into planning schemes.
3. Review the effectiveness of flood warning systems, particularly the information available to at-risk communities.
4. Fund and implement a state-led process to modify the Victorian Planning Provisions to amend, strengthen and protect the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to manage risks in areas that are vulnerable to climate change inclusive of all affected coastal and riverine areas.

Consolidated motions:

- Building resilience to future flood events – Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 4)
- State Government leadership in planning scheme amendments to incorporate updated flood mapping - East Gippsland Shire Council (Motion 5)
- Modification to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay - South Gippsland Shire Council (Motion 6)

C3. Don't leave the growth areas behind

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Ensure that the needs of growth area communities are still prioritised despite the renewed focus on delivering 70% of housing growth in in-fill areas;
2. Provide infrastructure and service delivery funding assistance to growth area councils who have and continue to see significant population growth;
3. Restore programs like the Growing Suburbs Fund to their previous levels.

Consolidated motions:

- Essential Funding for Growth Areas - Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 7)
- Victorian Government financial support for Councils for infrastructure planning and delivery – Wyndham City Council (Motion 8)

C4. Enshrining climate change responses and environmental sustainability into our planning system

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to ensure that the planning system prioritises sustainability and climate change, including through authorising the Elevating Targets planning scheme amendment progressed by CASBE and 24 councils to require a higher standard of Environmentally Sustainable Development.

Consolidated motions:

- Planning reforms to give greater weight to environmental sustainability in the assessment process - Surf Coast Shire Council (Motion 9)
- Aligning the Victorian Planning Framework to Government Climate Change Policy - Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 10)

C5. Exempt rural councils from the Windfall Gains Tax

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to exempt rural areas from the Windfall Gains Tax.

Consolidated motions:

- Windfall Gain Tax - Northern Grampians Shire Council (Motion 11)
- Call to revoke Windfall Gains Tax in rural Victoria - Ararat Rural City Council (Motion 12)
- Addressing Windfall Gains Tax in rural areas - Towong Shire Council (Motion 13)

C6. Protecting, enhancing and expanding open spaces for all communities

Resolution:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Recognise that open space is critical to building healthy and active communities across Victoria;
2. Mandating higher minimum public open space requirements as part of any state-approved planning proposal
3. Improve public access to public school grounds through reforming joint-use agreements;
4. Working more closely with local government in state Government planning decisions to identify opportunities and needs for open space, particularly as part of large infrastructure projects;
5. Notes that open space remains a critical consideration in developing a liveable Victoria by promoting healthy and active communities with access to open green space.

Consolidated motions:

- Improved Community Access to Underutilised Land and Broader Community Open Space needs - Glen Eira City Council (Motion 14)
- Open Space within metropolitan Melbourne – Port Phillip City Council (Motion 15)

C7. Retain and protect community voice in the planning system

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Recognise the subject matter expertise found within local government, and partner with councils to co-design an improved planning system;
2. Retain community voice and local decision-making as key pillars of the Victorian planning system;
3. Ensure that councils are resourced to effectively carry out their central role in the planning system.

Consolidated motions:

- Proposed Planning Reforms - Yarra City Council (Motion 16)
- Keep Local Democracy on Planning Decisions - Mansfield Shire Council (Motion 17)

C8. Victorian Government Erosion of Funding for Public Libraries

Resolution:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that Victorian Government grants for public libraries are frozen at 2022/23 levels, with the result that funding for public libraries is effectively being further cost-shifted onto Local Government. As a result, councils are now bearing 80% of the cost of this invaluable community service which was previously equally funded by state and local governments.
2. Calls on the Victorian Government to commit to:
 - a) not place additional responsibilities on local government without a sustainable revenue stream to support their implementation
 - b) reverse its decision to freeze the level of grants for public libraries in 2023/24
 - c) increase the 2023/24 public library grant and commit to restoring its funding contribution to 50% of the service cost.

Consolidated motions:

- Public Library Grants – Erosion of Library Services to Community – Maroondah City Council (Motion 18)
- Victorian Government Funding of Public Libraries – Knox City Council (Motion 19)

BOARD MOTIONS

Local Government Emergency Management Arrangements

Submitted by: MAV Board on behalf of MAV Emergency Management Committee

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Emergency Management Commissioner and Local Government Victoria (LGV) to:

1. Urgently review the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) to cover all 79 councils, with a new formula based on risk and capacity, and an immediate investment in training for councils' statutory emergency management roles. Significantly higher levels of ongoing funding, guaranteed to continue each year, that reflect the risk and community expectations are essential.
2. To improve timely processing and approval periods for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) that are hindering effective recovery;
3. To 'truly' recognise the advantage of betterment funding through the DRFA and proactively work with councils and the federal government to achieve this outcome;
4. To resolve the lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of councils in emergency management;
5. To develop and deliver training for core statutory emergency management roles.

MOTIONS

Housing and Homelessness Sector Support (C1)

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 1: Affordable housing and homelessness sector support.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness (C1)

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 1: Affordable housing and homelessness sector support.

Homelessness and Affordable Housing (C1)

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 1: Affordable housing and homelessness sector support.

Building resilience to future flood events (C2)

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 2: Building resilience into flood-prone communities.

State Government leadership in planning scheme amendments to incorporate updated flood mapping (C2)

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 2: Building resilience into flood-prone communities.

Modification to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (C2)

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 2: Building resilience into flood-prone communities.

Essential funding for growth areas (C3)

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 3: Don't leave the growth areas behind.

Victorian Government financial support for Councils for infrastructure planning and delivery (C3)

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 3: Don't leave the growth areas behind.

Planning reforms to give greater weight to environmental sustainability in the assessment process (C4)

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 4: Enshrining climate change responses and environmental sustainability into our planning system.

Aligning the Victorian Planning Framework to Government Climate Change Policy (C4)

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 4: Enshrining climate change responses and environmental sustainability into our planning system.

Windfall Gains Tax (C5)

Submitting Council: Northern Grampians Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 5: Exempt rural councils from the Windfall Gains Tax.

Call to revoke Windfall Gains Tax in rural Victoria (C5)

Submitting Council: Ararat Rural City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 5: Exempt rural councils from the Windfall Gains Tax.

Addressing Windfall Gains Tax in rural areas (C5)

Submitting Council: Towong Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 5: Exempt rural councils from the Windfall Gains Tax.

Improved Community Access to Underutilised Land and Broader Community Open Space Needs (C6)

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 6: Protecting, enhancing and expanding open spaces for all communities.

Open Space within metropolitan Melbourne (C6)

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 6: Protecting, enhancing and expanding open spaces for all communities.

Proposed planning reforms (C7)

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 7: Retain and protect community voice in the planning system.

Keep Local Democracy on Planning Decisions (C7)

Submitting Council: Mansfield Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 7: Retain and protect community voice in the planning system.

Public Library Grants - Erosion of Library Services to Community (C8)

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 8: Victorian Government Erosion of Funding for Public Libraries.

Victorian Government Funding of Public Libraries (C8)

Submitting Council: Knox City Council

Consolidated

Refer to Consolidated Motion 8: Victorian Government Erosion of Funding for Public Libraries.

Candidate resources for 2024 Local Government elections

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government and Local Government Victoria for greater resources and training to build capacity of future candidates in the lead up to the 2024 Local Government elections.

Targeted approaches to delivering Maternal Child Health services

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government for a Maternal Child Health Services policy that supports local government to implement a targeted service approach, as funding models and workforce challenges are preventing delivery of the full-service model.

Alternate approval pathway for pedestrian works

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Resolution:

That State Council call on the State Government to give councils an alternative approval pathway for certain types of pedestrian works in line with recent changes to transport delegations in NSW, including for:

- a) works to enable alfresco dining on a road (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes);
- b) continuous footpaths;
- c) converting existing pedestrian ('zebra') crossings to raised pedestrian ('wombat') crossings;
- d) mid-block treatments to manage vehicle speed including road humps, road cushions, chicanes and slow points;
- e) pedestrian crossings;
- f) pedestrian refuges;
- g) 'No Stopping' controls at intersections;
- h) kerb buildouts to reduce intersection crossing distance or manage vehicle speed (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes);
- i) kerb modifications for footpath improvements or tree planting (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes); and
- j) associated changes to kerbside parking necessary to implement the proposal and to offset any parking impacts.

Bus Network Reforms

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV:

1. Requests the Victorian Government deliver the actions in accordance with the timeframe committed to in the Victorian Bus Plan.
2. Requests the Department of Transport and Planning collaborate with councils on the proposed network plans in the Bus Network Reform Pilot Projects.
3. Requests the Victorian Government commit funding to deliver the Bus Network Pilot Projects.

Changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions in relation to the use of car stackers

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV urgently request the State Government to make changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and prepare a new Planning Practice Note to provide clear policy direction aimed at improving the design, useability, specifications and accessibility of car stackers.

Golf Course Land Planning Guidelines

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV request the Victorian Government to review the Planning Guidelines for the Conversion of Golf Course Land for other Purposes, and their practical application.

Maintenance of Freeway and Arterial Roads

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV urgently request the State Government to ensure that Freeways and Arterial Roads, for which the Department of Transport Planning (VicRoads) are responsible, are maintained to an appropriate level of service.

Strengthening the RRV Roads Management Plan

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to strengthen the RRV Roads Management Plan to achieve higher standard outcomes which are expected by communities, including an increased focus on drainage.

Council Compliance Framework uniformity in Victoria

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV, after consulting Local Government Victoria and considering options to draw on governance expertise throughout the sector:

1. Pursue a coordinated approach to development of a regulatory and compliance framework and technology to support Victorian councils to effectively respond to their extensive and diverse legislative compliance requirements in an efficient manner.
2. Consider previous examples such as Queensland in the development of such a framework.
3. Report progress to State Council in May 2024

Maggolee partnership and advocacy for local government's involvement in Treaty implementation

Submitting Council: Moonee Valley City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV:

1. Assists in the promotion of the Maggolee website (<https://www.maggolee.org.au/>) and resources to the MAV membership.
2. Through the Maggolee partnership, help produce model policies and best practice guidelines on Local Government changes relating to issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with statewide relevance, consistent with the Treaty negotiation framework, Self-determination, and State Government policy and legislation.
3. Establish a relationship with the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria, as the lead body for negotiating statewide Treaty, and keep the membership informed of the progress of Treaty negotiations and in particular where Treaty outcomes may involve Local Government in their implementation.
4. Request the Victorian Government involve Local Government as early as possible in designing a Treaty implementation program aimed at supporting positive local outcomes.

Maintenance of state-managed roads

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Allow for closer collaboration between the Department of Transport and Planning, Regional Roads Victoria and local councils to ensure consistent intervention levels, standard of maintenance and response times for state-managed roads; and,
2. Put in a place a process for the inspection and maintenance of road surfaces to be undertaken by local councils, should they choose to do so on behalf of the department, under an indexed full cost recovery model.

Regional health services

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Ensure equal access to basic and emergency health care for communities in rural and regional areas;
2. Provide incentives to specialists across disciplines to work regionally and rurally;
3. Make a key priority for the government to retain of medical professionals and address the shortage of medical professionals in rural and regional Victoria; and,
4. Advocate to the federal government for increases in Medicare rebates for rural and regional doctors to ensure medical practitioners are adequately remunerated for their services.

Surplus state-owned land

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to undertake rezoning when requires and consider to undertake rezoning when required and consider in consultation with the local municipality, the sale of unused VicTrack and other state-owned land within town and city centres to:

1. Provide a source of revenue for the state;
2. Allow for private industry to rehabilitate and develop much needed housing and other commercial operations to continue CBD activation;
3. Open up potential sites to address commercial and industrial land shortages; and,
4. Ensure improved presentation of highly visible land.

Funding advocacy for critical roads and bridges

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to Victorian Government of behalf of rural and regional Councils to redirect funding previously allocated to the Commonwealth Games into critical road and infrastructure projects.

Accessibility of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Merri-bek City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to lobby the Federal Government to elevate and expedite the work to create access standards for people with disabilities seeking to use electric vehicle charging infrastructure:

- a) through active engagement and consultation with disability groups about standards for making EV charging infrastructure accessible to people with disabilities.
- b) by considering relevant standards, the National Construction Code and other guidance to ensure new electric vehicle charging infrastructure is fully accessible.

Mental Health

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV requests that the Victorian Government:

1. conduct an inquiry into the psycho-social impacts of COVID-19; and
2. consider additional measures and funding to invest in community resilience, psychological and material support to mitigate identified impacts.

Construction of Melbourne Airport Rail

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Resolution:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to deliver the Melbourne Airport Rail in a timely manner.

Addressing planning barriers for regional workers accommodation

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Planning to consider permit exemptions for Rural Worker accommodation in the Green Wedge Zones and release of other reforms from the Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedge and Agricultural Land Review.

Strategic review into the School Crossing Supervisor Program

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to reinstate a broad strategic review of the School Crossing Supervisor Program, to address urgent outstanding issues, including:

1. crossing supervisor staff shortages
2. regular unsupervised school crossings
3. unsustainable State Government funding model that puts increasing financial pressure on Councils.

Victorian Government Responsibility for Education Related Infrastructure

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to take responsibility for the provision of adequate parking, playing fields, open space, and other infrastructure that support public schools, including requiring the Victorian School Building Authority to seek planning approval for new schools and school expansions.

Resources for Freedom of Information requests

Submitting Council: Towong Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government to make resources available (eg. a 'flying squad' approach) for small rural councils, to enable those councils with limited resources to remain compliant with the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic).

Redistribution mechanism of the Community Benefits Statements

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to review the redistribution mechanism of the Community Benefits Statements to ensure that the losses from gambling are directly invested back into community and community-led initiatives.

Betterment of public assets

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government and Australian Government to:

1. Commit to allowing the betterment of public assets damaged by natural disasters to be funded through the state and federal Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).
2. Allow Councils to submit claims for betterment and fund improvements to assets where the asset is critical and can be better protected against damage from natural disasters into the future.

Establishment of Renewable Energy Development Guidelines

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate for the establishment of Renewable Energy Development Guidelines including provisions that infrastructure to support renewable energy transmission:

- a) be developed using existing easements,
- b) be located where practicable underground, and
- c) require co-location of connecting lines to reduce the impact on agriculture, the visual landscape, recognise risks of bushfire and protect amenity.

Ongoing maintenance and additional replacement and renewal of the local road network

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Resolution:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to reinstate a state funded program to ensure local government is adequately supported to continue the ongoing maintenance and additional replacement and renewal of the local road network.

Review Maternal and Child Health Key Age and Stages framework and rectify funding shortfall

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to review the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Key Ages and Stages (KAS) framework and associated historical funding model in which local and state governments equally fund the service, and seeks immediate action to rectify the funding shortfall through:

1. Reviewing the KAS framework to ascertain the level of complexity, need and resources required to effectively assess the health and wellbeing of children and their families within the current environment where incidents of family violence, child abuse and mental illness are continuing to rise;
2. Undertaking a sector wide analysis of the historical shared funding model in which local and state governments are required to equally fund the delivery of the service; and
3. Consulting with local government to determine the level of additional funding required to be invested in local government by the Victorian Government as a result of the state's ongoing funding shortfall.

Assess existing and future transport needs of the western suburbs

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Resolution:

That the MAV, in response to the SRL Airport Rail, Geelong Fast Rail and Western Rail Plan projects being put on hold by the Victorian and Australian governments, calls on the Victorian Government to undertake an assessment of the existing and future transport needs of communities in the growing western suburbs to ensure that existing and future infrastructure is adequate.