

MAV State Council

Resolutions

29 May 2026

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

NOTE TO MOTIONS HEADINGS

The 29 May State Council Motions have been split into two sections:

1. Strategic to the MAV, grouped according to the Priorities of the MAV Strategic Plan 2024-27 (for example Active Local Democracy); and
2. Significant to the Sector.

Within the Strategic to the MAV and the Significant to the Sector sections:

Single motions are simply listed as “Motion” with a motion number, for example Motion 1 and shows the motion title, Council name and page number.

Where like motions have been consolidated, these are shown as Consolidated Motions with a motion number beginning with the letter C, for example C1. Following each Consolidated Motion are the individual motions that have been consolidated and these show the motion title, beginning with for example C1.1, Council name and page number (and are shown in italics).

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Contents

Strategic to the MAV	12
Active Local Democracy	13
Motion 1. Clarity on what constitutes misuse of a councillor's position	13
Kingston City Council.....	13
Motion 2. Transparency in the reasons for appointing monitors	14
Kingston City Council.....	14
Motion 3. Training & Professional Development for Councillors	15
Moorabool Shire Council	15
Motion 4. Strengthening Councillor Independence and Protections from Occupational Violence	16
Darebin City Council	16
Motion 6. Best Practice Implementation of Developer Registers for Local Government	17
Frankston City Council.....	17
Connected Places	18
Consolidated Motion C1 – Planning reform implementation	18
C1.1 <i>Amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and municipal planning schemes.</i>	19
Mitchell Shire Council	19
C1.2 <i>Recognising the real barriers to housing delivery</i>	20
Bayside City Council.....	20
C1.3 <i>Housing delivery and local strategy planning</i>	21
Glen Eira City Council.....	21
C1.4 <i>Strengthening the State and Local Government partnership in planning reform</i> .	23
Hobsons Bay City Council	23
C1.5 <i>Planning Sector Reform</i>	24
Golden Plains Shire Council	24
Motion 7. Public library funding indexed to growth and needs	25
Surf Coast Shire Council	25
Motion 8. Murray River Bridge Investment	26
Swan Hill Rural City Council	26
Health and Wellbeing	27
Consolidated Motion C2 – Increased investment in the Early Childhood System	27
C2.1 <i>Supporting early childhood development</i>	28
Melbourne City Council.....	28
C2.2 <i>Increased investment in State Government's Best Start, Best Life Reforms.</i>	30
Maribyrnong City Council.....	30

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 9.	Increased investment in the State Government’s Best Start, Best Life Reforms	31
	Maribyrnong City Council	31
Motion 10.	Illicit Tobacco	32
	Stonnington City Council	32
Motion 11.	Rollout of Further Gambling Reforms	34
	Brimbank City Council	34
Motion 12.	Strengthening mental health and services for young people.	35
	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	35
Sustainable Economy		36
Consolidated Motion C3 – Supporting rural and regional housing innovation		36
C3.1	<i>Key Worker Accommodation in Regional and Rural Communities</i>	37
	Horsham Rural City Council	37
C3.2	<i>Rural Housing Innovation Framework</i>	39
	Hindmarsh Shire Council	39
Motion 13.	Circular Procurement Reform	40
	Maribyrnong City Council	40
Motion 14.	Finalisation of Victorian kerbside waste and recycling standards	41
	Hobsons Bay City Council	41
Motion 15.	Water & the Basin Plan	42
	Swan Hill Rural City Council	42
Climate and Regenerative Design		43
Consolidated Motion C4 – Local Government Supports for Mining and Renewable Energy Projects		43
C4.1	<i>Local Government Capacity for Complex Mining and Renewable Energy Projects</i>	44
	Horsham Rural City Council	44
C4.2	<i>Statewide Framework for Community Benefit Sharing, Impact Management, and End of Life Decommissioning for Renewable Energy and Mining Projects</i>	46
	Campaspe Shire Council	46
Consolidated Motion C5 – Housing capacity		47
C5.1	<i>Consultation on the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025</i>	48
	Bass Coast Shire Council	48
C5.2	<i>Improving clarity, support and timeframes for the Housing Capacity Analysis Platform (HCAP)</i>	49
	Hobsons Bay City Council	49
Motion 16.	Request to establish Payment in Lieu of Rates framework - Offshore Wind Electricity Generation	50

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

	Wellington Shire Council.....	50
Motion 17.	Coastal Hazards Adaptation and Climate Resilience Funding.....	51
	Moyne Shire Council	51
Motion 18.	AI and Cyber Security Capability for Local Government.....	52
	Moyne Shire Council	52
Motion 19.	Climate Change Adaptation	53
	Golden Plains Shire Council.....	53
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.....		54
	Consolidated Motion C6 – Strengthening Council-Led Social Cohesion and Responses to anti semitism and other forms Religious Intolerance	54
C6.1	<i>Strengthening council-led antisemitism initiatives.....</i>	55
	Glen Eira City Council.....	55
C6.2	<i>Strengthening council-led social cohesion initiatives</i>	57
	Port Phillip City Council	57
Resilience and Recovery		58
Motion 20.	Resilient Infrastructure	58
	Swan Hill Rural City Council.....	58
Significant to the Sector.....		59
	Consolidated Motion C7 – Infrastructure planning	60
C7.1	<i>Coordinated planning for state and regional level infrastructure in rapidly growing communities.....</i>	61
	Mitchell Shire Council	61
C7.2	<i>The establishment of a funding stream to support the strategic planning and preparedness of councils experiencing rapid and significant population growth due to government policies.</i>	62
	Baw Baw Shire Council	62
C7.3	<i>Regional Transport Review to Strengthen Connectivity.....</i>	63
	Campaspe Shire Council	63
C7.4	<i>Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration</i>	64
	Port Phillip City Council (point 2)	64
C7.5	<i>Planning Infrastructure for Urban Growth</i>	65
	Boroondara City Council.....	65
	Consolidated Motion C8 – Infrastructure funding mechanisms.....	66
C8.1	<i>Growth Area Funding.....</i>	67
	Cardinia Shire Council	67
C8.2	<i>State Planning Reforms associated with the Activity Centre Program.....</i>	68
	Yarra City Council	68

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C8.3	<i>Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) and Windfall Gains Tax share allocation</i>	70
	Melton City Council.....	70
Consolidated Motion C9 – Tackling loneliness and supporting community health and wellbeing		72
C9.1	<i>Strengthening Local Government Capacity for Community Health and Wellbeing</i>	73
	Darebin City Council.....	73
C9.2	<i>Develop a loneliness strategy for Victoria</i>	74
	Wyndham City Council.....	74
C9.3	<i>Ensure appropriate funding for suicide prevention</i>	75
	Mitchell Shire Council.....	75
Consolidated Motion C10 – Homelessness		76
C10.1	<i>Increased funding for homelessness services</i>	78
	Kingston City Council.....	78
C10.2	<i>Domestic Violence should not result in homelessness</i>	79
	Wyndham City Council	79
C10.3	<i>Strengthened homelessness responses, social housing access, and rental stability</i>	80
	Port Phillip City Council	80
C10.4	<i>A coordinated, measurable, whole of Government strategy to prevent and end homelessness in Victoria</i>	81
	Greater Dandenong City Council.....	81
C10.5	<i>Increased Resources for Agencies Supporting Homelessness</i>	83
	Knox City Council	83
Consolidated Motion C11 - Improving bus services in Victoria		85
C11.1	<i>Increased bus frequency</i>	86
	Kingston City Council.....	86
C11.2	<i>Expansion of the Bus Network</i>	87
	Brimbank City Council	87
C11.3	<i>Improving bus services in Victoria</i>	88
	Merri-bek City Council	88
C11.4	<i>Review of Regional Bus Services</i>	90
	Bass Coast Shire Council.....	90
C11.5	<i>Bus Network Review</i>	91
	Boroondara City Council.....	91
C11.6	<i>Improving Bus Services Across Victoria</i>	92
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	92
C11.7	<i>Improving bus service frequencies in Victoria</i>	93

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

	Port Phillip City Council	93
C11.8	<i>Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration</i>	95
	Port Phillip City Council (point 3)	95
	Consolidated Motion C12 – Statewide beach renourishment program	96
C12.1	<i>More funding for coastal damage repairs</i>	97
	Kingston City Council.....	97
C12.2	<i>Statewide multi year beach renourishment program</i>	98
	Port Phillip City Council	98
	Consolidated Motion C13 – Active Transport.....	99
C13.1	<i>The establishment of a funding stream for paths and trails as low-carbon transport infrastructure with multiple positive community outcomes.</i>	101
	Baw Baw Shire Council	101
C13.2	<i>Rural and Regional Active Transport Funding</i>	102
	Moyne Shire Council	102
C13.3	<i>Strategic Cycle Corridors (SCC's) - Accelerate Priority Cycling Network</i>	103
	Boroondara City Council.....	103
C13.4	<i>Victorian Investment Framework for Walking and Cycling Infrastructure</i>	104
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	104
C13.5	<i>Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration</i>	105
	Port Phillip City Council (points 1,4)	105
	Consolidated Motion C14 - Advancing Disability Access and Inclusion Across Victoria	106
C14.1	<i>Victorian State Disability Action Plan</i>	107
	Cardinia Shire Council.....	107
C14.2	<i>Making transport stations and stops accessible for people with disability</i>	108
	Yarra City Council	108
	Consolidated Motion 15 - Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes	109
C15.1	<i>Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes</i>	110
	Southern Grampians Shire Council	110
C15.2	<i>Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes.</i>	112
	Corangamite Shire Council.....	112
	Consolidated Motion C16 – Affordable housing	114
C16.1	<i>Unlocking surplus public land to accelerate social and affordable housing supply</i>	116
	Frankston City Council.....	116

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C16.2	<i>Social and Affordable Housing (State and Commonwealth support for councils to engage in delivery)</i>	118
	Boroondara City Council.....	118
C16.3	<i>Housing Contributions</i>	119
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	119
C16.4	<i>Homes Victoria</i>	120
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	120
C16.5	<i>Reforming the National Construction Code (NCC) to enable Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) for faster and more affordable housing</i>	121
	Greater Dandenong City Council.....	121
C16.6	<i>Prioritising social housing and housing for Very Low- and Low-Income Households across Victoria.Dandenong</i>	123
	Greater Dandenong City Council.....	123
Consolidated Motion C17 – Roadside Risk Reduction and Data-Led Road Safety Management		125
C17.1	<i>Funding for Wildlife Collision Reduction Trials</i>	126
	Nillumbik Shire Council.....	126
C17.2	<i>Improving Crash Data Capture, Reporting and Transparency to Support Local Road Safety Decision Making</i>	127
	Greater Bendigo City Council	127
C17.3	<i>Road maintenance and improvements.</i>	129
	East Gippsland Shire Council	129
Consolidated Motion C18 – Retain Sustainability Victoria and VicHealth		130
C18.1	<i>Retain Sustainability Victoria</i>	131
	Melbourne City Council.....	131
C18.2	<i>Protect and Strengthen Sustainability Victoria</i>	133
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	133
C18.3	<i>VicHealth: Public Health Prevention and Local Government Impact</i>	134
	Boroondara City Council.....	134
C18.4	<i>Support for VicHealth – Independence and Continued Funding</i>	136
	Melbourne City Council.....	136
Consolidated Motion C19 – Compensation and funding for climate damage		138
C19.1	<i>Introduction of a Climate Pollution Levy</i>	139
	Mount Alexander Shire Council	139
C19.2	<i>Establishing a National Climate Compensation Fund</i>	141
	Mount Alexander Shire Council	141
C19.3	<i>A Dedicated Climate Risk Funding Stream for Local Governments</i>	143
	Mount Alexander Shire Council	143

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C20 – Municipal Emergency Management Resourcing	145
<i>C20.1 Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program.....</i>	<i>146</i>
Hepburn Shire Council.....	146
<i>C20.2 Emergency Management Planning and Preparation</i>	<i>147</i>
Golden Plains Shire Council	147
Motion 21. Protecting Authorised officers as front-line workers.....	148
Port Phillip City Council	148
Motion 22. Local Government Victoria engagement.....	149
Knox City Council	149
Motion 23. Activating the volunteer workforce	151
Mitchell Shire Council	151
Motion 24. Funding to support urgently needed infrastructure renewal.....	152
Mitchell Shire Council	152
Motion 25. Improving the Presentation and Maintenance of State-Owned Transport Gateways and Infrastructure.....	153
Frankston City Council.....	153
Motion 26. Support for Delivery of Promised Outcomes in Victorian Big Build Projects.....	155
Banyule City Council	155
Motion 27. Melbourne Airport Rail	157
Hume City Council.....	157
Motion 28. Unfunded State mandates are placing pressure on councils and communities	158
Bayside City Council.....	158
Motion 29. NDIS Reforms – Human Rights, Co-Design and Community Impacts	160
Moonee Valley City Council	160
Motion 30. Expansion of the shared use pathway network	162
Kingston City Council.....	162
Motion 31. Greater resources and a sense of urgency for the flood mapping project	163
Kingston City Council.....	163
Motion 32. Targeted Flood Mitigation Program for Critical Community Infrastructure	164
Campaspe Shire Council	164
Motion 33. Wildlife Roadstrikes	165
Hume City Council.....	165
Motion 34. National Disaster Recovery Funding Reform Disaster Funding arrangements	166
Strathbogie Shire Council	166
Motion 35. Coordination of Physical Donations During Disaster Events	167
Strathbogie Shire Council	167
Motion 36. Strengthening Municipal Disaster Response, Relief and Recovery Capability..	168
Murrindindi Shire Council.....	168

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 37.	A National Disaster Impact Data Sharing Framework for Coordinated Response, Recovery and Privacy Protection.....	170
	Murrindindi Shire Council.....	170
Motion 38.	Targeted Tourism/Business Campaign by the Victorian Government for Disaster and Drought Affected Municipalities.	171
	Colac Otway Shire Council.....	171
Motion 39.	Green Streets	172
	Casey City Council	172
Motion 40.	Unified Government Action on Climate Reporting Requirements for Councils ..	173
	Nillumbik Shire Council.....	173
Motion 41.	Sustainable and Climate Responsive Crown Land Management Framework...	174
	Frankston City Council.....	174
Motion 42.	Inquiry into the Adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan	176
	Mount Alexander Shire Council	176
Motion 43.	Biodiversity Strategies Including Weed and Pest Management	178
	Strathbogie Shire Council	178
Motion 44.	Funding Support for Roadside Vegetation Management Mapping	179
	Moyne Shire Council	179
Motion 45.	Explanation of the doubling of the Pet Registration fee	180
	Wyndham City Council	180
Motion 46.	Review of Domestic Animals Act 1994.....	181
	Maroondah City Council	181
Motion 47.	Rural and Regional Rail Capacity Improvements	183
	Corangamite Shire Council.....	183
Motion 48.	Protecting live music through precinct amendments to planning schemes, better designed regulatory controls and support to artists and the industry.....	184
	Yarra City Council	184
Motion 49.	Non-LED Street Lighting Replacement Rollout Transparency.....	185
	Boroondara City Council.....	185
Motion 50.	Need for increased enforcement of Personal Watercraft regulations (specifically jet skis).....	186
	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.....	186
Motion 51.	Strengthening acute mental health responses across Victorian communities...	188
	Melbourne City Council.....	188
Motion 52.	Building Safer, Inclusive Communities.....	190
	Boroondara City Council.....	190
Motion 53.	Strengthening Funding for Victoria's Neighbourhood Houses	192
	Frankston City Council.....	192

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 54.	Advocating for Consistent State Funding of Lifesaving Services and Protection Against Cost-Shifting.	194
	Frankston City Council.....	194
Motion 55.	Engagement Programs and services for Children Aged 8 to 12 Years	196
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	196
Motion 56.	Land Banking	197
	Maribyrnong City Council.....	197
Motion 57.	Exempting council owned land from the Windfall Gains Tax when rezoned for social or affordable housing.	198
	Greater Dandenong City Council.....	198
Motion 58.	Residential villages legislation changes.....	200
	East Gippsland Shire Council	200
Motion 59.	Rooming Houses	201
	Knox City Council	201
Motion 60.	Sealed Road Shoulders on major connecting roads.....	203
	Golden Plains Shire Council.....	203
Motion 61.	Rates and Charges Guidelines undermining Councils' financial sustainability ..	204
	Warrnambool City Council	204
Motion 62.	An embargo on all new developments on former golf courses	205
	Kingston City Council.....	205
Motion 63.	Legislative powers for the enforcement of breaches on coastal Crown land	206
	Frankston City Council.....	206
Motion 64.	Insurance of Assets on Crown Land	208
	Pyrenees Shire Council	208

Strategic to the MAV

Active Local Democracy

Motion 1. Clarity on what constitutes misuse of a councillor's position

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the Victorian Government to provide clarity and certainty in relation to Councillor Misuse of Position by amending the Local Government Act and any other relevant regulatory and enforcement mechanisms to provide a clear definition of a Councillor's Misuse of Position and the penalties which apply.
2. Advocates to the Victorian Government to secure the development of formal written guidance for Victorian councils on measures that can be taken to reduce or prevent Councillor Misuse of Position. This includes:
 - a. development of a mandatory training module for councillors on what constitutes a misuse of their position, including in relation to grants and other funding decisions.
 - b. development of guidance materials which provide:
 - i. Standards of disclosure by councillors in relation to any connection they may have on matters before the council, including grant applications.
 - ii. Specific examples of councillor behaviour which could be considered misuse of a councillor's position.
 - iii. An appropriate declaration process for councillors in relation to matters that come before council.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Only the MAV is positioned to take up this discussion with the Minister for Local Government, as this issue potentially impacts all 79 councils.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 2. Transparency in the reasons for appointing monitors

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Calls on the Minister for Local Government to ensure that the appointment of monitors is accompanied by a statement of clear reasons for doing so, together with a statement of objectives for the monitors.
2. Calls on the Minister to guarantee a clear, public framework which unambiguously communicates what the monitors are going to examine while in the role, and a ministerial statement which explains:
 - a. The specific events, issues or behaviours which led to the appointment of monitors.
 - b. The full breadth of governance, accountability and/or transparency issues which are to be the focus of the monitors' review of events and behaviours.
 - c. The specific sections, functions, operations or personnel of the council that will be under scrutiny by the monitors.
 - d. What written and verbal instructions have been issued to the monitors by the Minister.

Submitting Council Rationale:

MAV Advocacy is important to ensuring that current and future minister for local government understand that the appointment of monitors is a blunt instrument with potentially negative implications for the relevant council to which monitors are appointed. Therefore the reasons for doing so should be clearly and publicly articulated.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 3. Training & Professional Development for Councillors

Moorabool Shire Council

Motion:

That MAV advocate for the State Government to undertake a review of the training requirements, and support and funding for Councillor training and professional development and an increase in offerings from the Municipal Association of Victoria, including consideration of delivery options such as online modules

Submitting Council Rationale:

Under the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024, training requirements for local Councillors have increased, with mandatory training now including Councillor induction training, Mayoral training and annual professional development for all Councillors.

When comparing the current professional development opportunities with those available in the 2020-2022 period, there has been a noticeable and significant reduction in the professional development, training and professional skill development opportunities offered by the MAV.

While requirements under the Local Government Act 2020 and its regulations have increased training requirements for governance and integrity, leadership, communication and roles and responsibilities, the availability of focused, topic specific training via MAV appears to have been reduced.

As the peak body for local government, the Municipal Association of Victoria plays a leading role in ensuring Councillors have access to training that is flexible, of appropriate duration and cost, and meets the needs of the 79 Councils in Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 4. Strengthening Councillor Independence and Protections from Occupational Violence

Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. Affirms that councillors are individually elected under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) and must exercise independent judgment free from undue influence, coercion, or direction by political parties or other actors.
2. Recognises that councillors face occupational violence, including bullying, harassment, intimidation and online abuse, and that gaps exist within frameworks and independent bodies. Notes that councillors are not covered as employees under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic), limiting access to existing protections.
3. Calls on the Victorian Government to:
 - a. Review the interaction between political party processes and councillors' statutory duties to prevent undue influence.
 - b. Ensure councillors' statutory responsibilities cannot be overridden by external directives.
 - c. Clarify or extend occupational health and safety protections, including access to mechanisms addressing bullying, harassment and online abuse.
 - d. Consider reforms to strengthen accountability for coercion, intimidation and harassment directed at councillors.
4. Encourages political parties and sector bodies to adopt practices that support councillor autonomy, transparent decision-making, and psychologically safe working environments.
5. Supports MAV's ongoing work on councillor health, safety and wellbeing, including responses to occupational violence and online harm.

Submitting Council Rationale:

This motion builds on MAV's October 2025 resolutions on occupational violence by addressing the intersection of councillor safety and independence. While existing work focuses on harassment and online abuse, this motion highlights risks arising from external political pressures impacting councillors' statutory roles.

Sector research, including from MAV and VLGA, indicates increasing pressures on councillors, including online hostility and complex political dynamics. Oversight bodies play an important role but have limited scope to address internal or systemic pressures affecting independence.

This motion seeks to address these gaps by strengthening protections, clarifying obligations, and supporting councillors to perform their roles safely and independently.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 6. Best Practice Implementation of Developer Registers for Local Government

Frankston City Council

Motion

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Set a mandatory requirement for councils to maintain and provide regular transparent reporting on a “Councillor interactions with developers Register”; and
2. Reinforce these requirements, along with a mandatory requirement for a “Councillor interactions with lobbyists Register”, in their upcoming release of the Model Transparency Policy.
3. Develop a model policy, in consultation with the sector to promote consistency and best practice across the sector.

Submitting Council Rationale:

IBAC's Operation Sandon Report released in July 2023 recommended amendments to the P&E Act 1987 to deter submitters of planning applications from attempting to improperly influencing a council.

The Victorian Government are currently implementing a legislative reform program with updates to the Planning and Environment (P&E) Act 1987 currently underway. This is likely to result in amendments requiring local government councils to adhere to the changes.

Frankston City Council resolved on 12 August 2024 to establish a public register of Councillor Interactions with Developers which is published quarterly on its Transparency Hub. A Councillor Interactions with Developers Policy was authorised by the CEO on 26 May 2025 and noted at Council on 2 June 2025. It has been publishing the register quarterly since July 2025.

Frankston City Council's Mayor, Cr Sue Baker, wrote to the Minister and Shadow Minister for Local Government in December 2025 imploring the Victorian Government to implement the requirement for all local government councils in Victoria to ensure that Councillors record their interactions with developers and lobbyists on a register, and that following privacy assessment the appropriate information be made available publicly on their council website.

Frankston City Council submitted a motion to the MAV State Council Meeting on 10 October 2025 titled “Best practice implementation of Lobbyist Registers for local government” which called on mandatory requirements for council to maintain and provide regular transparent reporting on a Councillor Interactions with Lobbyists Register. The motion was carried.

There is also an opportunity to reinforce councillor interactions with lobbyists and developers as mandatory requirements in the upcoming release of the Model Transparency Policy.

Connected Places

Consolidated Motion C1 – Planning reform implementation

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria, noting the scale and complexity of the program of Victorian planning system reform, calls on the Victorian Government:

1. To measure and publicly report the cumulative impacts of recent planning scheme amendments and legislated (but yet-to-commence) planning system reforms, with a view to understanding the performance of the planning system with regard to housing supply objectives, infrastructure provision, timing and sequencing, and long-term community sustainability.
2. To commit to meaningful and early consultation with local government prior to introducing:
 - a. substantial amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions and planning schemes;
 - b. the subordinate instruments necessary to implement the *Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Act 2026* by October 2027; and
 - c. regional, metropolitan and statewide strategies and reforms, and new housing supply initiatives.
3. To recognise:
 - a. the significant additional complexity and financial burden imposed on councils as a result of cumulative planning reforms;
 - b. the significant waste of resources where council-led strategic planning projects are made redundant by unpredictable reforms;
 - c. the need, therefore, for transition funding, workforce support, clarity about the requirements of ICT systems to facilitate new planning permit processes, and funds to upgrade those systems, without which the reforms will not be able to be implemented efficiently or as intended.
4. To acknowledge the reality of housing supply barriers beyond planning, such as construction costs, labour shortages, government charges, interest rates and broader economic uncertainty, and work with councils, developers, industry and financiers to turn planning permits into homes.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and municipal planning schemes.	Mitchell Shire Council
Recognising the real barriers to housing delivery	Bayside City Council
Housing delivery and local strategy planning	Glen Eira City Council
Strengthening the State and Local Government partnership in planning reform	Hobsons Bay City Council
Planning Sector Reform	Golden Plains Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C1.1 Amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and municipal planning schemes.

Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV):

1. Advocate to the Victorian Government for genuine, early and meaningful consultation with local government prior to introducing substantive amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and municipal planning schemes, particularly where such amendments significantly alter local strategic planning frameworks or community expectations.
2. Call on the Victorian Government to undertake an independent review of the cumulative impacts of recent and proposed planning scheme amendments and planning reforms, including those that:
 - a. increase housing density;
 - b. alter established zone controls and built form provisions; and
 - c. remove or reduce third-party notice and appeal rights, with the review to specifically assess impacts on existing neighbourhood character and liveability.
3. Seek that the findings of such review be publicly reported and inform any future planning reforms, ensuring alignment between housing supply objectives, infrastructure provision and long-term community sustainability.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils are best placed to understand their communities and the planning requirements. Forced amendments by the State Government via the VPP will significantly alter local strategic planning frameworks or community expectations. The State Government should work with local Councils to understand their unique needs rather than impose legislation on them that does not fit in with adopted structure plans, neighbourhood character and liveability.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C1.2 Recognising the real barriers to housing delivery

Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to:

1. Acknowledge that local government is not the primary barrier to new housing supply, as demonstrated by high planning approval rates across councils such as Bayside.
2. Shift focus from further planning reforms to the real issues: construction costs, labour shortages, interest rates, and market uncertainty.
3. Commit to working collaboratively with councils, developers, industry, and financiers to turn permits into homes people can actually live in.

Submitting Council Rationale:

There is no denial that a housing crisis is at play, as it is in many places in Australia. However, Council is not the bottleneck to planning and the delivery of housing. Rather it is a myriad of factors such as the cost of construction, cost of lending and consumer confidence. These factors all play a significant role in the delivery of housing.

Over the past four years, Bayside City Council has rapidly approved planning applications for new dwellings, with well over 79% approval rates year on year.

State planning reforms risk piling on costs and complexity, without tackling what's really stopping new homes. It is important that support is provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) as the peak body for local government to advocate to the Victorian Government to recognise the real barriers to housing delivery.

C1.3 *Housing delivery and local strategy planning*

Glen Eira City Council

Motion:

That State Council notes that:

1. Victorian councils approve the overwhelming majority of planning applications in a timely manner and are not the primary barrier to housing supply.
2. Reductions in housing delivery on major sites are largely driven by market conditions, including construction costs, labour shortages, state charges and broader economic uncertainty.
3. Recent state planning reforms risk adding further cost and complexity without addressing these underlying barriers to housing deliver.
4. At the same time, the Victorian Government has moved to remove or weaken local strategic planning powers in key activity centres and other areas, introducing significant planning changes without adequate consultation with local government.
5. This has reduced local control and limited the effective use of council expertise in aligning housing growth with transport access, infrastructure, capacity, open space and community needs. And calls on the Victorian Government to:
6. Refocus housing reform efforts on addressing the real barriers to delivery, including cost pressure, workforce shortages and market viability.
7. Work collaboratively with councils, developers, industry and financiers to support the translation of planning approvals into deliverable housing.
8. Support council-led strategic planning, structure plans and local housing strategies when making state planning decisions, planning scheme amendments and statewide reforms.

Submitting Council Rationale:

This motion seeks to highlight that councils are not the main barrier to housing supply and that most applications are already processed efficiently. It raises concerns that recent state planning reforms add cost and complexity without addressing the real constraints on housing delivery, such as construction costs, workforce shortages and market conditions.

The motion also outlines the impact of these reforms on local decision making, noting that reduced strategic planning powers limit councils' ability to align housing growth with transport, infrastructure and community needs.

The motion calls on the Victorian Government to refocus its reform efforts on the genuine barriers to delivery, work collaboratively with councils and industry to turn approvals into built homes, and strengthen support for council led strategic planning in future state decision making.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

This motion is timely and relevant because Victoria needs more homes, but the current focus on councils as the main barrier is misplaced. Councils already approve the vast majority of planning applications and do so in a timely and efficient way. The larger constraint is that many approved projects are not being delivered. High construction costs, workforce shortages, increased state charges and broader economic uncertainty are limiting the viability of major developments and reducing the number of homes that can realistically be built.

Recent state planning reforms risk adding cost and complexity to the system without addressing these underlying barriers. At the same time, the Victorian Government has reduced or weakened local strategic planning powers in key locations, introducing significant changes without adequate consultation. This has limited councils' ability to use local knowledge and planning expertise to align housing growth with transport, infrastructure, open space and community needs.

To increase housing delivery, the Victorian Government must shift its focus from approvals to feasibility, and to work more collaboratively with councils, developers, industry and financiers. Supporting council led strategic planning and creating the conditions for approved projects to proceed will be essential to translating planning permits into real homes for Victorians.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C1.4 *Strengthening the State and Local Government partnership in planning reform*

Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to work in genuine partnership with local government in the development and implementation of planning system reforms by:

1. Formally involving councils early in the design of regional, metropolitan and statewide planning reforms, including legislative change, strategic frameworks and housing initiatives.
2. Recognising the delivery and resourcing impacts on councils, who are responsible for administering planning reforms through planning schemes and permit processes.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Recent planning reforms, including Plan Victoria, housing targets, activity centres and changes to zones, have been progressed with limited local government involvement, despite councils being responsible for implementing these reforms through planning schemes, permit processes and direct engagement with communities. Early, meaningful collaboration will strengthen the quality, integrity and workability of planning reforms, ensure local opportunities and constraints are properly considered, and support consistent, transparent outcomes for residents, industry and government.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C1.5 Planning Sector Reform

Golden Plains Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to support effective implementation of the planning system reforms by:

1. providing transition funding and workforce support to councils;
2. staging implementation to reflect varying council capacity; and investing in modern, integrated planning systems to reduce workload and improve decision-making.

Submitting Council Rationale:

While planning reform aims to improve outcomes, insufficient transition funding and workforce support create risks to service delivery, staff retention and decision quality. Councils require time, resources and modern systems to implement reforms effectively.

MAV coordination adds value by consolidating sector experience and advocating for staged implementation and investment in enabling systems. The motion supports reform objectives while ensuring councils are properly resourced to deliver them.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 7. Public library funding indexed to growth and needs

Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the Victorian Government to increase its funding to public libraries and ensure allocations are needs based and reflective of population growth.

Submitting Council Rationale:

According to Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) state government funding for libraries has not reflected population growth since 2018 due to a freeze on the use of the distribution formula to determine state grants to libraries. Libraries build community connectedness and in so doing deliver health and wellbeing outcomes. They play a vital role in early years literacy, support families contending with the rising cost of living and provide access to digital services and support. Public Libraries Victoria estimates that public libraries earn \$4.30 in economic and social benefits for every dollar invested. Nearly one-third of all Victorians are library members and growth in membership continues to exceed population growth. Yet state government funding continues to decline in real terms for more than 10 years.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 8. Murray River Bridge Investment

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to commit to a long term Murray River Bridge renewal and investment program which locks in future funding for bridge renewal and investment required for the next 10 years.

Submitting Council Rationale:

MRGC has long advocated for investment in Murray River bridges both from Federal and State Governments. These crossings are critical transport and community links, supporting the daily lives of local communities and underpinning our regional and national economies.

Bridges are significant infrastructure project that require years in assessment, planning, design and construction. A strategic, long term approach is essential to guide investment and ensure these projects meet current and future needs. For Higher Mass Limit vehicles that weight more than 62.5 tonnes or are oversize, options for crossing the Murray River are limited to either the new Echuca Bridge or the Euston-Robinvale Bridge, meaning heavy freight vehicles must make significant detours which take 3 - 3.5 hours from Swan Hill (VIC) to Murray Downs (NSW). When required, smaller vehicles can access nearer Nyah Bridge which is a 50-minute trip to cross the river.

MRGC's immediate priority is a new bridge at Swan Hill to replace the existing 120 year old lift span structure, which is urgently needed. Both the Federal and NSW Governments have committed construction funding. We are now calling on the Victorian Government to commit to \$100 million to cover their share of the construction costs, to be included in the 2026/27 budget and forward estimates.

The existing Swan Hill Bridge is a vital transport link for the region, supporting freight, emergency services, tourism and broader connectivity across the Murray River. However, increasing traffic volumes, a high proportion of heavy vehicles, safety concerns and projected future growth mean the bridge no longer adequately meets the needs of all users or the wider region.

Health and Wellbeing

Consolidated Motion C2 – Increased investment in the Early Childhood System

Motion:

That State Council calls on the Victorian Government to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of the early childhood system through fair funding, coordinated planning and targeted workforce support, by:

1. Rebalancing the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) funding partnership to ensure long term sustainability of this universal service.
2. Reducing wait times and improving early intervention so families can access allied health, playgroups, parenting programs, family services and referral pathways sooner.
3. Investing in training, scholarships, placements and leadership development to attract and retain MCH nurses and early childhood professionals.
4. Aligning Best Start, Best Life reforms with the broader early childhood education and care system through clearer planning, funding certainty and coordinated workforce strategies.
5. Delivering on commitments to free three and four year old kindergarten and 30 hours of Pre Prep by increasing early years infrastructure investment and supporting innovative models such as Bush Kinder and out and about programs.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Supporting early childhood development	Council Melbourne
Increased investment in the State Government's Best Start, Best Life Reforms	Council Maribyrnong

C2.1 Supporting early childhood development

Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That State Council calls on the Victorian Government to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of the early years system through fair funding, workforce support and improved service coordination. This includes the need to:

1. Rebalance the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) funding partnership as a priority, noting that councils are contributing significantly beyond the intended share, placing pressure on the long term sustainability of this critical universal service.
2. Reduce wait times and strengthen early intervention to ensure families can access allied health and community supports sooner, enabling developmental concerns to be identified and addressed early. This includes timely access to universal playgroups, parenting programs, family services, and streamlined referral pathways.
3. Strengthen the early years workforce by investing in training pathways, scholarships, clinical placements and leadership development to attract and retain MCH nurses and early childhood professionals.
4. Align Best Start, Best Life reforms with the broader early childhood education and care system by providing clearer planning, funding certainty and coordinated workforce strategies to maintain a sustainable mixed market sector.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Early childhood is a critical period that shapes lifelong learning, health and wellbeing. Around 90 per cent of brain development occurs by age five, making these years essential for developing emotional regulation, communication and social skills.

Despite increased investment, one in four Victorian children begins school developmentally vulnerable, with children from the most socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds more than twice as likely to experience vulnerability. These inequities highlight the need for a stronger and more coordinated early years system.

There is strong evidence that early childhood investment delivers significant social and economic returns. Once developmental gaps emerge, they become increasingly difficult and costly to close, leading to higher long term expenditure across education, child protection, social services, health and justice systems. Australian studies show that every dollar invested in early childhood education can generate around two dollars in long term community benefit.

Local government plays a central role in supporting children and families through the delivery of Maternal and Child Health services, early education and care, supported playgroups, immunisation, and parenting and early literacy programs delivered through libraries and community facilities. As the level of government closest to

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

families, councils are well placed to identify emerging needs, respond early to developmental concerns and coordinate local services that improve outcomes.

C2.2 ***Increased investment in State Government's Best Start, Best Life Reforms.***

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to deliver on its commitment to the Best Start, Best Life reforms for free three and four year old kindergarten, and planning for the implementation of 30 hours of PrePrep by:

1. Increasing its infrastructure investment into Early Years facilities, and
2. Committing to expand and enable other innovative models of education and care (Bush Kinder and out and about models) that provide quality outcomes for children in the years before starting school, that may relieve the pressure on infrastructure in some areas.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Whilst the State Government is planning for Best Start, Best Life and monitoring a shortfall of places based on a combination of sessional and integrated kindergarten places, the community demand for sessional places is outstripping the availability of these 'free' places.

Whilst the Kinder on School Sites (KOSS) models have been explored, these are generally only available in community areas outside of demand where available school land can be utilised.

Evidence has highlighted the benefits of 'Bush Kinder' and other outdoors placed models of education and care, which could alleviate demand pressures on infrastructure in some areas, subject to a review of regulatory environments.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 9. Increased investment in the State Government's Best Start, Best Life Reforms

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to deliver on its commitment to the Best Start, Best Life reforms for free three and four year old kindergarten, and to plan for the introduction of 30 hours of PrePrep by increasing funding to Councils for the administration of the Kindergarten Central Enrolment and Registration Scheme.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Without increased investment, Councils face growing costs to maintain a high quality, central enrolment system that meets the expectations set by the reforms. Additional funding is needed to minimise the increased costs to Council and ensure CRES programs can continue to support families and services effectively and contribute to the successful implementation of Best Start, Best Life across Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 10. Illicit Tobacco

Stonnington City Council

Motion:

That the MAV writes to and meets with the Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, to campaign for enhanced powers for police and Tobacco Licensing Victoria to manage the scourge of illicit tobacco in Victoria, including:

1. Increasing the number of inspectors statewide to ensure robust monitoring and enforcement of the tobacco licensing scheme.
2. The introduction of immediate and prolonged store closure powers, where licence conditions have been breached or links to illicit tobacco are suspected.
3. Expanding the scheme to include e-cigarettes and vaping products to combat sales of these illegal products.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Illicit tobacco and illegal smoking and vaping products are having a significant and serious impact on the health and safety of people in Victoria. According to Detective Inspector Graham Banks from Victoria Police's 'Taskforce Lunar', "Illicit tobacco remains one of the biggest sources of profit for serious and organised crime groups in Victoria, and as we have seen repeatedly, often funds further violent and harmful offending. This includes arsons that have resulted in the loss of life, as well as significant firearms use and extortions."

Victoria has introduced a licensing scheme from 1 February 2026, under which Tobacco Licensing Victoria can suspend or cancel licenses, seize illegal tobacco products, and take court action. However, lack of immediate shutdown powers means that illegal products can be back on the shelves of a store within 24 hours of a raid. The licensing system also does not include e-cigarettes and vapes, meaning that penalties for licence non-compliance do not extend to these harmful products.

It has been reported that the State government has allocated funding for only 14 inspectors to cover the whole state, and due to safety concerns, the teams must operate with a minimum of two people. Estimates of the number of tobacco retailers in Victoria range from 8000 to 10,000, including over 1000 shops that are alleged to sell illicit tobacco. There are insufficient inspectors to cover the number of stores that are required to be monitored for compliance.

In NSW, South Australia and Queensland, relevant inspection officers have closure order powers for premises selling illicit tobacco, or illegal vaping goods, or selling tobacco or non-tobacco smoking products without a valid licence. Once a closure order is issued, it is an offence to sell any products from the premises for the period of the closure order. A court order is not required for short-term closedown (28 to 90 days) but longer closure periods can be applied for.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Victoria urgently needs to come into line with other states who have granted enhanced powers to agencies to protect the community's health and safety and disrupt organised crime.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 11. Rollout of Further Gambling Reforms

Brimbank City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to commit to the rolling out of further gambling reforms, including expanding gaming venue closure hours, lowering daily EFTPOS withdrawal limits at gaming venues, and extinguishing all forfeited electronic gaming machine (EGM) licences.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Gambling causes significant harm in Victoria. In 2024-25, Victorians lost over \$3.1 billion on electronic gaming machines. These financial losses contribute to significant social costs including financial distress, mental health impacts and relationship harm. Around 330,000 Victorians experience gambling harm each year, with many harms linked to easy access and high machine availability. Reforms at gaming venues in recent years are welcome, but without further action such as reducing trading hours, lowering daily EFTPOS limits and extinguishing forfeited EGM licences, harm will continue to disproportionately affect individuals, families and communities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 12. Strengthening mental health and services for young people.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate for the Victorian Government to reinstate and strengthen youth mental health funding and programs to address self-harm, suicide prevention and provide diversion from antisocial and criminal behaviour by young people.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victorian councils are witnessing increasing levels of distress among young people, driven by a complex mix of social, economic, and mental health pressures. Cuts or gaps in youth mental health funding have had tangible impacts across the state, with local governments reporting rising disengagement, isolation, and behavioral issues among young people. Without timely support, vulnerable youth are at heightened risk of escalating into anti-social or criminal behavior: an outcome that is preventable with sustained, early intervention.

In Victoria, Councils and our partners play a frontline role in supporting young people through youth services, libraries, recreation facilities, community outreach, and local partnerships. These touchpoints offer connection, support, care and community.

Recent Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) data shows that youth offending in Victoria has reached its highest level since electronic records began, with offending among 10–17-year-olds rising by 18% and contributing significantly to statewide increases in aggravated burglaries, robberies, and vehicle thefts. Additional reporting confirms that youth crime remains at record highs, with a child committing an offence every 20 minutes, driven largely by repeat offenders. These figures underscore an urgent need for targeted investment in early intervention measures that address underlying drivers of youth crime, including disengagement from school, family stress, mental health issues and lack of community-based support.

Reinstating youth mental health funding and expanding investment in prevention-focused, place-based connection programs and infrastructure is critical to strengthening community safety and wellbeing. Evidence shows that early mental health support, targeted engagement programs, and wrap-around services significantly reduce the likelihood of youth offending while improving long-term outcomes for young people and families.

This resolution calls on the MAV to advocate strongly for renewed and enhanced youth mental health investment in Victoria. Restoring this funding will empower councils to work effectively with service providers, support at-risk young people before issues escalate, and contribute to safer, healthier, and more connected Victorian communities.

Sustainable Economy

Consolidated Motion C3 – Supporting rural and regional housing innovation

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government:

1. To develop, in partnership with councils, a Rural Housing Innovation Framework that:
 - a. recognises small-scale, socially impactful housing developments as important contributions to statewide housing targets and respond to construction-phase workforce demand without displacing local residents
 - b. Identify place-based and flexible housing solutions - including temporary, modular and short-term accommodation typologies
 - c. promotes stronger collaboration between the Victorian Government, local governments and project proponents to ensure workforce accommodation needs are addressed early as part of project approval and delivery processes
 - d. supports councils in accessing funding and partnerships for projects that prioritise liveability, ageing in place, and key worker accommodation
2. Ensures the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Regional Development and Development Victoria provide tailored support for rural Councils seeking to co-design housing solutions with strong social licence and outcomes
3. Recognises and addresses the impact of mining, renewable energy and major infrastructure projects on housing availability in regional and rural communities through:
 - a. aligning State housing, planning and workforce programs to recognise the cumulative impacts of multiple large-scale projects within a single local government area or region
 - b. targeted State funding and policy support for key worker accommodation in regional and rural local government areas experiencing housing pressure because of these projects

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Key Worker Accommodation in Regional and Rural Communities	Horsham Rural City Council
Rural Housing Innovation Framework	Hindmarsh Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C3.1 *Key Worker Accommodation in Regional and Rural Communities*

Horsham Rural City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. Advocate to the Victorian Government to recognise and address the impact of mining, renewable energy and major infrastructure projects on housing availability in regional and rural communities;
2. Seek targeted State funding and policy support for key worker accommodation in regional and rural local government areas experiencing housing pressure as a result of these projects;
3. Advocate for place-based and flexible housing solutions — including temporary, modular and short-term accommodation — to respond to construction-phase workforce demand without displacing local residents;
4. Call for State housing, planning and workforce programs to recognise the cumulative impacts of multiple large-scale projects within a single local government area or region; and
5. Promote stronger collaboration between the Victorian Government, local governments and project proponents to ensure workforce accommodation needs are addressed early as part of project approval and delivery processes.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Regional and rural communities hosting significant mining, renewable energy and major infrastructure projects are experiencing increased pressure on local housing markets. Construction-phase workforces and ongoing operational staff compete for limited rental and ownership supply, often in small or already constrained housing markets. While these projects support Victoria's energy transition, infrastructure pipeline and economic development objectives, workforce accommodation needs can overwhelm local housing systems if not planned for early and comprehensively. In many regional communities, rental vacancy rates are already low and new housing supply is limited by market viability, infrastructure constraints and workforce shortages in the building sector. Sudden increases in demand during construction phases can rapidly increase rental prices and reduce availability for permanent residents. This housing pressure frequently prices key workers out of local markets, including:

- Health professionals
- Teachers and education staff
- Emergency services personnel
- Aged care and disability support workers
- Local government and essential service staff

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Councils are left managing the downstream impacts, including workforce shortages, increased service demand and community concern, despite having limited control over major project approvals, workforce accommodation models or State housing investment settings. Without coordinated intervention, housing constraints may undermine both community wellbeing and the timely delivery of nationally significant and State-priority projects.

The Victorian Government plays a central role in:

- Approvals for major projects
- State housing policy and funding programs
- Regional development and workforce strategies
- Social and affordable housing investment

Workforce accommodation demand associated with major projects is often foreseeable at the project assessment stage. However, existing housing and planning frameworks do not consistently require early, coordinated responses to construction-phase demand or cumulative impacts where multiple projects occur within a single municipality. Small regional housing markets are particularly vulnerable to demand shocks. Where accommodation planning is often not integrated into project design and approval conditions, local communities bear unintended social and economic consequences. Stronger State leadership is required to align project delivery, workforce planning and housing supply in regional Victoria. Local governments have limited capacity to directly influence housing supply or regulate temporary workforce accommodation beyond planning controls. However, councils face indirect financial and service impacts, including:

- Increased demand for community and wellbeing services

- Workforce attraction and retention challenges
- Pressure on local infrastructure and amenity
- Strategic planning and advocacy resource demands

Failure to address workforce accommodation needs can reduce a community's ability to retain essential workers and may create avoidable costs across health, emergency response and social support systems.

Targeted State funding mechanisms and clearer policy settings would mitigate these risks while supporting Victoria's broader economic and infrastructure objectives.

By seeking improved coordination between State investment decisions, project approvals and local housing capacity, the motion supports financially sustainable councils and resilient regional communities. It reinforces MAV's role in advocating for policy settings that recognise the cumulative impacts of State priorities on local government areas. Ensuring access to housing for key workers strengthens service continuity, supports workforce retention and improves long-term regional development outcomes.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C3.2 Rural Housing Innovation Framework

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for the development of a Rural Housing Innovation Framework that:

1. recognises small-scale, socially impactful housing developments as valid and necessary contributions to statewide housing targets.
2. supports councils in accessing funding and partnerships for projects that prioritise liveability, ageing in place, and key worker accommodation.
3. works with the Minister for Housing and Development Victoria to provide tailored support for rural Councils seeking to co-design housing solutions with strong social licence and outcomes.

Submitting Council Rationale:

It is clear that rural communities face distinct housing challenges that are not adequately addressed by metropolitan-focused development models. Our ageing population, key worker shortages, which will soon be increasing due to federal commitments to mining Rare and Critical Earth Sands in our region, and limited access to essential services require tailored, place-based solutions that prioritise social equity over financial profit.

The motion to the 2026 MAV State Council elevates the conversation around rural housing by advocating for a framework that supports small-scale, community-driven developments. These initiatives may not yield high financial returns, but they deliver profound social benefits - such as enabling older residents to age in place, supporting health and education services through staff accommodation, and revitalising underutilised Council or crown assets.

Recent insights from the MAV Annual Conference and Housing Innovation Summit highlighted successful models where Councils partnered with local organisations to deliver housing outcomes that were financially sustainable and socially impactful. These include:

- Adaptive reuse of Council buildings for seasonal worker accommodation.
- Not-for-Profit housing developments supported by local banks and health services.
- Strategic use of caravan parks and Council land to meet key worker needs.

Motion 13. Circular Procurement Reform

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the State Government for strengthened policy frameworks, capability support, and funding mechanisms to embed circular procurement principles across state and local government purchasing. This advocacy should seek:

1. Mandatory lifecycle and circularity criteria in public procurement guidelines, including requirements for reuse, repairability, recycled content, and design for disassembly in infrastructure, construction, and fit-out projects.
2. State-supported tools, templates, and training programs to build procurement capability within councils, including lifecycle costing methodologies and circular evaluation scoring systems.
3. Pilot funding for circular procurement demonstration projects in partnership with councils, state agencies, and industry to de-risk innovation and stimulate local circular supply chains.
4. Integration of circular procurement into existing infrastructure and waste reduction strategies, in collaboration with agencies such as Sustainability Victoria and relevant state departments.
5. Recognition of circular procurement as a strategic economic lever that supports local manufacturing, regional development, emissions reduction, and long-term cost efficiency.

Submitting Council Rationale:

International examples demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. The City of Amsterdam has embedded circular criteria into major infrastructure tenders, while Rijkswaterstaat applies performance-based contracting to incentivise material reuse and lifecycle optimisation. These models show that procurement reform can reshape markets, not merely purchasing choices.

For Victorian councils, circular procurement provides a practical, scalable mechanism to align climate commitments, waste strategies, economic development goals, and cost-of-living considerations.

State-level coordination and support would enable local governments to adopt consistent standards, reduce risk, and scale impact across the sector.

Motion 14. Finalisation of Victorian kerbside waste and recycling standards

Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government to:

Finalise and publish the Victorian kerbside waste and recycling standards as a matter of priority, to provide certainty to councils, the waste and recycling industry, and the community ahead of the 2027 implementation timeframe.

Increase investment from the waste levy reserve to expand local recycling sorting, processing and re-manufacturing capacity, improving market competition and environmental outcomes.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Kerbside waste and recycling is one of local government's most significant responsibilities. Councils are required to deliver a standardised four-stream kerbside waste and recycling service by 2027, yet ongoing uncertainty about the final standards is preventing councils from finalising contracts, planning services, and delivering consistent community education. This uncertainty, combined with limited local recycling and processing capacity, is driving higher costs and undermining landfill diversion outcomes.

Finalising the standards and increasing investment from the waste levy reserve will provide certainty, support a more competitive recycling market, and improve environmental and financial outcomes for communities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 15. Water & the Basin Plan

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Australian Government to put Basin communities at the heart of Basin Plan delivery and future water reform by immediately ceasing the damaging water purchase programs in our irrigation districts which are leading to job losses, are putting food production in our region and food security for Australia at risk and are adding to the cost of living crisis.

MAV calls on the Australian Government to instead engage with communities and local governments to deliver a long-term sustainable future for irrigated food production in the Basin, together with improved environmental outcomes for the Basin's ecosystems. This is consistent with Council's agreed position as per motion 15 October 2019 (139/19 Motion).

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Commonwealth Government's current approach to Basin Plan delivery is putting our food production industry and our communities' prosperity at risk. The Murray River Group's six council areas produce some \$8.71 billion in food every year. The entire regional economy and 16,000 jobs depend on agriculture and food manufacturing across MRGC councils. Around half our 5000 farm businesses rely on irrigation.

As we prepare for a drier future with more intense and frequent extremes of weather, we need local, community led solutions both to ensuring a viable agriculture and food manufacturing sector into the future to produce local food for all Australians and also to ensure that unique valued environments across the region are sustained and nurtured.

Open market, non-strategic, buy backs are a blunt instrument that will increase the pressure on irrigation districts and on irrigators, inevitably pushing up the cost of living for all Australians. Worse, buy backs are not achieving the environmental outcomes the Basin Plan sets out and that our communities want. By working with local communities on a catchment level to design and implement local solutions that will deliver water savings for environmental watering and will reshape irrigation districts to allow them to be more efficient and continue to be viable into the future.

Transitioning to a lower water future will require innovation and investment in altering the irrigation network. Non-strategic, open market buy backs rip water from districts without regard to their long term operation. The evidence demonstrates that it increases water prices, increases farmer risk and exposure to the increasingly volatile temporary water market.

Climate and Regenerative Design

Consolidated Motion C4 – Local Government Supports for Mining and Renewable Energy Projects

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Recognise and support local government's vital role in assessing and managing complex mining, renewable energy, transmission and major infrastructure proposals, including the cumulative impacts on councils and communities hosting multiple developments.
2. Provide a consistent statewide framework for renewable energy and mining developments that mandates community consultation, defined community benefit contributions and appropriate decommissioning and rehabilitation processes.
3. Provide dedicated funding and capacity-building support for councils experiencing resource pressures from mining, renewable energy and transmission projects.
4. Provide dedicated funding for access to specialist expertise including planning, environmental assessment, heritage, legal, governance and community engagement resources through shared services, expert panels or advisory mechanisms.
5. Appropriately resource councils to meaningfully engage in the renewable energy transition and critical minerals policy frameworks where project impacts are borne locally.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Local Government Capacity for Complex Mining and Renewable Energy Projects	Horsham Rural City Council
Statewide Framework for Community Benefit Sharing, Impact Management, and End of Life Decommissioning for Renewable Energy and Mining Projects	Campaspe Shire Council

C4.1 *Local Government Capacity for Complex Mining and Renewable Energy Projects*

Horsham Rural City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. Advocate to the Victorian Government to recognise and support local government's vital role in assessing and managing complex mining, renewable energy, transmission and major infrastructure proposals, particularly in regional and rural communities;
2. Seek dedicated State funding and capacity-building support for councils experiencing significant resource pressures arising from mining, renewable energy and transmission projects;
3. Advocate for funded access to specialist expertise — including planning, environmental assessment, heritage, legal, governance and community engagement resources — through shared services, expert panels or advisory mechanisms;
4. Call for local governments to be appropriately resourced and meaningfully engaged in State energy transition, renewable energy zone and critical minerals policy frameworks where project impacts are borne locally; and
5. Advocate for recognition of the cumulative impacts on councils with small rate bases and limited staffing capacity where multiple large-scale project proposals occur within a region.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Regional and rural councils across Victoria are increasingly required to assess and manage complex mining, renewable energy, transmission and major infrastructure proposals that are State and nationally significant in scale and impact. These projects play an important role in Victoria's energy transition, renewable energy targets, critical minerals development and economic growth. However, the scale, technical complexity and community interest associated with such proposals have increased substantially.

Councils are often required to manage:

- Detailed statutory planning assessments
- Reviewing and responding to complex and lengthy Environmental Effects Statements
- Environmental and heritage considerations
- Governance and probity processes
- Significant community engagement and consultation

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

- Cumulative impact considerations across multiple projects

For most regional municipalities, these responsibilities frequently exceed existing in-house expertise and staffing capacity. Many councils have limited rate bases and small planning and executive teams, yet may face multiple concurrent proposals for wind farms, solar facilities, battery storage systems, transmission corridors or mining operations.

Without adequate resourcing and specialist support, councils must rely heavily on short-term consultants funded from already constrained operating budgets. This places pressure on financial sustainability and increases risks around statutory timeframes, decision-making quality and community confidence.

While councils do not control State energy policy or major project settings, they play a critical frontline role in statutory processes, local impact management and maintaining social licence within communities.

Project complexity is driven by State policy settings and reform agendas. However, the administrative and community engagement burden is often carried at the municipal level.

Existing funding and support mechanisms do not consistently reflect the intensity, duration or cumulative nature of these projects in regional municipalities. Regional and rural councils are disproportionately affected.

Stronger State recognition and targeted capacity support would improve assessment quality, reduce project delays and ensure that local governments can fulfil their statutory responsibilities effectively and transparently.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C4.2 *Statewide Framework for Community Benefit Sharing, Impact Management, and End of Life Decommissioning for Renewable Energy and Mining Projects*

Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government for a consistent statewide framework for renewable energy and mining developments that: Council Meeting - 17 March 2026 Agenda 3

1. Mandates clear community consultation and a defined, indexed per megawatt community benefit contribution for the life of each project.
2. Recognises and resources cumulative community impacts in regions hosting multiple developments.
3. Requires an approved end of life decommissioning and rehabilitation plan prior to construction.
4. Mandates a secured decommissioning or reclamation bond before project.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Regional communities are experiencing rapid growth in renewable energy and mining projects, often without consistent consultation, equitable benefit sharing or adequate support for cumulative impacts. At the same time, the absence of statewide requirements for decommissioning plans and financial guarantees exposes councils to long- term environmental and financial risks. A single, mandatory statewide framework will ensure transparency, fairness and certainty for councils, communities- and industry across the full life cycle of these developments.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C5 – Housing capacity

Motion:

That MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Provide clearer guidance and transparent explanations of the Housing Capacity Analysis Platform (HCAP) methodology, including how assumptions, constraints and Activity Centre (ATOS) scoring should be applied in practice.
2. Clarify expectations and required actions for councils where housing capacity shortfalls are identified.
3. Offer additional technical support and consider flexible timeframes, including the October 2026 deadline, to ensure councils can complete planning scheme reviews in a consistent and robust manner.
4. Ensure that the Government's housing capacity analysis program does not hold back the approval of councils' strategic housing and neighbourhood character frameworks where these have been completed.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Consultation on the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025	Bass Coast Shire Council
Improving clarity, support and timeframes for the Housing Capacity Analysis Platform (HCAP)	Hobsons Bay City Council

Note re consolidation: Bass Coast motion paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 were excluded from consolidation because they are no longer relevant (the *Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster Bill) 2025* has been enacted).

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C5.1 Consultation on the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025

Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Refer the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 to a Parliamentary Inquiry;
2. Seek meaningful consultation with local government prior to implementation of significant planning system reforms;
3. Ensure environmental risk safeguards and third-party review rights remain integral components of the planning system; and
4. Fast-track approvals for councils with completed strategic housing and neighbourhood character frameworks.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Peri-urban Councils are growing rapidly, and therefore show that they are supportive of development, yet they have to balance this growth with environmental considerations that make them areas that people want to move to. Councils play a key role in the planning approvals process as they are acutely aware of the characteristics that make their areas unique. The one size approach implemented by the amendments to the Better Decisions Made Faster Bill do not empower Councils, they hinder them and cut them out of the process, which is to the detriment of better decisions being made faster.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C5.2 Improving clarity, support and timeframes for the Housing Capacity Analysis Platform (HCAP)

Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

Provide clearer guidance and transparent explanations of the Housing Capacity Analysis Platform (HCAP) methodology, including how assumptions, constraints and Activity Centre (ATOS) scoring should be applied in practice.

Clarify expectations and required actions for councils where housing capacity shortfalls are identified.

Offer additional technical support and consider flexible timeframes, including the October 2026 deadline, to ensure councils can complete planning scheme reviews in a consistent and robust manner.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Recent planning reforms, including Plan Victoria, housing targets, activity centres and changes to zones, have been progressed with limited local government involvement, despite councils being responsible for implementing these reforms through planning schemes, permit processes and direct engagement with communities.

Early, meaningful collaboration will strengthen the quality, integrity and workability of planning reforms, ensure local opportunities and constraints are properly considered, and support consistent, transparent outcomes for residents, industry and government.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 16. Request to establish Payment in Lieu of Rates framework - Offshore Wind Electricity Generation

Wellington Shire Council

Supporting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to the Minister for Energy and Resources urging the establishment of a legislated scheme that ensures Local Governments with designated Offshore Wind Zones receive payment in Lieu of Rates from offshore electricity generators in Victoria, consistent with the existing Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework for onshore generators.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Victorian Electricity Industry Act 2000 establishes the Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework for onshore electricity generators to contribute to payments in lieu of Local Government rates (using a fixed charge and a variable per megawatt charge). The PiLoR framework applies to all onshore electricity generators including wind, battery and solar. No such arrangements currently exist for offshore wind generation, even though the offshore wind industry will necessitate physical and community infrastructure and services 'onshore.'

As evidenced internationally, long term community infrastructure demands will be most acutely observed in towns closest to operations and maintenance ports.

Given the significant scale of offshore wind investment planned in Australia's first declared area for offshore wind in Gippsland (the 'Gippsland Declared Area') and in western Victoria (the 'Southern Ocean Declared Area'), it is critical that the same PiLoR framework be introduced for offshore wind generation. This will ensure that Local Government can continue to effectively provide critical services and infrastructure to locally impacted communities.

The application of the existing PiLoR framework to offshore wind generation will also ensure an equitable and consistent approach for both onshore and offshore renewables, resulting in fair market conditions (competitive neutrality) for all electricity generation in Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 17. Coastal Hazards Adaptation and Climate Resilience Funding

Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government for: The establishment of a coordinated State–Local Government Coastal Hazards Adaptation Strategy supported by dedicated, ongoing funding to enable councils to mitigate and manage risks associated with sea level rise, coastal erosion and increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

Submitting Council Rationale:

A coordinated statewide strategy with dedicated funding will support consistent planning, risk mitigation and infrastructure protection across coastal municipalities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 18. AI and Cyber Security Capability for Local Government

Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government for: A coordinated statewide artificial intelligence and cyber security governance framework for local government, supported by funding and technical assistance for Councils across the State based on demonstrated need.

Submitting Council Rationale:

A statewide framework will support safe adoption of emerging technologies and strengthen cyber resilience across the sector. Cyber and AI risks are increasing rapidly. Smaller councils lack resources to meet emerging standards. Statewide guidance and funding will strengthen resilience and support responsible technology adoption.

Motion 19. Climate Change Adaptation

Golden Plains Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to partner with councils on climate change adaptation by:

1. establishing a dedicated, ongoing climate adaptation fund for local government;
2. supporting councils to plan for and respond to extreme weather, heat and heat safety, fire and flood risk; and
3. recognising councils as critical delivery partners in building climate resilient communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils are on the frontline of climate adaptation, responsible for protecting communities, assets and services from escalating climate risks. Existing funding is largely short-term and project-based, limiting councils' ability to plan and invest strategically.

This is a shared sector challenge. MAV advocacy strengthens the case for a dedicated, ongoing adaptation funding stream and reinforces councils' role as critical delivery partners. The motion builds on existing collaboration and aligns with state climate resilience objectives.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Consolidated Motion C6 – Strengthening Council-Led Social Cohesion and Responses to anti semitism and other forms Religious Intolerance

Motion:

That MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Acknowledge the importance of all levels of government working collaboratively to combat racism, anti semitism and intolerance towards other religious identities and belief, hatred and bigotry, and to promote social cohesion across Victoria.
2. Establish a dedicated funding stream and partnership framework to support local governments to lead social cohesion initiatives and prevent and respond to racially, or religiously malicious incidents.
3. Resource councils to deliver practical, evidence based initiatives, including upstander training in schools, community engagement activities, and social cohesion taskforces.
4. Facilitate strong collaboration between councils, state agencies, and community organisations to share best practice, respond effectively to incidents, and build safer, more inclusive communities.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Strengthening council-led antisemitism initiatives	Glen Eira City Council
Strengthening council-led social cohesion initiatives	Port Phillip City Council

C6.1 *Strengthening council-led antisemitism initiatives*

Glen Eira City Council

Motion:

That State Council notes that:

1. Antisemitic incidents in Victoria have increased significantly, with Glen Eira and other councils experiencing increased community concern and demand for action.
2. Councils are uniquely placed to coordinate local responses, but require state support to scale up prevention, education, and rapid response efforts.
3. A state partnership and dedicated funding would empower councils to innovate, share best practice, and deliver measurable outcomes for vulnerable Victorians.
4. The Australian Government has committed to establishing a Royal Commission into antisemitism, underscoring the national urgency and need for coordinated action across all levels of government. And calls on the Victorian Government to:
5. Establish a dedicated funding stream and partnership framework to support local governments in preventing and responding to antisemitism.
6. Resource councils to deliver practical, evidence-based initiatives — such as upstander training in schools, community engagement, and social cohesion taskforces.
7. Facilitate collaboration between councils, state agencies, and community organisations to share best practice, respond to incidents, and build safer, more inclusive communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Glen Eira is the cultural heart of Melbourne's Jewish community. This motion seeks to draw attention to the significant rise in antisemitic incidents in Victoria and the growing concern within affected communities, including in Glen Eira. It highlights the important role councils play in local prevention, education and response, while noting that councils cannot scale this work without coordinated state support.

The motion calls for a dedicated partnership and funding framework that would allow councils to deliver practical, evidence based initiatives, share best practice and respond quickly to incidents. It also emphasises the need for stronger collaboration across all levels of government and community organisations, particularly in light of the Australian Government's commitment to a Royal Commission into antisemitism and the clear need for a unified and effective approach.

This motion is timely and relevant because antisemitism is rising in Victoria, and local communities are feeling the impact. Councils like Glen Eira are seeing increased incidents, fear, and calls for action. While councils play a critical role in supporting social cohesion and responding locally, they cannot meet this challenge alone.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Councils are well placed to support prevention, education, and rapid response efforts because they work directly with schools, community groups, and residents. But without dedicated state funding and coordination, these efforts remain fragmented and limited in scale.

C6.2 *Strengthening council-led social cohesion initiatives*

Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Acknowledge the importance of all levels of government working collaboratively and constructively to combat all forms of racism, hatred and bigotry as well as promote social cohesion in Victoria.
2. Establish a dedicated funding stream and partnership framework to support local governments in leading the community in social cohesion initiatives, and to prevent and respond to racially malicious incidents.
3. Resource councils to deliver practical, evidence-based initiatives such as upstander training in schools, community engagement, and social cohesion taskforces.
4. Facilitate collaboration between councils, state agencies, and community organisations to share best practice, respond to incidents, and build safer, more inclusive communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victorian communities are experiencing mounting pressures on social cohesion, with councils fielding heightened concern about racism, religious vilification and other hate-motivated incidents (including, for example, antisemitism). As the closest tier of government to community, councils are uniquely placed to convene local partners, deliver prevention and education, and coordinate rapid responses; however, impact is constrained by short-term, uneven resourcing. A dedicated state funding stream and partnership framework would provide the predictability and alignment needed to scale evidence based initiatives such as upstander training in schools, targeted community engagement and local social cohesion taskforces while enabling shared practice, consistent data, and clear referral pathways. This approach would empower councils to innovate and collaborate with state agencies and community organisations, reduce harm, and deliver measurable outcomes for vulnerable Victorians, strengthening safety, inclusion and trust across the state.

Resilience and Recovery

Motion 20. Resilient Infrastructure

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to establish an infrastructure resilience fund that will provide local councils with dedicated funding to identify and invest in resilient local infrastructure to ensure communities are better protected and connected even in the face of increasingly severe and frequent weather events.

Submitting Council Rationale:

2011 saw 1 in 100 year flood events across northern Victoria. 2016 saw severe flooding in some of the same areas and 2022 saw a repeat of the 1 in 100 event with many of the same roads, bridges, drains and other critical local infrastructure damaged again.

While taxpayer funds provided through the DRFA were provided (after long delays in some cases) to repair these assets, the strict rules and highly bureaucratic processes meant that they had to be repaired to the same standard as they were prior to the flood events – even if the base standard had been altered since the construction of the asset.

This was true even when an increased amount of funding in 2011 would have allowed for a more resilient construction standard to be substituted that would have prevented damage in 2016 and or 2022, ultimately saving taxpayer's money and communities and businesses much disruption.

Increasing frequency and severity of weather events across Australia means fire and flood recovery is a fact of life for councils. A funding stream that provides local councils with the resources to construct to a quality that will be resistant to damage will protect our local communities and will save the Commonwealth and State Governments – an ultimately all Australian taxpayers millions of dollars in repair bills.

Significant to the Sector

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C7 – Infrastructure planning

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian Government to strengthen infrastructure planning to support population growth, housing supply and economic development, by:

1. Collaborating with councils to prepare a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Victoria, inclusive of an implementation plan, to support the anticipated population, housing and jobs growth expected under *Plan for Victoria*.
2. Conducting a comprehensive transport review to strengthen connectivity and support regional integrated hub-based transport networks.
3. Pursuing a funded and time-bound program for making all public transport accessible (including, for example, level boarding at all tram stops catering for higher capacity trams).
4. Coordinating infrastructure planning and delivery across all Victorian Government Departments.
5. Supporting all councils with additional operational funding to be able to more readily respond to Government policies, and plan for the local infrastructure needed for rapid population growth.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Coordinated planning for state and regional level infrastructure in rapidly growing communities	Mitchell Shire Council
The establishment of a funding stream to support the strategic planning and preparedness of councils experiencing rapid and significant population growth due to government policies	Baw Baw Shire Council
Regional Transport Review to Strengthen Connectivity	Campaspe Shire Council
Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration (point 2)	Port Phillip City Council
Planning Infrastructure for Urban Growth	Boroondara City Council

Note re consolidation: Baw Baw motion called on the Victorian and Australian Governments to provide direct funding to councils for infrastructure planning. The consolidation removed reference to the Australian Government because operational funding grants from the Commonwealth to Councils are provided via States under S96 of the Constitution.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C7.1 Coordinated planning for state and regional level infrastructure in rapidly growing communities

Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to urgently develop and implement coordinated departmental level infrastructure planning for Victoria's fastest growing communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria is currently experiencing rapid population growth. Many communities are growing, however a significant proportion of this growth is concentrated in growth corridors and peri-urban townships. Whilst these areas are suitable for housing development growing communities here face the unique vulnerability of the inherent lack of infrastructure and services; they are growing in locations without schools, hospitals, police stations, bus interchanges, train stations. Some State Government departments are involved in precinct level planning, and some, although fewer, have structured and well considered approaches to planning for infrastructure provision. Unfortunately, however, the majority are completely unprepared. The result is that service and infrastructure planning for these communities is haphazard, lacks transparency, is retroactive, and ultimately fails communities. Each government department should be required to be involved in precinct level planning. They should have transparent infrastructure and services development planning for growth corridors and peri-urban townships.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C7.2 The establishment of a funding stream to support the strategic planning and preparedness of councils experiencing rapid and significant population growth due to government policies.

Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian and Australian Governments to establish a funding stream that supports local councils that are experiencing or preparing for significant growth due to government policy such as housing targets, to facilitate strategic planning and preparedness for the implications of rapid population growth.

Submitting Council Rationale:

While this motion does bear strong similarities to 2510.M65 and 2510.M15 at the October 2025 State Council, we believe that it is worth considering this item from the angle we have proposed. 2510.M65 focused on funding for trunk infrastructure to support economic development and population growth, while 2510.M15 focused on funding for community infrastructure (such as libraries and recreation facilities) in municipalities experiencing rapid population growth. Our motion focuses on the costs of the strategic planning and preparation required for these municipalities in order to reach the stage of the increased infrastructure construction and service delivery required to support rapid and significant population growth.

Over the past few decades, state and federal governments have been steadily shifting costs onto local councils, negatively impacting councils' financial sustainability and ability to properly plan and deliver the infrastructure and services needed to support current and future generations. This cost shifting is especially apparent in the costs to high growth councils to plan the infrastructure required to support state and federal government housing and population targets, and to all councils to meet government environment and climate change targets, without adequate financial support from the state and federal governments.

Insufficient funding has already led to a significant number of councils reducing or delaying infrastructure development and renewal as they struggle to balance budgets and cover the costs of other government policies, such as emissions reduction and waste management. Councils have the most limited funding pool of all levels of government and require additional financial support from state and federal government to adequately support government's policies and targets, and to strategically plan for suitable services and infrastructure for their growing populations.

MAV support is crucial to bring together all Victorian councils experiencing or set to experience rapid population growth due to state and federal policies and to assist with collective advocacy for fair funding to assist these councils with the costs of this strategic planning.

C7.3 Regional Transport Review to Strengthen Connectivity

Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls for a comprehensive transport review to strengthen regional and rural connectivity, and support integrated hub-based transport networks across regional Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Regional Victoria relies heavily on efficient transport networks to support economic activity, workforce mobility, access to health and education, and social connection. Current public transport planning has historically prioritised north–south corridors, leaving other connectivity pathways fragmented and inefficient. This limits regional productivity, constrains freight movement, and reduces access to key regional hubs. A comprehensive transport review would identify gaps, prioritise strategic corridors, and support integrated hub-based public transport models that better reflect contemporary regional and rural travel patterns.

C7.4 *Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration*

Port Phillip City Council (point 2)

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Establish a recurrent funding mechanism to co fund council led walking, wheeling and cycling upgrades and public transport access works, building on the congestion levy reinvestment precedent.
2. Publish and fund a time bound program for accessible tram stops (level boarding) and higher capacity trams, with milestones co designed with councils.
3. Complete a metropolitan bus network review and uplift (frequency, operating span, and intermodal connections), prioritising first/last mile corridors identified by councils.
4. Co deliver protected, connected cycling corridors on State managed arterials and protected intersections at key nodes to close network gaps and reduce serious injuries.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils cannot on their own deliver the active transport and accessibility upgrades that rely on State controlled assets and services. Evidence shows that high quality protected facilities and protected intersections improve safety for people walking and riding when designed to best practice, supporting the case for co delivery on State arterials and at high risk nodes. █

Active commuting also delivers measurable health gains, strengthening the public value of accelerated investment. Given MAV State Council's role in coordinating sector wide advocacy on issues of statewide significance, a unified call for a time bound, co funded program across tram, bus and arterial networks is the most effective pathway to deliver safer, healthier and more accessible streets in every municipality.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C7.5 Planning Infrastructure for Urban Growth

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the state government to prepare a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Victoria (including an implementation plan), in collaboration with local governments, to support the anticipated population, housing and jobs growth expected by the Plan for Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Victorian Government set out its aspiration for the scale and distribution of housing growth in Plan for Victoria. This plan seeks to redistribute existing patterns of growth including a specific commitment for 70% of homes to be built in established areas (adjusted proportions for Geelong and Ballarat).

With historically 60-70% of new housing in Melbourne being delivered in greenfield areas, this represents approximately a doubling of housing growth in established areas. It makes many more local government areas "growth areas".

The state government has considered some major city shaping infrastructure needs to support and encourage growth in different areas, such as the Suburban Rail Loop. It has also assessed or assumed that existing infrastructure in established areas has capacity to support at least some of the targeted growth. There is no comprehensive or consistent assessment of both physical and service planning/delivery infrastructure need or the cost of its provision.

Infrastructure Victoria has provided advice to government in Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy 2025-2055. While this provides advice on the most critical infrastructure needs, it is focussed on items that the state government has responsibility for. Notably, it does recognise that local government cannot fund high-cost community facilities (libraries and aquatic centres) in growth areas (Recommendation 5) but confines its recommendation for Victorian Government co-fund service planning and capital works to Melbourne's recognised growth municipalities. It does not extend this to the new established suburb growth areas nor consider the capacity upgrades and end of life replacement of high-cost infrastructure in these areas.

A state-wide infrastructure plan would complement the Plan for Victoria housing plan. Establishing the need across all infrastructure categories and the distribution of responsibility is the starting point for considering how councils are going to pay for it. While progress is being made on a simplified infrastructure contributions system, there is a high risk that this becomes a 'Ponzi scheme' with more development required to fund the deficits created by population growth from prior development.

A comprehensive infrastructure plan is the basis for determining the necessary level of grants, rates and other revenue raising mechanism councils will require and how state government will support councils to pay for the services and infrastructure they are obliged to provide.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C8 – Infrastructure funding mechanisms

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian Government to strengthen infrastructure funding mechanisms to support population growth, housing supply and economic development, by:

1. In relation to the windfall gains tax –
 - a. Directing a share of the proceeds of the tax to the council for the area where the tax was collected, for the purposes of local infrastructure delivery.
2. In relation to Growth Areas Infrastructure Contributions (GAIC) –
 - a. Recalibrating funding models based on actual population growth without compromising the financial viability of councils.
 - b. Directing a share of the proceeds of the GAIC to the council to meet the growing funding gap in delivering community and transport infrastructure.
 - c. Urgently reinstating the Growing Suburbs Fund (or similar) separate to the GAIC.
3. In relation to Infrastructure Contributions –
 - a. Engaging with all councils with Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres (including the 58 precinct-based activity centres as well as the municipalities-wide Inner Melbourne Activity Centre) to clarify how the infrastructure contribution mechanism is to be applied and what it will fund.
 - b. Ensuring that councils are sufficiently resourced to provide critical services and infrastructure to their communities based on need, meeting any funding gap not covered by the new infrastructure contribution mechanism.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Growth Area Funding	Cardinia Shire Council
State Planning Reforms associated with the Activity Centre Program	Yarra City Council
Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) and Windfall Gains Tax share allocation	Melton City Council

Note re consolidation: Yarra motion paragraph 1 not consolidated for the reason that, since the motion was lodged, the Victorian Government has clarified that third party notice and review will be extinguished in the Built Form Overlay in the core of 58 Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres. See e.g. amendment GC270 gazetted 31 March 2026.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C8.1 Growth Area Funding

Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) write to and meet with the Victorian Minister for Planning to advocate for the following: Appropriately fund infrastructure in recognised growth area Council's. Funding should be based on actual population growth and funding models should be amended to enable Growth Area Councils to remain financially viable while providing increased road and community facilities as their communities grow, and Urgently reinstate a fully funded Growing Suburbs Fund (or similar fund) to provide essential project funding for the delivery of much needed infrastructure in Melbourne's growing suburbs.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Growth pressures in Victoria are not isolated to a single municipality—they create statewide impacts across the entire local government sector. When growth area councils are under-funded, the infrastructure gap widens, placing additional strain on transport networks, community services, and the financial sustainability of nearby and partner councils. Without funding models that reflect actual population growth, councils across Victoria risk facing unequal service levels, constrained budgets, and systemic inefficiencies that ultimately affect residents, regardless of municipality. Addressing this issue strengthens fairness, consistency, and long-term viability for the sector as a whole.

MAV is uniquely positioned to advocate for system-level reform because it can consolidate evidence, articulate collective priorities, and present a unified sector voice to the Victorian Government—something individual councils cannot achieve alone. MAV's coordination enables shared data, sector-wide policy arguments, and strategic messaging that highlight the structural funding gaps affecting growth areas. By leading this advocacy, MAV can drive coherent, statewide improvements to infrastructure funding frameworks and ensure government decisions respond to the needs of all Victorian councils, not just the most vocal or most impacted. This type of coordinated action delivers influence and policy impact that would not be achievable at the council-by-council level.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C8.2 *State Planning Reforms associated with the Activity Centre Program*

Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to:

1. support democratic norms by allowing councils to decide whether to retain notice requirements, decision requirements and the review rights (third-party objection rights) to developments assessed under the proposed Built Form Overlay in Activity Centres;
2. engage with all Councils that are impacted by the Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre Program (including Yarra and Melbourne City Councils) about how an infrastructure contribution mechanism is to be applied and what it will fund; and
3. ensure that Councils are sufficiently resourced to provide critical services and infrastructure to their communities as they are needed. In particular, infrastructure contributions under any new infrastructure contribution mechanism.

Submitting Council Rationale:

1. The State Government has directed the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to apply new planning controls aimed at delivering housing growth in and around 60 Activity Centres, with limited consultation with councils and communities. The State's application of some of these controls has resulted in the removal of notice and review requirements for new developments, as well as the introduction of "deemed to comply" standards. Given the significance of these changes, councils and communities should be appropriately consulted.
2. DTP's approach to introduce a new Infrastructure Contribution Plan (ICP), (or potentially another mechanism to Melbourne and Yarra CC (to be confirmed), does not consider local planning strategies that guides infrastructure outcomes, nor existing mechanisms to collect contributions such as a DCP. Councils remain liable for delivering projects within a DCP, with no re-interrogation of these projects in the context of the Activity Centre Program. This is at odds with reforming infrastructure contributions by making the process convoluted and an administrative burden to Councils. At Yarra, we are additionally concerned that the application of a new ICP only within activity centres could lead to development speculation of areas that do not attract the ICP, which could lead to inappropriate development and increased demand for infrastructure without adequate contributions towards meeting those needs.
3. This issue is two-fold. DCP and ICP mechanisms typically do not provide 100% of funding required to deliver projects, resulting in councils needing to source additional funding. Additionally, DCP and ICP mechanisms provide funding to councils after private development, and the subsequent demand for public services and infrastructure, is already present and placing strain on existing

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

resources. This motion is calling for both issues to be addressed to ensure infrastructure is fully funded and delivered in a timely manner.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C8.3 ***Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) and Windfall Gains Tax share allocation***

Melton City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government through formal representations and ongoing engagement, for a commitment to direct a percentage of funds collected through the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) and Windfall Gains Tax to the local government area where funds are collected to cover gaps in funding for major community and transport infrastructure such as leisure centres and libraries and local roads.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils in Victoria are under increased financial pressure. In "The Future is Local: A Pathway for Transforming Local Government in Victoria" the MAV has identified that councils' funding constraints are impacted by:

1. On average, rates and charges account for just 57% of total Council revenue.
2. Rate caps, tied to CPI, have failed to keep pace with actual cost growth.
3. Expenditures have grown at 6.4% annually, outstripping revenue growth of 4.6%.
4. Council net capital expenditure has stagnated at around \$2.3 billion per year since 2018/19, despite population growth.
5. Nearly half of Victorian councils reported an adjusted underlying deficit in 2022/23.
6. All council groupings, including metropolitan LGAs, are unable to make full provision for asset renewal, and
7. All council groupings face declining unrestricted cash balances.

The Victorian Government's Plan for Victoria seeks to deliver an additional 2.24 million homes over the next 30 years with housing targets for every Victorian local government area. Delivering supporting community infrastructure is critical and councils cannot deliver on these needs alone. In a constrained economic environment, it is becoming increasingly challenging for councils to deliver critical community infrastructure. A shared approach to funding between local government, the Victorian Government and Australian Government will help deliver on the needs of the community for new or upgraded infrastructure. This is a position supported by Infrastructure Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2025-2055 which states that all levels of government should contribute equally to infrastructure.

Having a renewed approach to how the collection of Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution and Windfall Gains Tax is allocated is one avenue to begin the process to address a shared funding model.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

The collection of the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) was introduced in 2010 to contribute to Victorian community and transport infrastructure to ensure developing areas are serviced. The Victorian Windfall Gains Tax represents the taxable value uplift in the capital improved value of the land before and after the rezoning takes effect. The introduction of a guaranteed percentage of GAIC and Windfall Gains Tax funding allocated to the council from where it is collected, will provide funding certainty to support investment in critical community infrastructure and the Victorian Government's housing agenda.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C9 – Tackling loneliness and supporting community health and wellbeing

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to develop a loneliness strategy and work in partnership with councils across Victoria to provide sustainable funding and infrastructure support, enabling councils and their community partners to deliver locally based wellbeing, and early intervention services- including suicide prevention - tailored to the diverse needs and demographics of their communities.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Strengthening Local Government Capacity for Community Health and Wellbeing	Darebin City Council
Develop a loneliness strategy for Victoria	Wyndham City Council
Ensure appropriate funding for suicide prevention	Mitchell Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C9.1 Strengthening Local Government Capacity for Community Health and Wellbeing

Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to work in partnership with councils across Victoria to provide sustainable funding and infrastructure support, enabling councils to deliver locally based mental health, wellbeing, and early intervention services tailored to the diverse needs and demographics of their communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

All Councils are legislatively responsible under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to seek to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing of people in their municipality, including planning, developing and implementing public health policies and programs for their residents. Current funding programs are limited and short-term, reducing councils' capacity to respond to rising community needs. Sustainable support from the Victorian Governments would allow councils to: Deliver early intervention locally tailored mental health and wellbeing initiatives in a co located hub like space, Strengthen early intervention and prevention programs, Meet legislative obligations under public health, gender equality, and climate frameworks; and ensure equitable access to services for residents experiencing social isolation, loneliness and social prescriptions within municipalities long before mental health barriers arise. Partnership between all levels of government is essential to ensure communities can access timely, effective, and locally relevant health and wellbeing services.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C9.2 Develop a loneliness strategy for Victoria

Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the State Government's Department of Health to develop a loneliness strategy to tackle the ongoing health crisis affecting Victorians and to ensure that all Departments, where possible, consider the implications of loneliness in decision making.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria is experiencing a loneliness crisis. Research reported in Volume 1 of the Final Report from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, indicated that higher rates of social isolation and loneliness was especially true for older Victorians, aged 65 years or older and for young people aged 15–25. This report also determined loneliness as a significant risk factor for various physical and mental conditions, such as 'cognitive decline, depression, and heart disease.'

Developing a Strategy to ensure Government remains focused on alleviating loneliness while undertaking corresponding decision making is therefore timely. This Strategy should identify avenues for the State Government to consider and reflect loneliness in its decision-making process across a range of portfolio areas, with particular emphasis on decisions through the Department of Health. It is hoped that this whole of government framework might ensure loneliness is considered through more decisions of State Government, similar to economic or gender impact assessments.

Councils across Victoria would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of a loneliness strategy that considers loneliness as a crisis requiring urgent and dedicated attention.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C9.3 *Ensure appropriate funding for suicide prevention*

Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to increase and sustain higher levels of funding to substantially expand suicide prevention and support work.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Increased and sustained higher levels of funding is urgently needed to tackle the growing mental health and suicide crisis. Too many people in our communities are left without access to the support they need at the time that they most need it. It is essential that equitable access to suicide prevention programs and crisis support pathways is made available to communities across Victoria. Support should not depend upon who you are or where you live.

Consolidated Motion C10 – Homelessness

Motion: That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government to

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated, and measurable whole-of-government homelessness strategy that:
 - a. Establishes a clear statewide vision and guiding framework to prevent and end homelessness.
 - b. Embeds measurable targets, transparent public reporting, and shared accountability across government and the service system.
 - c. Clearly defines roles and responsibilities across State Government, local government, community housing providers, health, mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) services, justice, family violence services, and the broader community sector.
 - d. Provides a long-term, integrated funding architecture spanning prevention, early intervention, crisis response, and pathways to permanent housing. Including reinstating and increasing outreach funding
 - e. Aligns statewide targets with national performance measures under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) and Victoria's obligations under NHHA renegotiation.
 - f. Ensures strong alignment with major State reforms, including the Housing Statement, mental health and wellbeing reforms, youth justice reforms, and family violence reforms and commitments.
2. Provide a significant increase to the current funding provided to agencies supporting homelessness across Victoria.
3. Renew and expand social and community housing with tenant-safe renewal; deliver emergency and short-term options (including culturally appropriate First Nations responses); and scale proven, diverse models.
4. Increase affordable and key-worker supply through partnerships and innovation, a statewide register to track voluntary affordable housing agreements, and measures that reduce displacement from short-stay accommodation.
5. Stabilise the private rental market via mandatory affordable housing contribution requirements, stronger renter protections (lease security, improved CRA), mitigation of short-stay impacts, and accessible dispute resolution.
6. Strengthen place-based systems with a single coordinated access point, growth-enabling State infrastructure, and opportunities to collocate Council services in new social, community and affordable housing.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Increased funding for homelessness services	Kingston City Council
Domestic Violence should not result in homelessness	Wyndham City Council
Strengthened homelessness responses, social housing access, and rental stability	Port Phillip City Council
A coordinated, measurable, whole of Government strategy to prevent and end homelessness in Victoria	Greater Dandenong City Council
Increased Resources for Agencies Supporting Homelessness	Knox City Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C10.1 Increased funding for homelessness services

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes the significant reduction in funding for homelessness outreach services, which has resulted in councils being unable to provide services to many rough sleepers and others who are unhoused, or in crisis and vulnerable.
2. Calls on the State Government to reinstate funding for this service, given that for many, these services are one of the last forms of help available and are frequently the reason for a positive outcome in difficult or life-threatening circumstances.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Most councils are dealing with the issues of homelessness, but especially metropolitan councils. A reduction in funding to assist councils provide homelessness outreach services is inequitable and poorly considered.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C10.2 *Domestic Violence should not result in homelessness*

Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the State Government to reaffirm its commitment that no person who leaves a domestic violence situation should ever risk becoming homeless in Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Data across Australia continues to show the difficult choice that victims are making; whether to stay in a domestic violence home, or face homelessness to escape.

Increasingly, the housing crisis is exacerbating this challenge. Rents are high, and often requiring two incomes to sustain, particularly with rentals requiring multiple bedrooms. The social housing wait time also remains high. Domestic violence agencies are struggling to provide accommodation to all seeking it and are having to turn away victims.

According to the ABC, 18,700 people — mostly women and children — became homeless due to domestic violence in 2024, more than double the 2021 estimate of 9,120 (Thorne, L, 'How the housing crisis is pushing domestic violence victims back to perpetrators', 5 Jan 2025).

This data further reflects a hidden crisis of people who continue to remain in domestic violence households to avoid becoming homeless. The State Government must recognize this as a crisis, deliver funding streams that are recurrent to provide certainty for these agencies and reaffirm a commitment to ensure no Victorian should ever be faced with this choice.

C10.3 *Strengthened homelessness responses, social housing access, and rental stability*

Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian and Australian Governments to:

1. Strengthen integrated, prevention-focused homelessness responses, including early-exit pathways from institutions, properly resourced interim housing, and retention/expansion of locally delivered services.
2. Renew and expand social and community housing with tenant-safe renewal; deliver emergency and short-term options (including culturally appropriate First Nations responses); and scale proven, diverse models.
3. Increase affordable and key-worker supply through partnerships and innovation, a statewide register to track voluntary affordable housing agreements, and measures that reduce displacement from short-stay accommodation.
4. Stabilise the private rental market via mandatory affordable housing contribution requirements, stronger renter protections (lease security, improved CRA), mitigation of short-stay impacts, and accessible dispute resolution.
5. Strengthen place-based systems with a single coordinated access point, growth-enabling State infrastructure, and opportunities to collocate Council services in new social, community and affordable housing.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria's rental market now houses a growing share of low and moderate income households, essential workers and families, yet too many renters face insecure tenancies, poor dwelling quality and escalating rents that local governments cannot fix alone. Councils are well placed to convene services, generate local evidence and deliver place based programs, but sustained improvements require State and Commonwealth action on five fronts: stronger and enforced minimum standards so rental homes are safe, healthy and energy efficient; increased social and affordable supply to stabilise rents and house those priced out; shared, timely data to target interventions and measure outcomes; funded partnerships that amplify the tenant support work of local agencies; and formal recognition of renters as a priority population across climate, health and inclusion initiatives so programs reach those most at risk. A coordinated MAV led advocacy position will align sector efforts, reduce duplication, and create a clear pathway for governments to co invest with councils in proven, community centred solutions.

C10.4 A coordinated, measurable, whole of Government strategy to prevent and end homelessness in Victoria

Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated, and measurable whole-of-government homelessness strategy that:

- Establishes a clear statewide vision and guiding framework to prevent and end homelessness.
- Embeds measurable targets, transparent public reporting, and shared accountability across government and the service system.
- Clearly defines roles and responsibilities across State Government, local government, community housing providers, health, mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) services, justice, family violence services, and the broader community sector.
- Provides a long-term, integrated funding architecture spanning prevention, early intervention, crisis response, and pathways to permanent housing.
- Aligns statewide targets with national performance measures under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) and Victoria's obligations under NHHA renegotiation.
- Ensures strong alignment with major State reforms, including the Housing Statement, mental health and wellbeing reforms, youth justice reforms, and family violence reforms.

Further, that the strategy be structured around five essential system pillars:

1. Strengthening homelessness prevention and early intervention to reduce inflow into homelessness.
2. Delivering timely, safe, and integrated crisis responses.
3. Significantly increasing social housing supply to enable sustainable exits from homelessness.
4. Increasing Specialist Homelessness Services funding to match demand and strengthen workforce capacity.
5. Embedding robust governance, data, reporting, and system alignment to ensure transparency, coordination, and measurable outcomes.

These pillars collectively form the core architecture required to deliver an effective statewide homelessness response.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria's homelessness system is now at a critical juncture. The expiry of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan, alongside major housing and service system reforms and significant fiscal pressures, creates both risk and opportunity. Without renewed statewide leadership and strategic direction, fragmentation, duplication and inefficiency will deepen, driving higher costs across emergency departments, policing, justice and crisis accommodation systems.

For example, homelessness across South East Metropolitan Melbourne is increasing at a rate that local services can no longer absorb. Councils and community organisations are seeing growing numbers of people sleeping in cars, tents and improvised shelters, couch surfing, or presenting for help for the first time in their lives. These are older women who have exhausted their savings, young people disengaging from school, families pushed out by rent increases, and people leaving hospital or prison with nowhere safe to go.

Behind these figures are human consequences: deteriorating health, loss of safety, disrupted education and employment, and profound instability. Yet there is a consistent and well evidenced message from across the region - homelessness is preventable when risks are addressed early, and it is solvable when governments invest in evidence based, coordinated approaches.

An independent economic evaluation of Victoria's Advance to Zero (AtoZ) initiative demonstrates that coordinated, data driven, Housing First approaches deliver strong net benefits to government. For every dollar invested, between \$14.66 and \$16.34 is returned in avoided costs, while rough sleeping and repeat homelessness are measurably reduced. Crucially, the evaluation confirms that whole-of-government coordination, real-time data and clear accountability are not only effective, they are fiscally responsible.

With strong statewide leadership and targeted, evidence-based investment, the Victorian Government can significantly reduce homelessness, strengthen community wellbeing, and deliver sustained economic savings across health, justice, housing and emergency response portfolios.

This advocacy aligns with MAV priorities including Health & Wellbeing, by recognising stable housing as foundational to physical, mental and social wellbeing; Resilience & Recovery, by reducing vulnerability and crisis demand; and Connected Places, by supporting coordinated, place based responses across councils and services.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C10.5 Increased Resources for Agencies Supporting Homelessness

Knox City Council

Motion:

Request the MAV to advocate to the Victorian Government for a significant increase to the current funding provided to agencies supporting homelessness across Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Homelessness is escalating at a pace exceeding the capacity of local support agencies, and housing supply cannot absorb the demand to remedy this predicament. Local Government is at the forefront of such impacts, affecting residents and communities, increasing demands on resources to support rough sleepers including referrals to agencies, site clean-up and collaboration with other services including Victoria Police when behaviours are anti-social.

Local Government plays a pivotal role in community education recognising those experiencing homelessness also have rights and need empathy, balancing this with local amenity and in some instances perception of community safety. Community awareness of housing demand, and lack of available supply remains an important focus for communication.

Knox works daily with local agencies and networks, to connect those experiencing homelessness with services and supplies, with a widening cohort of people visibly rough sleeping.

While ultimately long-term housing solutions are an outcome for Government focus, the ability to triage and facilitate support for people experiencing homelessness now is compromised due to the widening gap between demand and agency service availability.

Support needs for homelessness have increased, demand is outpacing current funding levels and all agencies report being overstretched. Delays to offer outreach can be weeks rather than days – often meaning rough sleepers have since relocated.

In Knox alone, rough sleeping numbers have significantly increased from 64 in 2023, to 125 in 2024 and 215 in 2025. Predictions for 2026 appear to be following a similar trend.

Knox has previously received support from a provider; however without ongoing funding. At present, there is no outreach program available to support people experiencing homelessness within the municipality. This situation is not unique and reflects a broader gap affecting many Councils.

Significant increased resources for supporting agencies are an important measure to assist those in crisis situations. Increasing funding for support agencies can assist in reducing pressures on other services areas including hospitals, mental health agencies and Victoria Police, and seek not to prolong rough sleeping.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Outreach services are a critical element for supporting those experiencing homelessness. With faster access to support services, better outcomes can be achieved for rough sleepers across our communities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C11 - Improving bus services in Victoria

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to urgently increase recurrent and capital investment to fully implement Victoria's Bus Plan and metropolitan and regional bus network reform, so that buses become a genuinely frequent, reliable and competitive part of the public transport system.

This must include higher service frequencies, extended operating hours, faster and more direct routes, and seamless integration with trains, trams, walking, wheeling and cycling networks; adopting technologies that are responsive to demand; priority upgrades in population growth areas, transport-disadvantaged, peri-urban and regional communities; accessible public transport infrastructure; completion of comprehensive metropolitan and regional bus network reviews (including first/last mile corridors identified by councils); and the delivery of a public education program to maximise the return on rail investment, support housing growth, improve equity of access, and materially reduce car dependency across Victoria.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Increased bus frequency	Kingston City Council
Expansion of the Bus Network	Brimbank City Council
Improving bus services in Victoria	Merri-bek City Council
Review of Regional Bus Services	Bass Coast Shire Council
Bus Network Review	Boroondara City Council
Improving Bus Services Across Victoria	Maribyrnong City Council
Improving bus service frequencies in Victoria	Port Phillip City Council
Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration (Point 3)	Port Phillip City Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.1 Increased bus frequency

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that Victorian Government investments in rail infrastructure, such as the Metro Tunnel and Level Crossing Removals have improved the timetable performance of the metropolitan rail system.
2. Calls on the Victorian Government to increase the frequency of bus services across Greater Melbourne so that the full potential of rail improvements can be realised.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Some of Melbourne's most strategic bus routes cross as many as 6-8 municipalities, and the economic and social impact of increasing bus frequency and hours will have be widespread.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.2 Expansion of the Bus Network

Brimbank City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to increase funding for bus services to deliver higher frequencies, faster and more direct routes, extended operating hours, and improved integration with trains, trams, other bus services, activity centres and industrial precincts. This will ensure that the bus network keeps pace with population growth and travel demand.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Victorian Government has made important investments in bus services through Victoria's Bus Plan and service upgrades recognising buses as a vital part of the transport network. However, demand continues to outpace supply. Buses carry over 135 million passengers annually and provide walking distance access to public transport for more than 80 per cent of metropolitan Victorians. However, many services remain infrequent, indirect, or poorly integrated with other modes of transport, while high-demand routes are at capacity and can leave passengers stranded. Around one-third of bus trips connect with trains or trams, highlighting their role in network integration. Increased funding is needed to deliver higher frequencies, extend operating hours and improve timetable coordination. This will better support population growth, reduce car dependence and address transport disadvantage by improving access to jobs, education and activity centres.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.3 *Improving bus services in Victoria*

Merri-bek City Council

Motion:

That the MAV: Call on the Victorian Government to:

1. Fund and implement Victoria's Bus Plan, as outlined in the Department of Transport and Planning's Bus Network Reform Implementation Approach, to improve bus services in Victoria and;
2. Deliver a vibrant public education campaign to promote bus use.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Infrastructure Victoria says more than a third of Melburnians have never caught the bus, even though 8 out of 10 homes are within 400 metres of a bus stop. Buses are often considered a less attractive transport option due to outdated timetables that fail to link with other services, bus routes that wind through local streets or are delayed by traffic and infrequent services that don't run at night or on the weekend. Buses are not meeting our community's transport needs.

Better bus services can connect people to other forms of public transport, including train stations and tram routes and can link people to shopping, work, education and entertainment precincts. More services, more often that start earlier in the day and finish later in the evenings, as well as on weekends, provide more choices for people including workers in industries such as industrial, retail and healthcare who work less regular hours.

More direct bus routes, buses that have priority on the road and timetables coordinated with train and tram timetables would create better quality bus services. Better quality bus services attract more users.

In 2021 the Department of Transport released Victoria's Bus Plan– a blueprint that set out how the Victorian Government would deliver a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network. Key reform objectives included restructuring and simplifying the network; a cleaner and smarter bus fleet; improved performance; better accessibility and customer experience; and stronger planning and partnerships. This was followed by DTP's cabinet submission in September 2023, Bus Network Reform Implementation Approach. However, the plan was never implemented.

The Victorian Government has delivered some bus service reforms in recent years such as:

- Chadstone to Dandenong key activity centres – better weekend services
- Fishermans Bend key activity centre – route improvements, increased frequency and later weekend services
- Yarra Valley outer suburbs – simplified routes and timetables, improved weekend services
- Armstrong Creek and Torquay – extra services including evening and weekend and new routes.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

In all these cases, better services resulted in significant increases in passengers, which had other benefits including people using cars less which saves people money and lowers transport emissions.

Research by Infrastructure Victoria found that more frequent bus services in Melbourne deliver around \$1.20 in benefits for every dollar spent. Running buses more often delivers similar benefits to one of Victoria's big road or rail projects but is far cheaper.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.4 *Review of Regional Bus Services*

Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to undertake a comprehensive review of regional bus services in peri-urban and coastal municipalities, fund improved service frequency, connectivity and timetable integration in growth areas without rail access; and invest in accessible public transport infrastructure and integrated trunk routes in high-growth regional corridors.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Many peri-urban and regional Council's are in a similar position. Many towns do not have a train service, and so are reliant on the bus network for public transport. The lack of fit for purpose bus services are a disincentive for the uptake of public transport, and so cars are the predominant form of transport used in regional areas. In order to get people onto public transport, the bus networks in regional areas need to be reviewed and then implemented to provide the services that will encourage uptake by the community.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.5 *Bus Network Review*

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government to provide an update and future budget commitment to implement the findings of Victoria's Bus Network Reform - Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs to ensure access improvements are provided in the context of increased housing density and North East Link busway implementation.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Victorian Government undertook consultation on a Bus Network review with a focus area on Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs seeking feedback from councils and community members. There has not been a clear response provided by the government to identify improvements in access points, route mapping, timetabling and frequency of services. This response and implementation of change is important noting the following:

The study area suburbs depend primarily on Bus network (parts of Boroondara, Manningham, Banyule & Nillumbik)

Increased housing density identified through housing reforms and activity centre declarations to support significant increases in populations

Impacts of North East Link reducing local bus stop access and consolidating at park-and-ride locations creating further car-dependant travel

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.6 Improving Bus Services Across Victoria

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Increase investment in bus services to ensure they are frequent, reliable, and regular, including evenings, weekends and public holidays;
2. Deliver direct and time-efficient routes that reduce unnecessary detours and make buses a competitive alternative to private car travel;
3. Improve timetable coordination and network design to ensure buses are well integrated with trains, trams, cycling and walking networks; and
4. Prioritise bus service upgrades in growth areas and transport-disadvantaged communities to improve equity of access.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Strengthening Victoria's bus network is a cost-effective way to improve mobility and support more sustainable transport outcomes.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.7 *Improving bus service frequencies in Victoria*

Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV: Call on the Victorian Government to:

1. Fund and implement Victoria's Bus Plan, as outlined in the Department of Transport and Planning's Bus Network Reform Implementation Approach, to improve bus services in Victoria and;
2. Deliver a vibrant public education campaign to promote bus use.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Infrastructure Victoria reports that more than a third of Melburnians have never caught a bus, despite 8 in 10 homes being within 400 metres of a stop. Buses are often seen as unattractive due to outdated, poorly integrated timetables; indirect routes that wind through local streets; delays from mixed traffic; and infrequent services that don't run late at night or on weekends. As a result, buses aren't meeting community needs.

Better bus services can link people to trains, trams, jobs, education, shopping and entertainment. More frequent services that start earlier, finish later and run seven days a week especially benefit workers in industries with irregular hours (industrial, retail, healthcare).

Key improvements include:

- More direct routes that minimise detours.
- Road priority (bus lanes, signal priority) to avoid traffic delays.
- Timetable coordination with trains and trams to reduce transfer times.

Higher-quality services attract more users.

In 2021, the Department of Transport released Victoria's Bus Plan, a blueprint for a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network. Its objectives included: simplifying and restructuring the network; deploying a cleaner, smarter fleet; improving performance; enhancing accessibility and customer experience; and strengthening planning and partnerships. In September 2023, DTP followed with a cabinet submission, Bus Network Reform Implementation Approach, but the plan has not been implemented.

The Victorian Government has delivered targeted reforms with positive results:

- Chadstone–Dandenong: better weekend services.
- Fishermans Bend: CBD route improvements including increased frequency, later weekend services.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

- Yarra Valley outer suburbs: simplified routes/timetables, improved weekend services.
- Armstrong Creek & Torquay: extra evening/weekend services and new routes.

In each case, improved services increased patronage, reduced car use, saved people money and lowered transport emissions.

Infrastructure Victoria's research finds that more frequent bus services deliver around \$1.20 in benefits for every \$1 spent. Running buses more often provides benefits comparable to major road or rail projects, at a fraction of the cost.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C11.8 Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration

Port Phillip City Council (point 3)

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Establish a recurrent funding mechanism to co fund council led walking, wheeling and cycling upgrades and public transport access works, building on the congestion levy reinvestment precedent.
2. Publish and fund a time bound program for accessible tram stops (level boarding) and higher capacity trams, with milestones co designed with councils.
3. Complete a metropolitan bus network review and uplift (frequency, operating span, and intermodal connections), prioritising first/last mile corridors identified by councils.
4. Co deliver protected, connected cycling corridors on State managed arterials and protected intersections at key nodes to close network gaps and reduce serious injuries.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils cannot on their own deliver the active transport and accessibility upgrades that rely on State controlled assets and services. Evidence shows that high quality protected facilities and protected intersections improve safety for people walking and riding when designed to best practice, supporting the case for co delivery on State arterials and at high risk nodes.

Active commuting also delivers measurable health gains, strengthening the public value of accelerated investment. Given MAV State Council's role in coordinating sector wide advocacy on issues of statewide significance, a unified call for a time bound, co funded program across tram, bus and arterial networks is the most effective pathway to deliver safer, healthier and more accessible streets in every municipality.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C12 – Statewide beach renourishment program

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Urgently establish a statewide, multiyear beach renourishment program for waterfront and marine infrastructure including piers and boardwalks with clear governance, risk based triggers and transparent funding pathways to repair beach and waterfront infrastructure, protect assets, maintain accessible beaches, reduce storm damage and repair costs, and safeguard tourism and ecosystems.
2. Implement coordinated delivery and capability supports including a predictable co-funding model, standardised technical guidance and monitoring, streamlined environmental approvals with a preference for nature based, climate resilient designs to achieve better value for money, scheduling certainty for councils and minimise the need for replacement in future years.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
More funding for coastal damage repairs	Kingston City Council
Statewide multi year beach renourishment program	Port Phillip City Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C12.1 More funding for coastal damage repairs

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that many beaches in Victoria, particularly in Port Phillip Bay, continue to feature infrastructure that is unserviceable or dangerous because of damage sustained in storms over the past three years.
2. Calls on the Victorian Government to urgently prioritise the repair of beach infrastructure damaged in storms and tidal surges.
3. Calls on the Victorian Government to repair the infrastructure in ways that minimises the need for replacement in future years, given the regularity with which weather and tidal conditions continue to cause expensive and preventable damage.

Submitting Council Rationale:

This is an issue that is partly a cost-shifting exercise, but also a significant safety and one with implications for beach users, residents, tourism and local businesses

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C12.2 Statewide multi year beach renourishment program

Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Establish a statewide, multiyear beach renourishment program with clear governance, risk based triggers and transparent funding pathways to protect public assets and promenades, maintain safe and accessible beaches, reduce storm damage and repair costs, and safeguard tourism and coastal ecosystems across Port Phillip Bay and the broader Victorian coastline.
2. Implement coordinated delivery and capability supports, including a predictable co-funding model, standardised technical guidance and monitoring, streamlined environmental approvals, and a preference for nature based, climate resilient designs to achieve better value for money and scheduling certainty for councils.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victorian beaches are increasingly exposed to erosion and storm damage, placing promenades, public assets and coastal access at risk and driving up reactive repair costs for councils. Current responses are often ad hoc and short-term, limiting efficiency and failing to leverage economies of scale or shared technical expertise.

A statewide, multi year program with clear triggers and funding pathways would prioritise works transparently, coordinate renourishment across littoral cells, and provide the investment certainty councils need to plan efficiently, align with seasonal and environmental windows, and deliver better outcomes across Port Phillip Bay and the wider coast.

Proactive programmatic renourishment will help keep beaches safe and accessible, protect tourism and coastal ecosystems, reduce whole of life asset costs, and strengthen climate resilience.

Consolidated Motion C13 – Active Transport

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to significantly increase investment in and delivery of active transport infrastructure to improve safety, accessibility and productivity, and align this investment with international best practice. This could include consideration of:

1. Establishing recurring and predictable funding for active transport infrastructure building on the congestion levy reinvestment precedent towards 20% of transport infrastructure funding, including a dedicated rural and regional funding stream
2. Developing flexible, outcome-based funding criteria so councils can plan, build and renew active transport infrastructure that delivers broader community benefits such as improving local health, environmental, and tourism outcomes
3. Establishing a Ministerial committee to oversee the implementation of the Victorian Government nominated Strategic Cycling Corridors, with an initial focus on Primary Route (C1) projects. The committee will engage state government departments, state authorities, state agencies, Bicycle Network and local governments to scope, design, consult with relevant stakeholders, cost and implement projects for broad community benefit
4. Co-delivering protected, connected cycling corridors on State managed arterials and protected intersections at key nodes to close network gaps and reduce serious injuries
5. Embedding monitoring and evaluation in the program to demonstrate value-for-money and accelerate what works, including:
 - a. Allocating a modest, dedicated share of program funding (e.g. 1-3%) to evaluation and data collection
 - b. Adopting a simple outcomes framework and common measures (e.g. mode shift, safety, equity, health, emissions, etc)
 - c. Supporting councils with evaluation guidance and capability so reporting is consistent and low-burden
 - d. Publishing annual results and lessons to continuously improve investment decisions and enable scaling

Which motions are being consolidated?	
The establishment of a funding stream for paths and trails as low-carbon transport infrastructure with multiple positive community outcomes.	Baw Baw Shire Council
Rural and Regional Active Transport Funding	Moyne Shire Council
Strategic Cycle Corridors (SCC's) - Accelerate Priority Cycling Network	Boroondara City Council
Victorian Investment Framework for Walking and Cycling Infrastructure)	Maribyrnong City Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration (Point 1, 4)	Port Phillip City Council
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MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C13.1 The establishment of a funding stream for paths and trails as low-carbon transport infrastructure with multiple positive community outcomes.

Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian and Australian Governments to establish a funding stream that supports local councils in the development, construction, and renewal of paths and trails networks, with the aim of improving local health, environmental, and tourism outcomes and supporting regional economies across Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

In promoting low-carbon transport infrastructure that also builds on and strengthens local places, promotes health and activity, strengthens people's connections to their local environment and to each other, and boosts local economies, this proposal covers three of MAV's enabling priorities – Connected Places, Sustainable Economy, and Intergenerational Infrastructure. It ties into both State and Federal net zero targets as well as the 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan and the Victorian Transport Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022–2026, addresses the state and national health issue of insufficient physical activity amongst Australian adults, and will lead to increased economic activity and outcomes across councils.

Paths and trails infrastructure is built and maintained by all councils, so all councils will benefit from a specific funding stream for this purpose. Having dedicated funding for paths and trails will allow councils to prioritise investment in these networks without taking funding away from other needed projects, such as roads. By upgrading and expanding their paths and trails networks, councils are able to add and improve a low-carbon component to their multi-modal transportation systems which also strengthens links with the local environment, improves health and wellbeing outcomes for residents and visitors, and boosts local economies.

The MAV could add specific and unique value to advocacy for paths and trails funding through assisting councils across Victoria in group advocacy and showing that this issue has support and relevance across the state.

In addition to supporting MAV's enabling priorities and State and Federal targets relating to net zero and transport infrastructure, several US studies show that increased investment in paths and trails infrastructure has significant outcomes to state economies and to health and wellbeing outcomes – a study in Washington State indicated that the state's paths and trails networks add US\$8.2 billion to the state economy and reduces health and medical costs for residents by US\$390 million. With ABS data showing that only 22.4% of adults meet physical activity guidelines, studies have also shown that parks and trails are infrastructure interventions that increase physical activity.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C13.2 *Rural and Regional Active Transport Funding*

Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian Government for: Ongoing active transport funding programs with a dedicated rural and regional funding stream to improve pedestrian and cycling safety, connectivity and tourism infrastructure in regional communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Rural and regional councils operate within smaller rate bases while maintaining substantially larger road networks, making it difficult to fund active transport infrastructure without external support. A dedicated rural and regional funding stream would ensure programs are designed to reflect the unique geographic, economic and transport realities of regional Victoria, enabling councils to deliver infrastructure that improves safety, accessibility and economic opportunity.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C13.3 *Strategic Cycle Corridors (SCC's) - Accelerate Priority Cycling Network*

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government and The Hon. Gabrielle Williams (Minister for Public and Active Transport) to establish a Ministerial committee to oversee the implementation of the Victorian Government nominated Strategic Cycling Corridors, with an initial focus on Primary Route (C1) projects. The Ministerial committee will have scope to engage state government departments, state authorities, state agencies, Bicycle Network and local governments to scope, design, consult with relevant stakeholders, cost and implement projects for broad community benefit.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Victorian Government has planned for and recognised Strategic Cycling Corridors for many years through a range of iterations of planning documents, state projects and policies however has given limited impetus to the implementation. Infrastructure Victoria has undertaken significant research to support implementation with a range of benefits identified across a number of dimensions. With a up to 60 activity centres identified by the Government, implementation at this stage is crucial to avoid development outcomes preventing cycling infrastructure, along with supporting sustainable transport as part of this broader reform.

Coordination is required from a government level across a range of stakeholders including Department of Transport and Planning, VicTrack, Department of Education, Melbourne Water to give imprimatur to unlock land and funding for delivery. Significant state projects underway including North East Link, Suburban Rail Loop, Level Crossing Removals provide the ability to include projects in scope building the network supporting communities beyond vehicle-based activity.

C13.4 *Victorian Investment Framework for Walking and Cycling Infrastructure*

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to significantly increase investment in active transport infrastructure to improve safety, accessibility and productivity, and align this investment with international best practice by:

1. Establishing long-term, predictable funding for active transport infrastructure equivalent to 20% of transport infrastructure funding;
2. Developing flexible, outcome-based funding criteria so councils can provide infrastructure that delivers broader community benefits, such as water sensitive design; and
3. Embedding monitoring and evaluation in the program to demonstrate value-for-money and accelerate what works, including:
 - a) Allocating a modest, dedicated share of program funding (e.g. 1-3%) to evaluation and data collection;
 - b) Adopting a simple outcomes framework and common measures (e.g. mode shift, safety, equity, health, emissions, etc);
 - c) Supporting councils with evaluation guidance and capability so reporting is consistent and low-burden; and
 - d) Publishing annual results and lessons to continuously improve investment decisions and enable scaling.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Current funding approaches are fragmented, inadequate, and overly restrictive.

Currently, Victoria spends \$976M on roads annually, however only \$15M goes towards active transport infrastructure. That is the equivalent of just 1.5%, however best practice recommends 20%.

There is strong public support for increasing active transport infrastructure, which would deliver shared benefits across communities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C13.5 Statewide active & accessible transport acceleration

Port Phillip City Council (points 1,4)

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Establish a recurrent funding mechanism to co fund council led walking, wheeling and cycling upgrades and public transport access works, building on the congestion levy reinvestment precedent.
2. Publish and fund a time bound program for accessible tram stops (level boarding) and higher capacity trams, with milestones co designed with councils.
3. Complete a metropolitan bus network review and uplift (frequency, operating span, and intermodal connections), prioritising first/last mile corridors identified by councils.
4. Co deliver protected, connected cycling corridors on State managed arterials and protected intersections at key nodes to close network gaps and reduce serious injuries.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils cannot on their own deliver the active transport and accessibility upgrades that rely on State controlled assets and services. Evidence shows that high quality protected facilities and protected intersections improve safety for people walking and riding when designed to best practice, supporting the case for co delivery on State arterials and at high risk nodes.

Active commuting also delivers measurable health gains, strengthening the public value of accelerated investment. Given MAV State Council's role in coordinating sector wide advocacy on issues of statewide significance, a unified call for a time bound, co funded program across tram, bus and arterial networks is the most effective pathway to deliver safer, healthier and more accessible streets in every municipality.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C14 - Advancing Disability Access and Inclusion Across Victoria

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) write to and meet with the Victorian Minister for Disability to advocate for:

1. Recognition and support of councils' role in meeting disability legislative requirements and delivering the Victorian State Disability Action Plan.
2. Reinstatement of the former "Metro Access" positions to restore dedicated local disability inclusion capacity.
3. Dedicated, ongoing State funding for accessible and inclusive community infrastructure, including through Universal Design and Local Government infrastructure programs.
4. Investment to ensure local government assets meet contemporary accessibility standards and deliver equitable access across communities.
5. A comprehensive review of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to strengthen accessibility requirements and clarify council obligations.
6. Fulfilment of the State's legislated obligations to deliver fully accessible public transport under the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Motion title: Victorian State Disability Action Plan	Council: Cardinia Shire
Motion title; Making transport stations and stops accessible for people with disability	Council: Yarra City Council

C14.1 Victorian State Disability Action Plan

Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) write to and meet with the Victorian Minister for Disability to advocate for the following:

1. Acknowledge and support the role of Council's in meeting Federal and State disability legislative requirements along with delivering and advancing the Victorian State Disability Action Plan through local planning, accessible infrastructure, and community inclusion initiatives.
2. Re-instate the "Metro Access" funded positions (subsumed by the NDIS).
3. Redirect State Government Universal Design, and accessible elements of the Local Government and community Infrastructure Funds to provide dedicated and ongoing funding to councils to deliver accessible and inclusive community infrastructure meets the local community's identified access needs—such as safer pathways, inclusive play spaces, accessible public toilets, and other infrastructure that supports full participation and independence.
4. Ensure that local government assets meet contemporary accessibility requirements and deliver consistent, equitable access for people with disability.
5. Advocate for a comprehensive review of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) strengthening accessibility requirements, clarify compliance obligations for councils, and improves outcomes for people with disability.

Submitting Council Rationale:

This issue matters to the entire local government sector because every Victorian council is responsible for delivering accessible infrastructure, inclusive services, and meeting both State and Federal disability legislation. However, without consistent funding, clear accessibility standards, or the specialised support that was lost when Metro Access positions were subsumed by the NDIS, councils have uneven capacity to meet these obligations. This creates statewide inequity, limits councils' ability to plan confidently, and results in inconsistent outcomes for people with disability across Victoria.

MAV can add unique value by bringing councils together to present a unified sector position on the reforms needed to strengthen accessibility and disability inclusion. Through coordinated advocacy, MAV can highlight systemic gaps, influence State and Federal policy settings, and push for reforms that no single council could secure alone—such as reinstated disability support roles, dedicated universal design funding, and clearer compliance requirements through a review of the Disability Discrimination Act. MAV's leadership ensures sector-wide solutions that improve consistency, equity, and long-term accessibility outcomes for all communities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C14.2 *Making transport stations and stops accessible for people with disability*

Yarra City Council

Motion text

That MAV calls on the Victorian Government to make public transport accessible, in line with its legislated obligations in the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 made under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992)

Submitting Council Rationale:

Accessibility is a fundamental right under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), yet Victoria continues to fall short of its obligations. The Victorian Government failed to meet the 2022 deadline for accessible tram stops and now risks missing the 2032 deadline for low-floor trams. The Victorian Auditor-General's Office report in late 2025 found only 18% of services were fully accessible (low-floor tram at level-access stop), a marginal increase from previous years, and projected full compliance would not occur until 2066 at the current pace. This is unacceptable and perpetuates transport disadvantage for people with disability.

Like many inner-city municipalities, Yarra has only a small proportion of tram stops and train stations that are fully accessible and DDA compliant. This leaves significant barriers to employment, education, health services, and social participation for residents with disability or accessibility needs, undermining goals shared by most local governments for equity, inclusion, and sustainable transport.

The design of rollover tram stops also presents accessibility issues and confusion for drivers, making this design undesirable compared with alternatives that better balance accessibility and safety.

This is a state-wide issue. Public transport infrastructure is managed by the Victorian Government, and local governments are directly impacted by the lack of accessible infrastructure. Endorsing this motion aligns with MAV's role in advocating for systemic improvements that benefit all municipalities. Accelerating accessibility upgrades will support compliance with federal legislation, improve safety, and deliver a more inclusive transport network across Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion 15 - Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government for the establishment of a modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) to provide dedicated, long-term co-funding for wastewater and potable water infrastructure in small regional and rural towns, enabling councils to meet mandated housing targets, protect public and environmental health, and address longstanding infrastructure gaps.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes.	Corangamite Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C15.1 ***Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes***

Southern Grampians Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian and Australian Governments for the establishment of a modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) to provide dedicated, long-term co-funding for wastewater and potable water infrastructure in small regional and rural towns, enabling councils to meet mandated housing targets, protect public and environmental health, and address longstanding infrastructure gaps.

Submitting Council Rationale::

Southern Grampians Shire Council, like many rural and regional municipalities across Victoria, faces significant challenges with ageing and inadequate water and wastewater infrastructure in small towns. Many of our communities rely on legacy onsite wastewater systems that are now well beyond their functional life and cannot meet contemporary public health, environmental, or regulatory standards. In several townships, particularly those situated on small lots, shallow soils, or sensitive groundwater systems, traditional onsite systems are no longer viable, resulting in widespread non-compliance, elevated environmental and public health risk, and the inability to support even modest residential growth.

Recent investigations, including the Peshurst Adaptive Wastewater Pilot Project Review, highlighted that approximately 93% of onsite wastewater systems in Peshurst were non-compliant, demonstrating a systemic and urgent need for town-scale wastewater

solutions across affected rural communities. These constraints directly impede new housing supply, restrict subdivision, limit economic development, and prevent councils from meeting State-mandated housing targets under the Victoria Housing Statement and Plan for Victoria – Housing Targets.

While local governments carry statutory responsibilities under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and the Environment Protection Act, there is currently no dedicated State or Federal funding mechanism to assist councils or regional water authorities to address these systemic small-town wastewater challenges. The former Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) once filled this gap, supporting the delivery of essential water and sewerage infrastructure in underserved towns, but no equivalent program exists today. As a result, councils and water corporations are left to shoulder multi-million-dollar infrastructure burdens that far exceed the rate base and financial capacity of small rural communities and councils.

With increasing financial pressures, councils are facing the stark reality that without a renewed funding partnership, many small towns will remain locked out of growth, unable to meet regulatory requirements, and permanently disadvantaged compared

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

with larger regional centres and metropolitan areas. The absence of investment threatens not only public health and environmental protection, but also the liveability, economic vitality, and long-term sustainability of rural Victoria.

Southern Grampians Shire Council is therefore calling on the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate strongly to the Victorian and Australian Governments for the establishment of a modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program, a dedicated, long-term co-funding mechanism to assist regional and rural councils in delivering essential water and wastewater solutions.

This motion directly aligns with the MAV's Shaping Our Future 2024–2027 Strategic Plan (MAV Strategic Plan - Shaping Our Future | MAV website), particularly the priorities of:

Connected Places – by ensuring rural communities have the essential infrastructure needed to remain viable and attractive.

Health and Wellbeing – by reducing public health risks associated with failing wastewater systems.

Sustainable Economy – by enabling housing growth, business development, and population retention.

Intergenerational Infrastructure – by investing in critical long-term services that support future generations.

A modernised CTWSSP is necessary to secure the resilience, safety, and prosperity of rural towns, ensuring that regional Victorians are not left behind in the State's broader housing, health, and infrastructure reform agenda.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C15.2 Modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) – Enabling Regional Housing and Public Health Outcomes.

Corangamite Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian and Australian Governments for the establishment of a modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) to provide dedicated, long-term co-funding for wastewater and potable water infrastructure in small regional and rural towns, enabling councils to meet mandated housing targets, protect public and environmental health, and address longstanding infrastructure gaps.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Council, like many rural and regional municipalities across Victoria, faces significant challenges with ageing and inadequate water and wastewater infrastructure in small towns. Many of our communities rely on legacy onsite wastewater systems that are now well beyond their functional life and cannot meet contemporary public health, environmental, or regulatory standards. In several townships, particularly those with small lots, shallow soils, or sensitive groundwater systems, traditional onsite systems are no longer viable, resulting in widespread non compliance, elevated environmental and public health risk, and the inability to support even modest residential growth.

These constraints directly impede new housing supply, restrict subdivision, limit economic development, and prevent councils from meeting State mandated housing targets under the Victoria Housing Statement and Plan for Victoria – Housing Targets. While local governments carry statutory responsibilities under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and the Environment Protection Act, there is currently no dedicated State or Federal funding mechanism to assist councils or regional water authorities to address these systemic small town wastewater challenges.

The former Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP) once filled this gap, supporting the delivery of essential water and sewerage infrastructure in under-served towns, but no equivalent program exists today. As a result, councils and water corporations are left to shoulder multi million dollar infrastructure burdens that far exceed the rate base and financial capacity of small rural communities and councils. With increasing financial pressures, councils are facing the stark reality that without a renewed funding partnership, many small towns will remain locked out of growth, unable to meet regulatory requirements, and permanently disadvantaged compared with larger regional centres and metropolitan areas. The absence of investment threatens not only public health and environmental protection, but also the liveability, economic vitality, and long term sustainability of rural Victoria.

Council is therefore supporting the Southern Grampians Shire Council motion to advocate strongly to the Victorian and Australian Governments for the establishment of a modernised Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program, a dedicated,

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

long term co funding mechanism to assist regional and rural councils and respective Water Corporations in delivering essential water and wastewater solutions.

This motion directly aligns with the MAV's Shaping Our Future 2024–2027 Strategic Plan (MAV Strategic Plan - Shaping Our Future | MAV website), particularly the priorities of:

- Connected Places – by ensuring rural communities have the essential infrastructure needed to remain viable and attractive.
- Health and Wellbeing – by reducing public health risks associated with failing wastewater systems.
- Sustainable Economy – by enabling housing growth, business development, and population retention.
- Intergenerational Infrastructure – by investing in critical long term services that support future generations.

A modernised CTWSSP is necessary to secure the resilience, safety, and prosperity of rural towns, ensuring that regional Victorians are not left behind in the State's broader housing, health, and infrastructure reform agenda.

Consolidated Motion C16 – Affordable housing

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian Government to strengthen the supply and delivery of social and affordable housing by:

1. Implementing the head of power facilitating affordable housing contributions recently inserted into Section 6 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:
 - a. Prioritising and expediting the drafting of the subordinate instruments required to activate the head of power; and
 - b. Co-designing the key terms of those subordinate instruments with local government in the interests of certainty and of removing or limiting future costs, delays and duplication of policy work at the municipal level.
2. Reviewing the definition of affordable housing in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* alongside definitions found in other government regulatory instruments, policies, plans, incentive frameworks, grants and funding programs, to ensure that Government remains focused on delivering and requiring affordable housing suitable for very low- and low-income households, and not only on moderate-income households, in order to respond to actual need.
3. Partnering with councils to identify surplus or underutilised State government-owned land suitable for social and affordable housing, including crisis and transitional accommodation and Aboriginal housing.
4. Releasing that land for development, by prioritising areas in greatest need of alleviating housing stress and which are or will be well-located in terms of infrastructure, services and open space, maximising affordable housing outcomes at the point of sale.
5. Supporting the delivery of affordable housing on council-owned land by:
 - a. Funding programs for long term lease-based affordable housing delivery;
 - b. Providing a first right of refusal on surplus State and Commonwealth land for transfer to the local council, where the council is willing to facilitate affordable housing on that land.
6. Requiring stronger partnerships between Homes Victoria and councils, and including local government in Homes Victoria's Portfolio Strategy Planning Program for the renewal and upgrading of existing public housing, the sale of aged or poorly located stock and the provision of new social and affordable housing.
7. Supporting reforms to the National Construction Code that enable fast, flexible, innovative and affordable housing models, and that clarify approval pathways for Modern Methods of Construction including modular, prefabricated, volumetric and emerging technologies.
8. Establishing pilot programs that deliver affordable housing via innovative housing technologies.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Unlocking surplus public land to accelerate social and affordable housing supply	Frankston City Council
Social and Affordable Housing (State and Commonwealth support for councils to engage in delivery)	Boroondara City Council
Housing Contributions	Maribyrnong City Council
Homes Victoria	Maribyrnong City Council
Reforming the National Construction Code (NCC) to enable Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) for faster and more affordable housing.	Greater Dandenong City Council
Prioritising social housing and housing for Very Low- and Low-Income Households across Victoria.Dandenong	Greater Dandenong City Council

Note re consolidation: Housing Contributions motion paragraph 2 was excluded from consolidation because it is no longer relevant (the Planning Regulations Advisory Committee has been established and its resources clarified since the motion was lodged).

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C16.1 Unlocking surplus public land to accelerate social and affordable housing supply

Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to:

1. Work in partnership with local councils to identify and prioritise suitable surplus or underutilised state government owned public land to unlock opportunities for social and affordable housing supply, by:
 - a. Improving communication, transparency and information-sharing between Victorian Government agencies and local councils.
 - b. Identifying sites that can deliver a mix of housing types, including crisis and transitional accommodation, social and affordable housing and Aboriginal housing.
 - c. Resourcing councils in their enabling role to make better use of modern assessment tools and technology, building on the Local Government Housing Innovation Program led by the MAV and Greater Dandenong City Council, to support efficient, transparent and evidence based assessment of state government owned public land.
2. Establish a clear, time-bound and coordinated program to accelerate the release and development of suitable state government owned public land for social and affordable housing development, that:
 - a. Prioritises high-need municipalities experiencing significant housing stress and have limited council-owned land available for redevelopment.
 - b. Aligns redevelopment with council housing strategies, infrastructure capacity and open space planning to ensure homes are well-located.
 - c. Maximises affordable housing yield on public land to deliver long-term community benefit.
 - d. Prevents surplus public land being sold on the open market unless it delivers meaningful and measurable affordable housing outcomes in line with local policy objectives.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria is experiencing significant and growing housing pressures and addressing them will require coordinated action across all levels of government. One practical and timely way to boost the supply of social and affordable housing is to make better use of surplus or underutilised state government owned public land.

In well-established metropolitan municipalities like Frankston City, surplus council-owned land is extremely limited. This constrains councils' ability to directly influence the supply of new homes at the scale the community needs. By contrast, the Victorian

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Government holds significant portfolio of public land across its departments and agencies. When public land is surplus or no longer needed for operational purposes, it creates an opportunity repurpose land for long term community benefit through housing, including crisis, transitional, social, affordable and Aboriginal housing.

A coordinated, time bound program, led by Homes Victoria and delivered with councils and registered community housing providers, would create clear and consistent pathways for repurposing appropriate public land. This would give councils certainty about future redevelopment options, ensure planning and infrastructure needs are aligned, and maximise the amount of affordable housing that can be delivered on publicly owned sites. Strengthening collaboration and information sharing between State agencies and councils, and equipping councils with fit for purpose tools and capability, would make it easier to identify, prioritise and test potential sites.

While the Victorian Government has committed to unlocking surplus land for housing through initiatives like the Small Sites Program, no similar commitments have been made for Frankston City, despite its role as a designated activity centre experiencing rapidly increasing housing stress. This represents a missed opportunity, as areas like Frankston City present a clear opportunity for place-based activation of suitable state government owned public land for well-located housing that maximises long-term community benefit.

Targeting public land in high-need and well-serviced areas will help the Victorian Government to meet its housing targets, support local housing strategies and provide long-lasting community benefit by reducing homelessness. This approach aligns with Frankston City Council's Affordable Housing Policy, which emphasises partnership, well-located housing delivery, and a diverse mix of housing outcomes that respond to community need.

C16.2 *Social and Affordable Housing (State and Commonwealth support for councils to engage in delivery)*

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on state and commonwealth government to support local councils to facilitate delivery of social and affordable housing through:

1. Establishing a funding stream specifically tailored for housing delivery on local government land which does not rely on transfer of title, recognising council land is a long-term council asset.
2. Providing a first right of refusal on surplus State and Commonwealth land for transfer to local councils which want to engage in housing delivery to meet demonstrated local need.

Submitting Council Rationale:

State and Commonwealth government have the primary responsibility to respond to the housing affordability and supply crises. Without diminishing the State's responsibility to provide an appropriate distribution of social housing, local governments are now playing a much greater role in directly supporting affordable housing initiatives and are best placed to identify specific housing needs within their community that are not being delivered by the market.

Underutilised government land and 'air rights' are potential opportunities for local governments to facilitate housing outcomes specific to the local need. While councils have realised affordable housing outcomes using council land using a range of models, public land is a valuable community and council asset. It can be difficult for councils to relinquish title to land, and it is difficult for housing entities to secure funding without the security of title. A government backed funding product that works with long term leasehold interest has the potential to unlock more local government land for affordable housing without permanent transfer of a community and council asset.

In Victoria, surplus state government land is also being sold on market to the private development sector with small, non-specific and untargeted requirements for affordable housing outcomes (often no greater than 10%). Commonwealth sites are similarly being identified for sale to the private sector as the commonwealth is not in the business of directly developing housing. Councils know the specific housing needs within their communities and have an interest in them being met. Councils have limited capacity to compete with the private market for surplus government land and no control over the housing outcomes being secured through sale of government land.

C16.3 *Housing Contributions*

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Implement as a priority the new head of power under the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 which enables planning schemes to make any use or development of land conditional on the provision of an affordable housing contribution.
2. Seek guidance from the government as to the timeline for establishment and resourcing of the Planning Regulation Advisory Committee, which will recommend the regulations and operation of the affordable housing provisions.
3. Provide funding support to local governments to co-design template models for the management of affordable housing contributions, recognising the new provisions require distribution of affordable housing contributions be used within each municipality.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The successful operation of these new powers also relies on the timely establishment and proper resourcing of the Planning Regulation Advisory Committee. Councils require clear guidance on regulatory settings, contribution mechanisms and implementation pathways in order to integrate the new provisions within planning schemes and assessment processes.

Further, the legislation requires affordable housing contributions to be reinvested within the municipality in which they are generated. Local governments will therefore need robust, consistent and transparent models for the management, allocation and governance of contributions. State funding support is essential to co design these templates, avoid duplication across councils, and ensure the system operates efficiently and equitably.

Collectively, these actions are critical to enabling the planning system to deliver meaningful, timely and locally responsive affordable housing outcomes

C16.4 Homes Victoria

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Actively engage through Homes Victoria with local governments on its plans for current and future public, community and affordable housing; and
2. Include Local Government in the Homes Victoria's Portfolio Strategy Planning Program, which is establishing future strategy on renewal/upgrades of existing public housing, the sale of aged or poorly located stock and the provision of new social and affordable housing.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Local governments hold essential knowledge of community needs, land use constraints, and infrastructure capacity. Excluding councils from this strategic process creates unnecessary risk, including poorly aligned development, missed opportunities for co investment, and outcomes that fail to meet local housing demand.

The Victorian Government must formally involve local governments in Homes Victoria's strategic planning to ensure decisions are evidence based, locally informed and aligned with municipal housing and neighbourhood planning. Active, early engagement is critical to achieving well located, high quality social and affordable housing and to strengthening the partnership necessary to address Victoria's growing housing crisis.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C16.5 Reforming the National Construction Code (NCC) to enable Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) for faster and more affordable housing.

Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to support:

1. Reforms to the National Construction Code (NCC) to enable fast, flexible and affordable housing models that meet local needs through emerging/ innovative technologies.
2. The creation of clear and predictable approval pathways for Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) - including modular, prefabricated, volumetric, and emerging technologies - supported by NCC aligned pattern book reference designs and technical acceptance guidance to streamline assessment and reduce approval delays.
3. The establishment of state-supported pilot programs, planning guidance and building assessment pathways to accelerate the adoption of innovative housing technologies.
4. The provision of enabling funding, grants, and regulatory tools to reduce build times, lower construction costs, and expand delivery of fast, flexible, and affordable housing options across Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria must build 800,000 new homes in the next decade, yet construction output continues to fall significantly short. In 2024, fewer than 60,000 homes were completed - 20,000 below the annual target - due to outdated construction processes, supply delays, and regulatory bottlenecks. Modern construction methods, including modular, volumetric, and 3D printed housing, offer faster, more cost effective, and sustainable alternatives capable of reducing delivery times by up to 50%.

The current National Construction Code (NCC) was designed around traditional onsite building practices, creating barriers for offsite manufacturing, including slow alternative solution pathways and unclear certification standards for modular and prefabricated builds.

Although Victoria has introduced broader planning reforms, such as - 'deemed to comply' standards and Development Facilitation pathways - these changes do not provide dedicated streamlined approval pathways for MMC. Current reforms focus on the type of dwelling (e.g., townhouses, low rise apartments, second dwellings) rather than how the dwelling is constructed.

This means that even as homeowners benefit from faster approvals, there is no explicit incentive or advantage for choosing modular, prefabricated, or 3D printed housing over traditional piecemeal construction. As a result, most builders default to

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

conventional construction despite MMC offering greater speed, predictability, and reduced waste.

Examples from other Jurisdictions:

NSW's Modular Homes Pilot demonstrated that modular and prefabricated construction can deliver social housing around 20% faster, supported by the state's pattern book and streamlined approval tools.

WA's \$50 million Housing Innovation Fund invests in modular, prefabricated and automated construction technologies to accelerate supply and reduce costs.

The proposed NSW Building Productivity Reforms will create a single statewide approval pathway for prefabricated buildings, aiming to cut costs by up to 20% and halve construction times.

This motion supports Intergenerational Infrastructure, Climate & Regenerative Design, and Connected Places by enabling faster, low carbon modern construction and better integrated housing delivery aligned with long term community infrastructure needs.

Victoria has already taken a positive step toward supporting MMC through the Future of Housing Construction Centre of Excellence, however, without NCC reform and dedicated MMC approval pathways, the full potential of modern construction cannot be realised.

C16.6 *Prioritising social housing and housing for Very Low- and Low-Income Households across Victoria.Dandenong*

Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to ensure that all planning definitions, regulatory instruments, incentive frameworks, and housing policy mechanisms:

- Consistently prioritise and enable the delivery of Social Housing as the primary form of regulated affordable housing that supports households in greatest need.
- Clearly and explicitly prioritise outcomes for Very Low- and Low-income households, ensuring that these groups remain the central focus of all affordable housing obligations, contributions, subsidies, and planning agreements.
- Prevent the substitution of moderate income or discounted market products where these do not meaningfully meet community need or support households experiencing the highest levels of housing stress.
- Ensure transparency, accountability and measurability across all relevant regulatory and funding settings so that councils can assess whether delivered "affordable housing" genuinely responds to need.
- Align definitions and regulatory settings across planning, housing, taxation, funding and reporting frameworks, ensuring that government, councils, developers and community housing providers operate with a consistent interpretation that strengthens delivery of housing for people with the highest need.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria's current regulatory and policy settings allow "affordable housing" to be delivered across a broad income range, including moderate income households, because the Planning and Environment Act 1987 defines affordable housing as housing appropriate for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households. This broad definition enables developers to satisfy affordable housing obligations through moderate income or discounted market rental products rather than housing accessible to those in greatest need.

Evidence shows that Very Low- and Low-income households face the most severe barriers to securing appropriate housing, while moderate income households retain comparatively greater market access. The Victorian Government notes that although low to moderate income households may experience constrained choice, very low-income households often cannot access any affordable home, highlighting the inadequacy of current settings for those facing the highest housing stress.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

The lack of meaningful affordability for Very Low- and Low-income households is further demonstrated in Anglicare Victoria's 2025 Rental Affordability Snapshot, which found that only 0.8% of 16,219 rental listings statewide were affordable for people on income support, and that there were no affordable properties for singles relying on Youth Allowance or JobSeeker. This confirms that market-based "affordable" housing pathways rarely meet the needs of households most at risk of homelessness.

Affordable Housing Agreements under Section 173 also remain voluntary and commercially flexible, allowing developers to negotiate outcomes that do not prioritise Very Low- and Low-income households. MAV and the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) Vic guidance shows these agreements permit broad interpretations without requiring alignment to documented community need.

Fragmented definitions across planning, taxation, funding and housing programs contribute to inconsistent outcomes, enabling moderate income products to dominate delivery where deeper affordability is required.

Strengthening regulatory instruments so they clearly prioritise social housing and outcomes for Very Low- and Low-income households will ensure affordability mechanisms address genuine community need, prevent substitution with moderate income products, improve accountability, and better align Victoria's housing system with homelessness prevention and social equity goals.

This reform also supports MAV's priorities by strengthening Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, enhancing Connected Places, and advancing Resilience & Recovery through reducing housing instability and homelessness risk.

Consolidated Motion C17 – Roadside Risk Reduction and Data-Led Road Safety Management

Motion

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) to:

1. Allocate funding to investigate, trial and evaluate evidence-based initiatives to reduce harm to wildlife and road users, particularly in identified wildlife - vehicle collision hotspots.
2. Improve crash data capture, reporting and transparency to improve evidence based initiatives, by:
 - a. Increasing the accuracy of crash data, including mechanisms to record and verify crashes where police do not attend and/or no TAC claim is lodged;
 - b. Reducing the reporting lag between the date of a crash and the public release of verified data, supported by faster provisional reporting
 - c. Expanding local government access to enhanced crash datasets (such as RCIS);
 - d. Incorporating additional risk indicators (including near-miss reports, community-logged incidents, Council evidence and vehicle-damage-only crashes) into safety assessments and upgrade prioritisation processes;
 - e. Reviewing and updating prioritisation methodology to ensure locations with emerging or repeated lower-severity crash patterns can receive reasonable consideration for safety upgrades; and
 - f. Working collaboratively with local governments to develop a modernised, statewide crash reporting and road risk assessment framework that supports earlier identification of hazards and more effective investment decisions.
3. Introduce a new and substantial roads maintenance and vegetation management funding package and streams to be shared across councils and the Department of Transport and Planning to identify and address road safety, reducing travel time and 'last mile constraints' impacts for the freight and visitor economy affecting rural competitiveness and driver safety.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Funding for Wildlife Collision Reduction Trials	Nillumbik Shire Council
Improving Crash Data Capture, Reporting and Transparency to Support Local Road Safety Decision Making	Greater Bendigo City Council
Road maintenance and improvements.	East Gippsland Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C17.1 Funding for Wildlife Collision Reduction Trials

Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to allocate funding to investigate and trial initiatives to reduce harm to wildlife, particularly in identified key wildlife vehicle collision hotspots.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Findings from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Wildlife Roadstrikes in Victoria were handed down in November 2025, ruling that virtual fencing was ineffective in reducing the incidence of wildlife being injured on roads.

These findings align with advice from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the NSW Government, RSPCA and ecological experts. Collectively, their evidence states that current virtual fencing technology is largely ineffective and carries financial, safety and reputation risks for Councils.

The enquiry recommended that "further funding of virtual fencing should be tied to the emergence of new, more viable technologies only. All funding should be conditional on strict trials, statistically credible test design and data capture methodologies."

This motion calls on the Victorian Government to implement these alternative fauna protection and management trials in a bid to reduce the significant issue of increasing wildlife strikes on roads across Victoria.

C17.2 *Improving Crash Data Capture, Reporting and Transparency to Support Local Road Safety Decision Making*

Greater Bendigo City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government, Victoria Police, TAC and the Department of Transport and Planning to:

1. Improve the accuracy of crash data capture, including mechanisms to record and verify crashes where police do not attend and/or no TAC claim is lodged.
2. Reduce the reporting lag between the date of a crash and the public release of verified data, with a goal of significantly faster provisional reporting.
3. Increase transparency by:
expanding local government access to enhanced crash datasets (such as RCIS),
or
providing an equivalent interface with timely, comprehensive information.
4. Incorporate additional risk indicators (e.g., near-miss reports, community logged incidents, Council evidence, vehicle damage only crashes) into safety assessments and upgrade prioritisation processes.
5. Review and update DTP's prioritisation methodology to ensure that intersections with repeated minor crashes or emerging risk patterns can receive reasonable consideration, rather than being deprioritised solely due to a lack of recent serious injuries.
6. Work collaboratively with local governments to develop a modernised statewide crash reporting and risk assessment framework that improves the identification and delivery of road safety upgrades.

Submitting Council Rationale:

- An improved crash data system is needed to ensure:
- More accurate identification of hazardous sites where interventions could prevent serious road trauma;
- Earlier detection of emerging crash patterns, rather than waiting 4–7 months for data release;
- Better alignment between Council, State and Federal road safety priorities;
- Evidence based advocacy, supported by transparent and reliable data; and
- Equity of access, so all Councils can rely on consistent, timely data.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Local governments, being the closest level of government to community reporting, are well placed to assist in improving crash capture. However, doing so requires a reform led by the State, with MAV's support.

Background

Councils are often quoted crash statistics when trying to identify dangerous road locations, advocate for safety upgrades, and work collaboratively with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to reduce death and serious injury on the road network.

- Currently, Victorian crash statistics are subject to:
- A seven month reporting lag, as incidents are compiled by Victoria Police and verified before public release;
- Significant underreporting, where crashes with no police attendance and/or no TAC claim are not captured;
- Discrepancies between public data and restricted systems (such as RCIS), meaning publicly available data often understates the true crash history of locations; and
- A reliance on historic serious injury thresholds for prioritisation, which can disadvantage sites where near misses, minor injury crashes, or known risk factors are significant but not reflected in datasets.

These limitations reduce Councils' ability to:

- Identify and prioritise high risk local intersections and road segments;
- Accurately represent risks when advocating for upgrades;
- Respond swiftly to community concerns; and
- Participate effectively in evidence-based road safety planning.

In some cases, officers reviewing RCIS identify more incidents than appear in the public-facing dataset, demonstrating a gap that impacts transparency and decision-making.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C17.3 *Road maintenance and improvements.*

East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Make available a \$1.5 billion roads maintenance package to be shared across local government and the Department of Transport and Planning to deliver urgent road maintenance and vegetation management works across the statewide road network, addressing the diminishing quality and safety of the road network; and
2. Introduce a targeted funding stream to identify and address road safety, reduced travel time and 'last mile constraints' impacts for the freight and visitor economy, affecting rural competitiveness and driver safety.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The significance of this issue to the sector is underpinned by recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, which include:

- Increasing untied funding to councils within specific categories, such as roads, to allow councils greater flexibility in addressing local needs and to reduce the costs and administrative burden of applying for competitive, tied grants
- Providing grant programs that support asset renewal and maintenance to address growing asset renewal backlogs and the needs of local communities.
- Increased support and funding for weed and roadside management of State Government owned areas to assist local councils in maintaining safe and accessible road networks.

The motion also aligns to the Rural Councils Victoria State Election request for increased roads funding across three priority areas:

- Increased maintenance funding and standards for State owned roads across rural Victoria, addressing the diminishing quality and safety of the road network.
- Lifting freight and visitor economy performance and safety on priority corridors, addressing bottlenecks and 'last mile constraints' affecting rural competitiveness.
- Extending and expanding the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program (currently scheduled to expire in 2027).

Consolidated Motion C18 – Retain Sustainability Victoria and VicHealth

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Retain Sustainability Victoria and VicHealth as independent statutory authority's with a clear and well-resourced mandate to support local government in environmental sustainability and health promotion.
2. Recognise the critical role Sustainability Victoria plays in supporting councils to deliver circular economy, waste reduction, energy efficiency, sustainable procurement and climate action initiatives, and the critical role VicHealth plays in keeping communities across Victoria healthy, active and well.
3. Maintain Sustainability Victoria's council partnership programs, including circular economy capacity building, waste and recycling grants, sustainable procurement initiatives, carbon emissions measurement and reporting support, and targeted grant funding.
4. Maintain a dedicated, long-term funding base to continue VicHealth's critical work in health promotion, chronic disease prevention, and community well-being, acknowledging that councils have benefited from VicHealth-led and supported initiatives delivered through local settings.
5. Engage in genuine consultation with the local government sector and peak bodies prior to making any changes to Sustainability Victorian and VicHealth's role, funding or focus.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Retain Sustainability Victoria	Melbourne City Council
Protect and Strengthen Sustainability Victoria	Maribyrnong City Council
VicHealth: Public Health Prevention and Local Government Impact	Boroondara City Council
Support for VicHealth – Independence and Continued Funding	Melbourne City Council

C18.1 *Retain Sustainability Victoria*

Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That State Council calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Reverse its decision to abolish Sustainability Victoria (SV) and instead retain SV as a core state partner to councils in delivering circular economy, waste reduction, energy efficiency and climate action outcomes.
2. Retain SV as an independent statutory authority with a clear mandate to support local government and engage communities in environmental sustainability.
3. Maintain SV's council partnership programs, including circular economy capacity building, waste and recycling grants, sustainable procurement initiatives, carbon emissions measurement and reporting support, and targeted grant funding to assist local communities and councils.
4. Commit to genuine consultation with local government and peak bodies before making structural changes to agencies that directly support councils in implementing state environmental policy.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria faces major and urgent climate and biodiversity challenges.

The Victorian Government's Silver Review recommends abolishing SV and transferring its functions to other entities in 2026.

SV's unique value as a trusted, collaborative partner to councils and communities was not adequately considered in the Silver Review recommendation. Dispersing SV's functions across Victorian Government departments has the potential to dilute specialist expertise, fragment council relationships and weaken delivery of community-facing programs critical to achieving state climate and waste targets.

This puts at risk an integrated support model that has underpinned council and community action on waste, circular economy and climate for more than two decades.

SV is the primary state partner for councils on waste and resource recovery, circular economy implementation and community behaviour change. It delivers:

- Practical capability-building for councils (e.g. circular economy workshops and tools designed for local government decision-making).
- Targeted grants for council and regional waste and recycling infrastructure and innovation.
- Statewide public education campaigns that councils can align with, improving consistency and impact.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

As an independent statutory authority, SV can focus on long-term outcomes, work collaboratively with councils of all sizes, and respond quickly to emerging local needs.

Retaining SV will help ensure councils and communities continue to receive coordinated, expert support to deliver on Victoria's environmental policy objectives.

C18.2 *Protect and Strengthen Sustainability Victoria*

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Protect and maintain Sustainability Victoria as an independent and well-resourced statutory body responsible for driving sustainability, climate mitigation, energy efficiency, circular economy, waste reduction, and community climate action across Victoria
2. Recognise the critical role Sustainability Victoria plays in
 - partnering with local councils to deliver circular economy initiatives that are responsive to hyper-local needs;
 - supporting councils with sustainable procurement
 - waste and sustainability strategies
 - climate emergency strategies and action plans
 - data on carbon emissions
 - provision of accessible grant funding to local communities and councils.
3. Ensure strong collaboration with local government through ongoing funding, technical support, and data access, enabling councils to address climate and sustainability challenges effectively.

Submitting Council Rationale:

If Sustainability Victoria's functions are to be transitioned into the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, this must be done with full resourcing, protection of institutional knowledge, and preservation of external partnerships.

Any weakening of sustainability capacity at the state level risks undermining effective local climate action and Victoria's ability to meet its targets.

C18.3 ***VicHealth: Public Health Prevention and Local Government Impact***

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

- Calls on the Victorian Government to reverse its decision to abolish VicHealth, retain its independence, and maintain a dedicated, long-term funding base for health promotion and disease prevention.
- Acknowledges VicHealth as Victoria's independent statutory health promotion foundation, established with bipartisan support, and recognises its long-standing role in preventing chronic disease, reducing health inequity and improving population wellbeing across Victorian communities.
- Notes that Victorian local governments have benefited from VicHealth-led and VicHealth-supported initiatives delivered through local settings, including programs promoting physical activity, healthy eating, gender equality, respectful relationships and community wellbeing and reducing alcohol-related harm, and preventing tobacco use.
- Notes the strong evidence base demonstrating that investment in public health prevention and early intervention delivers significant economic and social returns, with estimates that every \$1 invested in prevention yields approximately \$14 in avoided future health and social costs, by reducing the incidence and severity of preventable and chronic illness.
- Expresses concern that the abolition of VicHealth as an independent body, or any reduction to its funding or prevention mandate, would weaken Victoria's public health prevention system, diminish support available to local government and community organisations, and shift avoidable health burdens into the acute health system.
- Requests that the MAV formally write to the Minister for Health and relevant Cabinet members to:
 - a) express strong sector-wide support for VicHealth's independence and prevention role; and
 - b) call for genuine consultation with local government and peak bodies prior to any changes to VicHealth's role, funding or focus.

Submitting Council Rationale:

VicHealth has been a cornerstone of Victoria's public health prevention system for nearly 4 decades. Its core function is to prevent illness by addressing the social, behavioural and environmental determinants of health, including physical inactivity, unhealthy diets, alcohol and tobacco harm, gender inequality and social isolation.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Local government plays a critical role in translating prevention policy into place-based action. Councils promote health through community, sporting and leisure facilities, early years settings, sporting clubs, immunisation programs, libraries, neighbourhood houses, public spaces and local partnerships. VicHealth's funding, research, evaluation frameworks and statewide campaigns have enabled councils to deliver evidence-based prevention activity at scale, while avoiding duplication and inefficiency.

The economic case for prevention is well established. For every dollar spent on public health, early intervention and prevention, \$14.30 is saved on future health costs by averting more costly and chronic health issues within the primary health sector. (Department of Health and Aged Care (2023), Health protection, preventive health and sport: Budget 2023–24, Australian Government. Available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/health-protection-preventive-health-and-sport-budget-2023-24.pdf>) Preventable chronic conditions are major drivers of long-term health expenditure and hospital demand. Investment in prevention reduces future costs, improves workforce participation and delivers broader social and economic benefits. Weakening prevention capacity risks shifting avoidable illness into the acute health system, increasing long-term costs to government and pressure on local services.

Independence has been central to VicHealth's effectiveness. As an arm's-length statutory body, VicHealth has been able to provide frank, evidence-led advice and addressed commercial and structural drivers of poor health, including alcohol, tobacco and ultra-processed foods. Loss of this independence risks narrowing the scope and impact of prevention activity.

2026 - Draft MAV Motions - V3.0

This motion affirms a unified local government position that a strong, independent and well-funded VicHealth is essential to an effective public health system, reducing long-term costs, and supporting councils to meet their health and wellbeing responsibilities across Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C18.4 ***Support for VicHealth – Independence and Continued Funding***

Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That State Council calls on the Victorian Government to:

- Recognise the critical role played by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) since 1987 in keeping communities across Victoria healthy, active and well and note that for every dollar spent on public health, early intervention and prevention, \$14.30 is saved on future healthcare.
- Commit to maintaining VicHealth as an independent statutory authority.
- Ensure VicHealth's funding continues at least at current levels to sustain its critical work in health promotion, chronic disease prevention, and community well-being; and
- Engage in genuine consultation with local government and peak bodies prior to making any changes to VicHealth's role, funding or focus.

Submitting Council Rationale:

VicHealth, established in 1987 as the world's first health promotion foundation, was created to improve public health and prevent chronic disease in Victoria through research, policy, and community initiatives. Its founding challenge was to transition sport away from tobacco sponsorship—since then, smoking rates have halved.

VicHealth's landmark initiatives include banning tobacco advertising, supporting the Cancer Council Victoria's QUIT and SunSmart programs, launching the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden and 'This Girl Can' campaigns, and establishing the state's first breast and cervical screening programs.

As a long-term partner of local government, VicHealth funds programs that support equitable and sustainable health outcomes across Victoria, for example, the Partners in Place program, which helps 20 councils strengthen local food systems for children and young people.

A 2025 review led by Helen Silver recommended abolishing VicHealth and folding it into the Department of Health to save \$45 million. This proposal ignores the cost-effectiveness of prevention and the value of VicHealth's independence from political and commercial influence. As *The Age's* political editor (11 December 2025) noted, every dollar spent on public health today saves \$14.30 in future costs and that "today's modest budget savings will be, quite literally, a killer in years to come".

Australia now ranks 27th of 36 OECD nations in preventive health spending, and Victoria invests the least per capita of any state. Reducing VicHealth's independence or funding would worsen community health, increase inequality, and drive up hospital demand and local government service costs.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 recognises the vital public health role of local government, from providing maternity and immunisation services to designing healthy environments through parks, bike lanes, and smoke-free zones. Councils amplify this impact through partnerships with VicHealth, which demonstrably improve community outcomes.

VicHealth's independent leadership, prevention mandate, and deep partnerships make it essential to the health and prosperity of Victorians. Dissolving it into the Department of Health would erode that independence, weaken prevention efforts, and ultimately cost lives and money.

Consolidated Motion C19 – Compensation and funding for climate damage

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to request the Federal Government::

1. Establish a National Climate Compensation Fund to meet the needs of communities on the frontline of climate impacts, including dedicated funding for local governments commensurate with the scale of financial risks identified in the 2025 National Climate Risk Assessment.
2. Establish a Climate Pollution Levy on coal, gas and oil corporations to raise the necessary funds to pay for the impacts of climate change caused by fossil fuels.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Introduction of a Climate Pollution Levy	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Establishing a National Climate Compensation Fund	Mount Alexander Shire Council
A Dedicated Climate Risk Funding Stream for Local Governments	Mount Alexander Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C19.1 Introduction of a Climate Pollution Levy

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Motion:

Calls on the Victorian Government's support and advocacy for introducing a Climate Pollution Levy on coal, gas and oil corporations, to raise the funds necessary to pay for the climate damage these corporations are causing.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Like most communities, Mount Alexander Shire is already paying dearly for the effects of climate change. The Bureau of Meteorology reports that "the past decade has seen record breaking extremes contributing to natural disasters that are exacerbated by anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change..."

The Australian National Climate Risk Assessment states: "Australia is experiencing more frequent and severe extreme weather events due to the changing climate. The impact of these is already being felt by every part of our society."

We are well aware of the costs of natural disasters here in Mount Alexander. In the last five years alone, we've suffered the January 2026 fires, the 2025 drought, the 2024 hailstorm and the 2022 floods. These events have caused deep pain and grief, alongside severe financial strain on households and this Council.

The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services (2024) (The Inquiry) found that "Extreme weather events driven by climate change are a significant cost pressure on Victorian councils." They go on to note the Municipal Association of Victoria's submission stating extreme weather events: 'strain emergency response systems; necessitate costly infrastructure repairs [and]; disrupt council services'.

The Inquiry's Final Report notes that damages in Greater Melbourne to council-owned community assets due to climate hazards could increase by a further 150% by 2050. It is reasonable to expect that rural communities will be impacted even more significantly. The most recent JLT Public Sector Risk Report has both climate change and 'disaster' in the top ten risks to local councils – highlighting 'limited disaster recovery funding' and the need for 'federal and state government support to bolster resilience...' Of course, this is affecting our households too. A recent report from Actuaries Institute acknowledges significant home insurance premium increases and states that these 'impacts are consistent with our expectations that climate change will increase pressures on home insurance affordability.'

Directly or indirectly, every member of our community is now paying a high price for climate change and projections show these costs will escalate. Meanwhile, those most responsible, the fossil fuel corporations, continue to benefit from billions of dollars in taxpayer funded subsidies and often pay little or no tax. This systemic imbalance means those most responsible for climate pollution contribute the least to its costs.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

The MAV notes “...that a \$10 billion fund is required to support local governments and communities across Australia to address climate change...” Without such a fund, the burden will continue falling disproportionately on local councils and everyday Australians.

It's only fair that it is the big polluters who foot this bill. Without decisive action to ensure they do; it will be local communities, and councils like ours, who continue to pay for the climate damage out of our own pockets.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C19.2 Establishing a National Climate Compensation Fund

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Motion:

Calls on the Victorian Government's support and advocacy for establishing a National Climate Compensation Fund to meet the needs of communities on the frontline of climate impacts and everyday households facing rising costs from climate change.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Like most communities, Mount Alexander Shire is already paying dearly for the effects of climate change. The Bureau of Meteorology reports that "the past decade has seen record breaking extremes contributing to natural disasters that are exacerbated by anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change..."

The Australian National Climate Risk Assessment states: "Australia is experiencing more frequent and severe extreme weather events due to the changing climate. The impact of these is already being felt by every part of our society."

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MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

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MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C19.3 ***A Dedicated Climate Risk Funding Stream for Local Governments***

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Motion:

A Dedicated Climate Risk Funding Stream for Local Governments Calls on the Victorian Government's support and advocacy for ensuring the National Climate Compensation Fund includes a dedicated funding stream for local governments, commensurate with the scale of the financial risks identified in the 2025 National Climate Risk Assessment.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Like most communities, Mount Alexander Shire is already paying dearly for the effects of climate change. The Bureau of Meteorology reports that "the past decade has seen record breaking extremes contributing to natural disasters that are exacerbated by anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change..."

The Australian National Climate Risk Assessment states: "Australia is experiencing more frequent and severe extreme weather events due to the changing climate. The impact of these is already being felt by every part of our society."

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The Inquiry's Final Report notes that damages in Greater Melbourne to council-owned community assets due to climate hazards could increase by a further 150% by 2050. It is reasonable to expect that rural communities will be impacted even more significantly. The most recent JLT Public Sector Risk Report has both climate change and 'disaster' in the top ten risks to local councils – highlighting 'limited disaster recovery funding' and the need for 'federal and state government support to bolster resilience...' Of course, this is affecting our households too. A recent report from Actuaries Institute acknowledges significant home insurance premium increases and states that these 'impacts are consistent with our expectations that climate change will increase pressures on home insurance affordability.'

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MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

in taxpayer funded subsidies and often pay little or no tax. This systemic imbalance means those most responsible for climate pollution contribute the least to its costs.

The MAV notes " ...that a \$10 billion fund is required to support local governments and communities across Australia to address climate change..." Without such a fund, the burden will continue falling disproportionately on local councils and everyday Australians.

It's only fair that it is the big polluters who foot this bill. Without decisive action to ensure they do; it will be local communities, and councils like ours, who continue to pay for the climate damage out of our own pockets.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Consolidated Motion C20 – Municipal Emergency Management Resourcing

Motion:

That the MAV advocates for the Victorian Government to increase the funding and support provided to local government as a core emergency management partner by:

- a) at least doubling the ongoing baseline funding for the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program to support councils' emergency management preparedness, response and recovery roles;
- b) requesting that funding for the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program is annually increased by the rate cap, to ensure councils can meet critical emergency management responsibilities;
- c) reducing reliance on short term or disaster specific grants; and
- d) ensuring any new emergency management responsibilities are supported with funding.

Which motions are being consolidated?	
Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program	Hepburn Shire Council
Emergency Management Planning and Preparation	Golden Plains Shire Council

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C20.1 Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program

Hepburn Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates strongly to the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Local Government to at least double the annual Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program funding provided to Councils, and also request that funding is annually increased by the rate cap, to ensure councils can meet critical emergency management responsibilities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The State Government allocates yearly funding to Councils through the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program aimed at helping them plan and prepare their organisations and communities for emergency response and recovery. While this grant funding is appreciated and has had a positive impact, there is an urgent need for additional resources to enhance our prevention initiatives. Unfortunately, funding for this program has not seen significant increases in recent years, and there is no annual increase in line with the rate cap (CPI or similar), and thus in real terms the State Government funding is reducing year on year.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

C20.2 Emergency Management Planning and Preparation

Golden Plains Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates for the Victorian Government to increase the funding and support provided to local government as a core emergency management partner by:

- a) doubling the ongoing baseline funding for councils' emergency management preparedness, response and recovery roles;
- b) reducing reliance on short term or disaster specific grants; and
- c) ensuring any new emergency management responsibilities are supported with funding.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils are critical emergency management partners, yet current funding relies heavily on short-term, event-based grants that limit long-term capability building. This creates workforce pressures, reduces preparedness and increases reliance on reactive funding models.

The issue is consistently raised across the sector. MAV advocacy adds unique value by coordinating a clear, consistent message to government and advocating for predictable, ongoing funding. The motion aligns with broader policy momentum on resilience and disaster preparedness and reflects repeated sector calls for funding certainty.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 21. Protecting Authorised officers as front-line workers

Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Amend legislation to recognise local government authorised officers as protected frontline workers, applying emergency worker level aggravated assault penalties for assault, threats, intimidation, or obstruction while performing - or because of - their official duties, regardless of the enabling Act.
2. Provide implementation guidance to Victoria Police and courts, and public communications reinforcing zero tolerance for aggression towards council officers.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Local government authorised officers face persistent aggression and assaults while performing essential public health, safety, amenity and compliance duties. Current protections, such as section 51(3) of the Summary Offences Act 1966, are narrow because they hinge on whether the officer is acting under that specific Act at the time, creating inconsistent coverage when officers are enforcing local laws or other statutes.

Aligning penalties with those that apply to emergency workers would provide clearer deterrence, support consistent charging and prosecution, and help councils meet their work health and safety obligations. Extending protections to conduct occurring while officers are performing - or are targeted because of - their official duties across all enabling legislation, coupled with guidance for enforcement agencies and public messaging on zero tolerance, will strengthen safety, improve compliance, and bolster community confidence.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 22. Local Government Victoria engagement

Knox City Council

Motion:

Request the MAV to advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Build on its submissions to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Community Consultation Practices and advocate to the State Government for Local Government Victoria (LGV to circulate a transparent, sector facing workplan, updated on at least a quarterly basis, to ensure the sector can plan for and allocate resources to allow Councils to meaningfully participate in State Government consultation on behalf of the communities they represent.
2. Call on Local Government Victoria to provide monthly circulars to the sector to ensure transparency regarding:
 - a. Statutory reform activities including timelines for parliamentary or ministerial consideration of bills and regulatory instruments (and changes to those timelines).
 - b. Timelines, milestone dates (and changes to them) for planned engagement activities with the sector (and changes to those timelines).
3. Call on the State Government, and particularly LGV, to provide genuine engagement opportunities for all reforms in which Local Government is a stakeholder, consistent with the Victorian Government's Public Engagement Framework 2021–2025; including:
 - a. Principle 1 (Meaningful)— by ensuring for all engagements the local government sector has "...adequate time, resources and opportunities to provide feedback before decision making" with an emphasis on transparent forward planning and promotion to ensure the sector and the community have opportunities to meaningfully participate.
 - b. Principle 5 (Accountable)- by issuing quarterly reports comparing planned vs actual engagement activities and timelines and explanations for any variances
 - c. Principle 5 (Accountable)- by ensuring the Engage Victoria platform transparently explains to participants whether and how and why their input did or didn't affect reforms / decisions.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The State Government's own Public Engagement Framework 2021–2025 sets the standard for how the State Government should conduct engagement.

Principle 1 (Meaningful) requires that the public has "...adequate time, resources and opportunities to provide feedback before decision making," and the Framework

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

stresses planning and promoting engagement so participants have the knowledge and time needed to provide informed contributions.

For the local government sector to meet this standard, councils must be given adequate lead time and visibility of the LGV workplan to participate in genuine and meaningful engagement - including time to consult with communities, council and staff. A monthly circular, reporting against the LGV workplan would provide a suitable forward schedule; enabling councils to plan for, allocate resources to, and effectively participate in engagement on reforms.

The Framework also expects engagement to be transparent and informed— clear about the process and influence, and supported by timely, accessible information. Publishing a regular, sector facing circular advances these principles by signalling what is in the pipeline, the current status of reforms and projects, and where input is most valuable.

Finally, Principle 5 (Accountable) requires that engagement be “measured and reported on” and that participants are advised how input affected (or did not affect) the decision. Regular reporting on planned vs actual engagement timelines gives the sector a consistent, practical feedback loop aligned with the Framework’s evaluation approach and outcomes for increased transparency and reporting of engagement activities and decisions. Together, an LGV workplan and monthly circular will translate the Framework’s principles into predictable, sector ready practice - lifting trust, participation quality, and the effectiveness of council contributions to State reforms impacting upon local governments and the communities they represent.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 23. Activating the volunteer workforce

Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to develop and manage a system for the pre-registration of people who would be available, able, and interested in forming an at-demand volunteer workforce to be activated during emergency events.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Disaster events bring out the best in community. This is often displayed through a willingness to chip-in and help. Whilst many people volunteer to be part of our emergency services, this option is not available or viable for everyone. Opportunities exist for non-emergency services volunteers to support and strengthen the response, relief and recovery efforts in many areas including but not limited to management of donations, manning of roadside information, and supporting the operation of relief centres. Many of these roles require limited training, and by establishing a database through which interested people could pre-register, training and activation could more be easily coordinated. There is a workforce out there who want to assist but are currently unable to do so. This register would fundamentally change how we are able to support communities suffering through the State's every increasing disasters.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 24. Funding to support urgently needed infrastructure renewal

Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to provide targeted funding streams to support local government infrastructure renewal programs.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The infrastructure 'renewal gap' at the local government level in Victoria is rapidly approaching crisis level. Whilst essential, renewal projects rarely attract external funding, and there are limited, sufficiently sized funding programs to support these activities. Renewal is required across all infrastructure categories, and without an increase in targeted funding programs this cost will continue to be disproportionately carried by local communities either through rate expenditure or declining infrastructure and service provision. The inability to fund effective maintenance programs reduces the life of our major assets. Coupled with this, modern building requirements and the incorporation of essential technology often imposes new, higher maintenance costs which have not been sufficiently considered in any life-cycle costing programs. The over-arching picture is one where local government renewal programs are under greater strain than ever before. Grant streams, ideally non-competitive, should be developed to uplift the renewal efforts of councils across Victoria. These programs need to be of sufficient size to ensure that the enable councils to substantially impact and increase their renewal activities.

Motion 25. Improving the Presentation and Maintenance of State-Owned Transport Gateways and Infrastructure

Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Establish increased and ongoing funding to improve the maintenance, presentation and renewal of State Government-owned transport infrastructure, with priority given to key gateway entrances, transport corridors and arrival points into cities and regional centres.

This includes state arterial roads, median strips, bridges, sound walls, rail corridors, railway stations and associated infrastructure that shape first impressions of communities and support daily movement across Victoria.

2. Implement relevant recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services.
3. Seek investment to prioritise:
 - i. uplift and beautification of major gateway entrances and transport arrival corridors
 - ii. proactive maintenance including mowing, pruning, litter removal and surface repairs
 - iii. graffiti prevention and rapid removal programs
 - iv. improved lighting, greening and public realm enhancements
 - v. pedestrian and cycling safety improvements along state corridors.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Gateway entrances and major transport corridors form the primary arrival experience for residents, visitors and investors entering Victoria's cities, suburbs and regional communities. These locations play a critical role in shaping perceptions of safety, economic vitality and civic pride.

Across Victoria, councils are increasingly reporting declining presentation standards along State Government-owned roads, rail corridors and transport environments, particularly at prominent entry points into activity centres and municipalities. Issues such as deteriorating road surfaces, unmanaged vegetation, graffiti, poor lighting and litter accumulation are becoming more visible across key gateways despite significant investment in major transport projects in recent years.

While infrastructure delivery programs, including rail upgrades and level crossing removals, have improved mobility outcomes, ongoing stewardship of surrounding assets has not kept pace with community expectations or asset usage levels.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Population growth, increased visitation and rising construction and maintenance costs are placing additional strain on existing infrastructure networks.

Local governments frequently receive community complaints regarding the condition and appearance of state-managed transport corridors, creating confusion around responsibility and placing reputational pressure on councils despite limited authority to intervene.

Industry analysis, including findings from the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO), indicates growing maintenance pressures across Victoria's road network, reinforcing the need for a stronger preventative maintenance and renewal approach.

Improving gateway environments delivers benefits beyond aesthetics. Well-maintained entrances support tourism, investment attraction, road safety outcomes and community wellbeing, while greening and lighting upgrades contribute to climate resilience and safer public spaces.

A coordinated funding and stewardship model between State and Local Government would enable proactive maintenance, targeted gateway upgrades and place-based improvements that ensure Victoria's transport infrastructure reflects the quality, liveability and economic ambition of its communities.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 26. Support for Delivery of Promised Outcomes in Victorian Big Build Projects

Banyule City Council

Supporting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the Victorian State Government to ensure that all Victorian "Big Build" infrastructure projects honour and uphold all commitments, safeguards and mitigations publicly promised to local communities at the time government sought support and approvals for those projects, for example; the North East Link.
2. Calls on the Victorian State Government to honour environmental, health, amenity and liveability commitments made to affected communities, including:
 - a. The concurrent delivery of local area traffic improvements with Big Build road projects, for example a 24hour truck ban on local roads.
 - b. The delivery and long-term protection of continuous habitat corridors to support biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and urban greening outcomes;
 - c. Effective measures to manage construction and operational impacts such as air quality, noise, vibration, traffic disruption, soil and water contamination, and community safety, for example pollution stack filtering and real time reporting.
 - d. A more proactive approach to the provision of on-site parking or park and ride arrangements for construction workers for the benefit of the projects and the community, and alleviating frustrations with community and Councils having to install exhaustive parking restrictions in local streets.
3. Supports local councils and communities by advocating for:
 - a. Transparent and timely reporting against promised project outcomes and mitigation measures, including the filtering of the pollution stacks;
 - b. Meaningful, ongoing engagement with councils and affected residents throughout construction and into operation;
 - c. Adequate resourcing and accountability mechanisms to ensure commitments are not weakened or abandoned over time.
4. Requests that the Victorian State Government recognises that community trust in future major infrastructure projects depends on governments delivering what was promised, particularly where communities have experienced significant disruption, loss of amenity or environmental impact.
5. Writes to the Premier of Victoria, the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, and the Minister for Planning conveying the MAV's position and seeking confirmation that agreed project commitments—including environmental protections, traffic management measures, and community safeguards—will be delivered as promised.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Submitting Council Rationale:

Many councils in Victoria are subject to Victorian Big Build Projects and many local communities affected by major infrastructure projects consistently raise concerns when promised outcomes are diluted, delayed, or not delivered. MAV advocacy can support the State Government in understanding these commitments made to community at the outset of these projects and ensuring that they are upheld.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 27. Melbourne Airport Rail

Hume City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call upon the Victorian Government to release a detailed construction timeline for the delivery of Melbourne Airport Rail.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Melbourne Airport Rail link was announced in 2018 by the Victorian Government.

It is hoped that the addition of a rail network connecting with Melbourne Airport will take traffic off roads in Hume City.

Since 2018, little progress has been made on the project thus creating doubt within the community as to when the project will be delivered.

Motion 28. Unfunded State mandates are placing pressure on councils and communities

Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to:

1. Acknowledge that the current approach of imposing new responsibilities, charges and levies on councils without proper funding is reducing services and driving up rates.
2. End the practice of unfunded mandates.
3. Simplify complex and inconsistent funding rules that add red tape and costs for communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The impact of cost shifting places significant pressure on Council's budget and ongoing financial sustainability in a rate capped environment. The consequence of cost shifting in a rate capped environment is a reduction in service levels to the community and infrastructure spending on community assets. Last year, Bayside absorbed over \$5.3 million in unfunded service transfers from other levels of government.

1. Emergency Services Levy: Higher State charges collected through rates.
2. Waste Levy: Increased landfill charges mean higher waste fees for residents.
3. Pet Registration Levy: State fee hikes passed on to owners, risking lower compliance.
4. New State fees for Immunisation Records—councils must absorb, pass on, or cut elsewhere.
5. Emergency Planning: Council contributes to the cost of the rental of the Moorabbin SES building and emergency planning software
6. Maternal & Child Health, Immunisation funding, School Crossings, and Public Libraries: State funding hasn't kept pace — councils now cover most costs for services meant to be 50:50.
7. Planning Reforms: Planning permit application fees set by the State Government do not cover the costs to deliver planning services to the municipality.

Bayside has recently redeveloped two new Life Saving Clubs at a cost of \$22.5 million with minimal contribution from State Government who are responsible for Life Saving Services across the state.

Recent State Government policy changes are expected to significantly affect Councils budget over the coming years requiring an investment of \$69.8 million.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

1. The introduction of a separate Glass Recycling bin as well as the requirement to standardise bin lids is expected to cost up to \$4.8 million and will be passed on to ratepayers through Councils Waste Service charge
2. Early Years Kindergarten Infrastructure is required to be upgraded to comply with State Government Best Start Best Life policy reforms which is estimated to cost Council \$65 million with an estimated unguaranteed State Government funding of \$18 million.

Motion 29. NDIS Reforms – Human Rights, Co-Design and Community Impacts

Moonee Valley City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria writes to the Victorian and Australian Government Ministers for Disability to:

1. Seek recognition that local governments are experiencing downstream impacts where children and adults lose NDIS supports, including increased demand on council-supported community, wellbeing, early years and inclusion services, without commensurate funding or role clarity.
2. Advocate for:
 - a. NDIS reforms to be genuinely co-designed with people with disability, families and disability-led organisations, in accessible ways, consistent with Australia's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
 - b. access to clear, adequately funded, rights-based alternative supports for any child or adult exiting the NDIS;
 - c. transparent, reviewable decision-making, including robust safeguards, qualified decision-makers and meaningful human oversight where automated or AI systems are used; and
 - d. reform implementation to avoid cost-shifting to local government.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Act 2024 commenced on 3 October 2024 and is now being implemented, introducing significant changes to eligibility, planning, reassessment and support pathways for people with disability, including children and adults.

There is growing concern from people with disability, families, carers and disability-led organisations within local government communities regarding the real-world impacts of these reforms, including:

1. reduced or withdrawn NDIS supports;
2. increased reliance on automated or AI-assisted decision-making; and
3. participants exiting the NDIS without clear, funded alternative pathways.
4. Proposed children's pathways, including programs such as Thriving Kids, represent a perceived shift away from the NDIS model of individual legal entitlement, individualised funding, choice and control, and transparent, reviewable decisions.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Under the NDIS, eligible children and adults hold an individual legal entitlement to supports based on assessed need. Under alternative program-based approaches, that entitlement is replaced with general access models, raising concern about reduced supports and diminished safeguards.

Local governments providing early years services (including Maternal and Child Health), community development, and aged and disability services are already observing increased demand as individuals lose or have reduced NDIS supports. Council's aged care services have reported an increase in former NDIS participants with complex needs, placing additional pressure on council-funded services and staff.

Without clear safeguards and funding arrangements, these reforms risk shifting costs and service pressures onto local government.

Motion 30. Expansion of the shared use pathway network

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes the increasing demand for shared use pathways (SUPs) as a source of leisure and recreation as well as a means of transport for school, work, sport and other activity.
2. Notes that while the Level Crossing Removal Project and Commonwealth grant programs have sped up the delivery of SUPs across Victoria, there are still many important gaps in the active transport network.
3. Calls on the Victorian and Commonwealth Government to increase the size and reach of Victoria's active transport network by
 - a. ensuring that appropriate major projects, including the LXP and SRL include SUPs as a key deliverable, and
 - b. continuing to support councils in the delivery of SUPs with funding and access to land for SUP construction along roadways, railways, verges and vacant government land.

Submitting Council Rationale:

All councils across Victoria have shared use pathways, and the expansion of shared use pathway networks will have health, economic and traffic-reduction benefit in proportion to the investment made by councils, the State Government and Commonwealth.

Motion 31. Greater resources and a sense of urgency for the flood mapping project

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that the Melbourne Water Flood Mapping Project is mostly behind schedule but is a critical piece of work to support planning and infrastructure decisions in many municipalities.
2. Calls on the Victorian Government to support Melbourne Water with the necessary resources and funding - and impose a strict deadline for the delivery of the work, noting that it is critical not just for councils, but also households, businesses, insurers and emergency services.

Submitting Council Rationale:

This is an issue that affects most of Melbourne, and has massive implications for residents and businesses in many locations. MAV has a role in speaking on behalf of all metropolitan councils to ensure the work is carried out not just promptly, but to the highest standards given the many decisions which will depend on Melbourne Water's work.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 32. Targeted Flood Mitigation Program for Critical Community Infrastructure

Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate for a targeted program to fund and deliver flood mitigation upgrades for critical community infrastructure, supported by co-funding arrangements and integrated catchment scale mitigation planning.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Recent flood events across Victoria have demonstrated the vulnerability of essential community infrastructure — including emergency services buildings, community centres, sporting facilities, and libraries — to increasingly frequent and severe weather events. Many facilities were not designed for current flood risk profiles, and councils face significant costs to retrofit or upgrade them. Without targeted funding, critical assets remain exposed, placing communities at risk and increasing recovery costs after flood events.

A dedicated mitigation program, supported by co-funding and integrated catchment scale planning, would reduce long-term disaster impacts, protect essential services, and improve community resilience. This approach aligns with national disaster mitigation principles, which emphasise proactive investment over reactive recovery.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 33. Wildlife Roadstrikes

Hume City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call upon the Victorian Government to implement all recommendations from the Legislative Council Inquiry into wildlife roadstrike in Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Wildlife roadstrike has far-reaching impacts that extend well beyond the initial collision. The consequences are deeply felt by the wildlife involved, the community members who witness or are affected by these events, and the volunteers and carers who bear the emotional and physical burden of response. While roadstrike is often measured in numbers, the broader impact on welfare, safety, and wellbeing is significant and growing.

Motion 34. National Disaster Recovery Funding Reform Disaster Funding arrangements

Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV writes to the Hon. Vicki Ward MP, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery and Federal Minister for Emergency Management the Hon Kristy McBain MP to undertake a review of disaster funding programs, ensuring they are designed for rural communities, recognising the compounding effects of consecutive disasters and a changing climate on rural and regional communities which includes but is not limited to:

1. Expanding funding allocations to address the unique costs faced by rural local governments, including emergency response, relief efforts, and rebuilding essential community assets such as roads, water infrastructure, and public facilities.
2. Funding and claims processes focused on enhancing long-term community resilience, including opportunities for betterment and improvements to infrastructure to withstand future disasters and reducing long term costs to State and Federal Government.
3. A streamlined, evidence-based claims process tailored for small rural councils, reducing administrative burden and supporting communities with limited resources while ensuring access to timely and effective relief.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Rural communities face unique challenges during disasters, including geographic isolation, limited resources, and infrastructure that is often more vulnerable to extreme events. Consecutive or compounding disasters place significant strain on small councils, which must manage both emergency response and rebuilding critical community assets. A tailored disaster funding program for rural areas is essential to ensure timely, effective support. Expanding funding to cover response, relief, and rebuilding, while prioritising community resilience and betterment, helps communities not just recover, but strengthen against future events. Simplifying evidence-based claims processes reduces administrative burdens on small councils, ensuring a greater focus on recovery.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 35. Coordination of Physical Donations During Disaster Events

Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to the Minister for Government Services to determine a framework and responsible agency for managing physical donations during a disaster.

Submitting Council Rationale:

During and after emergencies, there is an immediate and critical need to coordinate community donations in a structured and well-resourced way. Uncoordinated donations of materials can unintentionally create stress for already impacted communities, leading to confusion, duplication of efforts, or unmet needs. By establishing clear systems and dedicated support for managing physical donations, community can be confident that assistance is delivered efficiently, appropriately, and to those who need it most. This structured approach not only maximises the benefit of community generosity but also reduces the emotional and logistical burden on affected residents, allowing them to focus on recovery and rebuilding with greater security and peace of mind.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 36. Strengthening Municipal Disaster Response, Relief and Recovery Capability

Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) write to and meet with the State Ministers for Local Government and Emergency Services requesting the establishment and funding of a team, flying squad or shared pool of properly trained and experienced emergency specialist resources, to operate as a standing, state-supported capability, with ongoing training, accreditation and maintenance of best-practice skills. This capability would be quickly mobilised by State and Local Governments to assist councils during large-scale or complex emergencies, supplement local capacity, and lead or augment coordination of relief and recovery efforts where required, with minimal stand-up time.

This support should be available to councils during and after emergencies, providing access to consistent, high quality expertise when it is most needed, reduce reliance on ad-hoc arrangements, ensure resources are deployment-ready and already familiar with state, regional and council emergency management frameworks, help avoid councils having to duplicate effort by independently developing and maintaining specialist emergency management capability, and lift the speed, consistency and overall quality of support provided to communities affected by emergencies across Victoria.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils play a critical role in supporting communities before, during and after emergencies, alongside emergency services and state agencies. In recent emergencies, councils have been required to rapidly mobilise and sustain complex relief and recovery arrangements, often with limited specialist support and under intense pressure.

Councils regularly need assistance to understand the full impacts of an emergency on the community, coordinate and analyse impact data, set up systems to collect and report information, establish clear governance arrangements, and support required emergency management roles - all while continuing normal council business over extended periods, frequently under high-pressure conditions.

There is also often an urgent need for qualified resources to carry out inspections and damage assessments of public infrastructure, to enable timely safety certifications and informed decisions about access to impacted areas.

The MAV Emergency Resource Sharing Protocol provides an important mechanism for councils to support each other. However, it is designed to facilitate peer-to-peer support rather than provide a guaranteed, specialist surge capability, and relies on the willingness of other councils to offer help, and on the availability of suitably trained staff. In practice, the constraint is access to appropriately skilled, current and

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

deployable resources at scale. As a result, support is uncertain, difficult to predict and slow to arrange during fast moving emergencies.

Without more structured and reliable support, each council is left to build and maintain its own emergency capability “just in case”, leading to duplication, variable practice, inconsistent outcomes and avoidable strain on already stretched staff, particularly during the critical early stages of response and recovery.

A state funded, shared capability with currency of knowledge about emergency protocols and disaster-related funding arrangements would complement and strengthen existing MAV resource-sharing arrangements, with resources that are pre-identified, regularly trained, and proportionally contributed to by councils and state agencies according to size and capacity, providing a reliable, immediate, and scalable source of specialist support. This would strengthen council capacity while retaining local leadership and community led delivery - improving responsiveness and outcomes for affected communities, reducing disruption to normal council business and making more effective use of available resources across the sector.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 37. A National Disaster Impact Data Sharing Framework for Coordinated Response, Recovery and Privacy Protection

Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to and meet with the Victorian and Australian Government Emergency Ministers calling on both levels of government to lead the development of a nationally consistent legislative and data governance framework for natural disasters and major emergencies.

This framework would establish a harmonised, integrated system and single source of truth, enabling authorised agencies across all levels of government to securely collect, link and access information on impacts to people and property post emergency, across response, relief and recovery phases, to support humane service delivery, while ensuring strong privacy protections.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Natural disasters increasingly cross local and state boundaries, requiring seamless coordination across all levels of government. Effective disaster recovery depends not only on timely, reliable impact data, but on harmonising datasets so response and recovery agencies can work from a single, trusted source of truth. Currently, impact information is fragmented across jurisdictions and organisations, with no consistent framework to align data to property records or across systems, resulting in duplication, gaps and delays, particularly for local governments coordinating on the ground.

For people affected by disasters or major emergencies, repeated requests to provide the same information to multiple agencies are re-traumatising and dehumanising. A harmonised central system would enable authorised agencies to manage each interaction more humanely and compassionately, reducing the need for individuals to retell their experiences, ensuring people do not fall through the gaps.

A national framework should support interoperability across municipal, state and territory systems, include relevant insurance information, and embed strong privacy protections and opt-out provisions, while enabling timely, coordinated support throughout recovery.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 38. Targeted Tourism/Business Campaign by the Victorian Government for Disaster and Drought Affected Municipalities.

Colac Otway Shire Council

Motion

That MAV:

1. Notes that the recent natural disasters in Victoria (bushfires, floods and drought) have had a significant impact on tourism and businesses (financially, mentally and environmentally) within a number of rural municipalities (e.g. Southwest and Northeast Victorian Shires).
2. Calls on the Victorian Government via the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions to develop, fund and implement a targeted tourism and business recovery campaign, in partnership with the relevant local tourism organisations, business associations, and affected Councils to attract visitors and investors to the regions.
3. Requests that this campaign be specifically directed toward municipalities most affected by recent bushfires, floods and long-term drought conditions, including (but not limited to) Councils along the Great Ocean Road and Northeast Victorian Councils impacted by recent bushfire events.
4. Emphasises that such a campaign is essential to restore visitor confidence, support business recovery, and accelerate economic resilience in disaster-affected communities.

Submitting Council Rationale:

A coordinated, State-led campaign would help restore visitor confidence, support local businesses, and accelerate economic recovery in disaster-affected regions, complementing council-level recovery efforts already underway. In addition, recent world events will also impact the recovery of tourist areas that were impacted by the bushfires and floods due to the cost of fuel and the increase in consumables. It is timely to direct people from overseas travel to domestic destinations to help our regional businesses.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 39. Green Streets

Casey City Council

Motion:

That the MAV requests the Victorian State Government consider rolling out the Green Streets initiative across Victoria to achieve significant environmental and health benefits and modernise urban development approaches. Consideration should be given to integrating this initiative with Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The City of Casey, in partnership with developer Balcon, is delivering a groundbreaking and award-winning tree-first approach to urban development that redefines how we design our communities.

In a recent presentation to the Department of Transport and Planning, City of Casey requested DTP to amend what's called the Engineering Design and Construction Manual to include an 'addendum' for Green Streets. This Manual is used by developers and Council's across Melbourne to inform how streets can be designed.

Including 'Green Street' options would assist in progressing the State's policy objectives to improve tree canopy coverage, particularly in new growth areas.

Unlike traditional subdivisions that prioritise cars, Green Streets puts nature and people first, creating cooler, greener neighbourhoods that foster health, connection, and resilience. This innovative project aims to achieve over 30% canopy cover by planting 2 to 2.5 trees per lot — more than double the industry standard.

Key features include:

- Tree root growth zones with improved quality soil backfill.
- Integrated landscaping within street design.
- Circular economy principles, using sustainable construction materials.

Council believes that this initiative could be rolled out Victoria-wide to achieve significant environmental and health benefits and modernise urban development approaches.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 40. Unified Government Action on Climate Reporting Requirements for Councils

Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to provide a framework to support local government in determining the timing, scope and methodology of climate performance reporting.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Local Governments are preparing to start reporting on their climate performance to comply with new legislation introduced by the Australian Government. The legislative requirements are intended to improve transparency around climate related risks, impacts, and opportunities across commonwealth entities. There is currently no information that is specific to local government functions, responsibilities and capacities.

As a result, Victorian LGAs currently lack clarity on the reporting expectations that will apply to them. It remains uncertain whether local governments will be required to meet the same reporting standards as private sector entities, align with state level public sector requirements, or operate under a dedicated framework designed specifically for LGAs. This uncertainty limits the ability of councils to plan, resource, and prepare for compliance.

The Victorian Government is being asked to ensure tailored information is provided (based on the suite of national guidance materials that have been released for corporate and commonwealth organisations to prepare their climate related reporting) to assist the sector in preparing its reports.

Council officers support lodging the motion calling on the Victorian Government to provide clear, tailored guidance on climate performance reporting requirements for local government. This option recognises the sector-wide uncertainty created by new Commonwealth legislation and the need for a consistent, fit-for-purpose reporting framework that reflects local government functions, responsibilities and capacity.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 41. Sustainable and Climate Responsive Crown Land Management Framework

Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to work collaboratively with local government to develop a contemporary, climate responsive and sustainably funded framework for the management of Crown land that:

1. recognises the complexity and true cost borne by Councils in managing Crown land on behalf of the State;
2. streamlines and modernises DEECA approval processes to reduce administrative burden and improve project delivery;
3. ensures funding and capability support are aligned with the increasing costs of asset maintenance, regulatory compliance and climate related impacts; and
4. acknowledges the significant community, environmental and economic value of Crown land assets managed by local government.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils act as Committees of Management for significant areas of Crown land on behalf of the State Government. In doing so, they deliver essential governance, maintenance, compliance, community access and risk management functions that ensure these public assets remain safe, functional and accessible. While this role supports environmental, cultural and community outcomes, it places substantial cost, operational and legal responsibilities on local government.

In recent years, the demands associated with Committee of Management responsibilities have increased sharply. Councils are now managing:

- Escalating climate change impacts, including more frequent extreme weather events, coastal erosion, increased bushfire and flood risk, and growing biodiversity loss. These impacts require intensive environmental management, emergency preparedness, specialised technical expertise and costly recovery efforts.
- Accelerating infrastructure degradation and heightened public safety risks, driven by ageing assets, harsher environmental conditions and increased community use. Councils must undertake more frequent inspections, maintenance and renewals, often for assets they do not own and must rely on State approvals to proceed.
- Expanding regulatory, compliance and community expectations, including obligations relating to cultural heritage protection, environmental reporting, risk management, accessibility standards and transparent engagement. These requirements increase administrative effort and require skills and capacity that many Councils struggle to resource.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Despite these growing pressures, funding and capability support have not kept pace. Councils carry significant financial exposure and operational burdens for Crown land they do not own.

Given the complexity, scale and statewide nature of these challenges, there is a clear need for MAV advocacy. Strong, unified advocacy is essential to secure fairer funding, streamlined approval processes, clearer legislative frameworks and greater capability support. This will ensure Crown land is managed safely and sustainably, while protecting Councils from unsustainable and disproportionate burdens.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 42. Inquiry into the Adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Motion:

Calls on the Victorian Government's support and advocacy for establishing a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan, specifically addressing the lack of additional funding for local governments to deliver mandated adaptation responses.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Like most communities, Mount Alexander Shire is already paying dearly for the effects of climate change. The Bureau of Meteorology reports that "the past decade has seen record breaking extremes contributing to natural disasters that are exacerbated by anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change..."

The Australian National Climate Risk Assessment states: "Australia is experiencing more frequent and severe extreme weather events due to the changing climate. The impact of these is already being felt by every part of our society."

We are well aware of the costs of natural disasters here in Mount Alexander. In the last five years alone, we've suffered the January 2026 fires, the 2025 drought, the 2024 hailstorm and the 2022 floods. These events have caused deep pain and grief, alongside severe financial strain on households and this Council.

The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services (2024) (The Inquiry) found that "Extreme weather events driven by climate change are a significant cost pressure on Victorian councils." They go on to note the Municipal Association of Victoria's submission stating extreme weather events: 'strain emergency response systems; necessitate costly infrastructure repairs [and]; disrupt council services'.

The Inquiry's Final Report notes that damages in Greater Melbourne to council-owned community assets due to climate hazards could increase by a further 150% by 2050. It is reasonable to expect that rural communities will be impacted even more significantly. The most recent JLT Public Sector Risk Report has both climate change and 'disaster' in the top ten risks to local councils – highlighting 'limited disaster recovery funding' and the need for 'federal and state government support to bolster resilience...' Of course, this is affecting our households too. A recent report from Actuaries Institute acknowledges significant home insurance premium increases and states that these 'impacts are consistent with our expectations that climate change will increase pressures on home insurance affordability.'

Directly or indirectly, every member of our community is now paying a high price for climate change and projections show these costs will escalate. Meanwhile, those most responsible, the fossil fuel corporations, continue to benefit from billions of dollars

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

in taxpayer funded subsidies and often pay little or no tax. This systemic imbalance means those most responsible for climate pollution contribute the least to its costs.

The MAV notes " ...that a \$10 billion fund is required to support local governments and communities across Australia to address climate change..." Without such a fund, the burden will continue falling disproportionately on local councils and everyday Australians.

It's only fair that it is the big polluters who foot this bill. Without decisive action to ensure they do; it will be local communities, and councils like ours, who continue to pay for the climate damage out of our own pockets.

Motion 43. Biodiversity Strategies Including Weed and Pest Management

Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV in collaboration Strathbogie Shire Council meet with the Premier of Victoria to gain a commitment from the Government to:

1. Facilitate backburning in line with the 2009 Black Saturday Royal Commission recommendations
2. Provide local governments, as existing Crown Land Managers, an initial \$1 million per annum over the next four years to:
 - a. Revegetate and manage weed infestation in burnt areas
 - b. Map and manage local roadside vegetation and reserves
 - c. Manage Crown reserves, including the management of fire affected and hazardous trees and risks to public safety associated with bushfire impacts.
3. Funding for pest plant and pest animal management to be significantly increased and an ongoing commitment made to the funding to enable proactive weed and pest management to reduce future fuel loads and biodiversity issues.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Fuel loads across Victoria remain unacceptably high, despite the clear recommendations of the Black Saturday Royal Commission. Inconsistent prescribed burning and inadequate management of roadside and boundary vegetation continue to increase the speed and intensity of bushfires, placing communities and critical evacuation routes at serious risk. Roads and corridors should function as strategic fuel breaks, protecting lives and supporting firefighting operations. Instead, unmanaged roadside vegetation often acts as a fire accelerant, undermining bushfire prevention efforts and threatening public safety.

Local governments, as Crown land managers, play a vital role in fuel reduction, post-fire recovery, and the management of hazardous trees, weeds, and pest animals. However, without sustained and adequate funding, councils cannot meet these responsibilities or effectively manage escalating bushfire risks. The measures proposed expanded prescribed burning, targeted roadside fuel reduction, improved inter-agency coordination, and long-term funding support are proven, preventative actions that reduce bushfire risk and save lives. Immediate government commitment is required to address these long-standing gaps in Victoria's fire prevention strategy.

Motion 44. Funding Support for Roadside Vegetation Management Mapping

Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the Victorian Government to provide dedicated funding and technical support for Victorian councils to undertake roadside vegetation mapping and management planning, including the identification of biodiversity values, cultural heritage sensitivities, noxious weed presence and fire risk considerations across local government road networks.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Regional councils manage large rural road networks where roadside vegetation often represents the largest remaining areas of native vegetation within heavily cleared landscapes. These roadside corridors are also key pathways for the spread of declared noxious weeds and invasive plant species, which can threaten biodiversity, agricultural productivity and road safety. Without accurate mapping and data, councils face challenges balancing road safety, environmental protection, cultural heritage considerations, weed management and regulatory compliance. Providing dedicated funding and coordinated mapping support would allow councils to develop consistent, evidence-based roadside vegetation management frameworks, support targeted weed control programs, reduce environmental risk and protect important roadside ecological assets. Roadside vegetation in rural Victoria plays a critical role in biodiversity conservation, landscape connectivity and cultural heritage protection. However, these corridors can also act as pathways for the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species if not actively managed. Rural councils managing extensive road networks face significant cost and capability barriers to undertaking the detailed mapping required to manage these assets effectively. State support for roadside vegetation mapping would enable councils to better balance environmental protection, weed control, road safety and regulatory compliance, while strengthening the management of Victoria's important roadside ecological corridors

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 45. Explanation of the doubling of the Pet Registration fee

Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the State Government to provide a Submitting Council Rationale: for the 50% increase of the pet registration State surcharge, noting the cost-of-living crisis affecting Victorians; and that modelling is provided by the State Government around the impacts of these costs on registration compliance

Submitting Council Rationale:

Passed as part of the State Taxation Further Amendment Bill 2025, State government fees for all pets will rise from \$4.51 to \$9 per animal from July 2026.

The government has indicated that the additional revenue will be directed towards funding RSPCA Victoria's operations, including the work of its inspectors who are on the front lines of animal protection and cruelty investigations. Funding will also support broader animal welfare programs and essential pet management research.

Doubling of the fee in a cost-of-living crisis is a difficult decision, particularly for areas like Wyndham with high rates of pet ownership and lower socio-economic conditions. Further, higher costs may reduce registration compliance and increase the number of unregistered pets, and, as a result, reduce Council revenue. The flow on effect could see Councils absorbing more associated costs of animal management.

While Councils like Wyndham support the intent of the funding, we welcome an explanation of the doubling of these fees, and a discussion about more equitable funding revenue for animal welfare measures.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 46. Review of Domestic Animals Act 1994

Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That MAV call on Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to promptly initiate a legislative review of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and relevant companion regulations, to re set the penalty for nuisance animal infringements, and to ensure the Act:

1. Provides a contemporary legislative framework that meets the health and safety expectations of communities and governments, around the seriousness of nuisance animal offences and the adverse impact nuisance animals can have on neighbours and governments across Victoria and;
2. Strongly encourages compliance through appropriate education, complaint management mechanisms and realistic deterrents, such as appropriate infringements and court penalties.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) is Victoria's primary legislation for promoting animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and protecting the community and environment. The Domestic Animals Regulations (the Regulations) were remade under the Act in November 2025.

Section 32 of the Act defines an animal as a nuisance if it causes harm or persistently disrupts others' peace, typically through excessive barking. This is the primary tool for managing barking dog complaints, which are often distressing and a major source of neighbourhood conflict leading to health and safety impacts for residents. Resolving these disputes requires significant time and effort from complainants and Council Animal Management teams, who collect evidence over weeks or months before any penalties are considered.

Despite these efforts, the infringement penalty for owners of nuisance animals was reduced to a modest fifty-one dollars (\$51), which fails to motivate owners to address their pet's behaviour. Many may simply pay the fine and ignore the warning, leading Councils to escalate matters to the Magistrates Court for Orders, unnecessarily burdening the Victorian justice system.

Additionally, the Victorian Government proposes higher fees for unpaid infringements, meaning that after missing one payment deadline, people face another penalty near equal to the original more serious offence.

In anticipation of the Regulations being sunsetted in November 2025, the Victorian Government invited Councils to provide feedback on a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). All thirty-one submissions from local Councils opposed the proposed decrease in the infringement penalty for nuisance offences under s. 32(4) of the Act for the above reasons.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

The Regulations review led to the infringement penalty being reduced by 50% of the statutory penalty. The Victorian Government argued this is now proportionate and acknowledged that many Council concerns were beyond the scope of the Regulations and increasing the statutory penalty would require legislative change to the Act.

Legislative reform is therefore crucial to ensure the Act remains effective and reflective of community and Local Government's expectations, given the impact of nuisance animals. An effective framework of complaint management mechanisms and deterrents are essential for compliance. Sector experience demonstrates, low penalties are unlikely to motivate owners to control nuisance animals.

Motion 47. Rural and Regional Rail Capacity Improvements

Corangamite Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. Advocate to the Victorian Government for a statewide program of rural and regional rail capacity improvements, including station platform extensions, to ensure rural and regional train services can operate modern rolling stock at full length and meet growing passenger demand across Victoria.
2. Highlight that many rural and regional platforms across the V/Line network are currently too short to accommodate six carriage VLocity trains, limiting capacity, reducing service reliability and contributing to overcrowding on long distance routes.
3. Emphasise that enabling longer trains on all major rural and regional corridors is critical to equitable access, network resilience, operational efficiency and rural and regional economic development across the state.
4. Advocate that platform extension works be prioritised on corridors where demand growth, service pressures and infrastructure gaps are most acute including, but not limited to, the Warrnambool–Melbourne line.
5. Engage with the Minister for Public and Active Transport and the Department of Transport and Planning to progress these works as part of a coordinated statewide approach to modernising rural and regional rail infrastructure.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Across Victoria, demand for rural and regional rail continues to grow, with many long distance routes experiencing overcrowding and constrained seating capacity due to platforms that are not long enough to support six carriage VLocity operation. This limits the ability of the V/Line network to respond to patronage growth, deliver consistent service quality and operate new rolling stock at full capability. A statewide, programmatic investment in platform extensions would improve equity of access, safety, reliability and operational flexibility across all major rural and regional corridors, including the Warrnambool–Melbourne line.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 48. Protecting live music through precinct amendments to planning schemes, better designed regulatory controls and support to artists and the industry

Yarra City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the Victorian Government to protect local, live music scenes through planning scheme amendments, more flexible regulatory controls for small and medium size venues, and financial support for artists and grassroots festivals.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Live music is part of Melbourne's identity and economic/cultural fabric.

Live music brings people together, cutting across social, cultural and generational barriers. Live music stimulates local economies and night-time activations.

Our live music industry is in trouble. Small and medium size venues are struggling and more will close without support from the Victorian Government.

Other governments, including NSW, are acting to save their industries with investment, planning and regulatory reforms.

Live music venues and performers are under increasing pressure from rising rents, higher operating costs and broader cost-of-living challenges. Many are struggling to obtain public liability insurance, with those able to secure insurance experiencing premium increases up to 800%. Liquor Control Victoria's licensing and security requirements continue to treat live music as "high risk".

The Victorian Government must act now to protect live music by:

1. Supporting Councils in establishing live music precincts in planning schemes, such as the one adopted in the City of Port Phillip. This would give clarity on how live music uses have to be considered by new residential development to reduce conflicts and support the sector.
2. Reducing regulatory controls and red tape that is inhibiting the industry:
 - a) Remove the one size fits all approach that underpins current regulations, especially the Liquor Licensing Risk Matrix and
 - b) Review noise regulations and reduce contradictory mechanisms for noise measurements to decrease barriers to new and emerging live music venues
3. Supporting artists and the industry in the form of:
 - a) upgrades to venues, grants to music makers and music producers
 - b) Offer under 25s a "cultural pass" to spend on live music in small venues
 - c) More funding to local live music festivals, in particular, those sponsored by Councils.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 49. Non-LED Street Lighting Replacement Rollout Transparency

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria seek a commitment from the Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP) in Metropolitan Melbourne to provide the prioritisation of works, future OMR charges, cost benefits, and timelines for the planned program in 2026-2031 to replace all existing non-LED lights with LEDs in metropolitan Melbourne. This will allow metropolitan Councils to know when their lighting network is scheduled for renewal.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The purpose of this motion is to engage the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council to request a commitment from the Distribution Network Service Providers in Metropolitan Melbourne to provide the prioritisation of works, future OMR charges, cost benefits, and timelines for the planned Non-LED Street Light Replacement covering 2026-2031.

Currently, the standard practice of Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP) in managing the street lighting network of Councils is to replace any existing lights with an LED equivalent when the existing light reaches the point of failure.

The DNSPs across Victoria have now planned a proactive program for the period 2026-2031 to replace all existing non-LED lights with LEDs. There are no upfront costs to Councils however OMR costs will increase in the short term to cover these costs. These increases are expected to be offset by the reduced supply costs for Council moving forward.

The DNSPs current plan is to replace older style lighting with an LED wattage equivalent. As part of this rollout program, Councils have the opportunity to determine the replacement light.

At present, there has not been a lot of detail or transparency provided to metropolitan councils regarding the program. In particular, details covering the prioritisation of works, future OMR charges, cost benefits, and timelines for the planned program.

The purpose of this motion is to engage the MAV to seek a commitment from the Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP) in Metropolitan Melbourne to greater transparency regarding the finer details of the program in addition to the areas mentioned above. This transparency will provide better clarity to Melbourne metropolitan Councils to know when their lighting network is scheduled for renewal and to understand the cost benefits involved.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 50. Need for increased enforcement of Personal Watercraft regulations (specifically jet skis)

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. implement increased enforcement measures to ensure regulation of the five-knot Personal Water Craft (PWC) speed limit within 50 metres of swimmers, vessels or structures and 200m of the shoreline in coastal/enclosed waters.
2. Boost surveillance and increase police patrolling during summer to ensure speed limit compliance, targeted CCTV pilots and drone monitoring in high-use areas and establish a reporting hotline for inappropriate use.
3. Enhanced licensing and education to ensure safe and enjoyable use of the state's waterways, including coastal, inland lakes and marine environments.

Submitting Council Rationale:

As the level of government responsible for regulating and enforcing personal watercraft (PWC) conduct, councils supporting the MAV motion have advocated to the Victorian Government for several years to introduce stronger enforcement measures.

With the growing popularity and increasing capability of jet skis, there is an urgent need for enhanced police enforcement and greater physical separation between PWCs and swimmers.

Councils continue to receive rising community complaints about the safety risks posed by unsettling and reckless behaviour, particularly during summer, and the impacts on residents, visitors and marine life.

Each summer, dangerous jet ski behaviour attracts national media attention across Bayside municipalities and generates strong community backlash, often resulting in petitions to local Members of Parliament.

The size of Bayside municipalities' coastlines and their large tourist populations heighten these risks, making local beaches frequent high conflict zones for swimmers and jet ski riders.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire-led motion aligns with the Association of Bayside Municipalities Strategic Plan 2025–2029, which includes advocating for improved PWC licensing, enforcement and education.

The plan was endorsed in September 2025 by all eight member councils: Bayside, Frankston, Greater Geelong, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Port Phillip and Wyndham City councils and Mornington Peninsula Shire.

The Plan's 'Human Use and Safety' pillar calls for a coordinated approach to maintaining safe, sustainable environments that support community enjoyment of the

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Bay, including stronger licensing requirements, targeted education and more visible enforcement.

By the end of January 2026, the Water Police Squad had responded to more than 500 incidents, prompting a public water safety warning ahead of the Australia Day long weekend. One hundred callouts involved dangerous jet ski behaviour, including speeding and travelling too close to swimmers.

Recent examples include jet skis hooning near swimmers at St Kilda Pier and exceeding speed limits in Mount Martha. 280 infringement notices were issued, most relating to jet skis, with the Mornington Peninsula identified as a key offending location, accounting for nearly 100 of the issued notices.

MAV support would add value by increasing profile and advocacy to the Victorian Government. The MAV could also coordinate advocacy across the most impacted councils across the state.

With increasing near miss incidents and escalating community concern, unsafe PWC practices will continue to endanger public safety and harm marine life.

Motion 51. Strengthening acute mental health responses across Victorian communities

Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That State Council calls on the Victorian Government to urgently implement the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System recommendations by strengthening acute mental health responses across metropolitan, regional and rural communities through:

1. Increased investment in spaces for recovery and respite facilities that are consumer-led, giving people the environment and support needed to recover during an acute mental health episode or crisis. (As referenced in Royal Commission Recommendation #9)
2. Expansion of assertive engagement services and strengthened service system connectivity at critical transition points, including from hospital to community-based care, to proactively support individuals to find long term solutions to stabilise their mental health. (As referenced in Royal Commission Recommendation #8)
3. Establishing or expanding Adult and Older Adult Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Services across Victoria, based on highest needs, to function as a broad and accessible front door to the mental health system. This service would provide integrated intake, outreach, and brief intervention, culturally safe supports, care planning and coordination, and expanded wellbeing (psychosocial) supports, with strong links to alcohol and other drugs services, housing, justice and primary care. (As referenced in Royal Commission Recommendation #3)
4. Ensure that emergency responses supporting people experiencing acute mental health crises are health-led, with joint responses between police and ambulance services supported by access to specialist mental health clinical services. (As referenced in Royal Commission Recommendation #10)

Submitting Council Rationale:

Metropolitan, regional and rural councils across Victoria are observing rising numbers of people experiencing complex and acute mental health challenges in the community.

While significant reforms are underway across Victoria's mental health system, community and service-sector feedback indicates that residents, workers, students and visitors in the City of Melbourne continue to face barriers to timely and appropriate mental health support. This is especially the case for people experiencing homelessness, crisis or acute mental health challenges, and co-occurring alcohol and other drug concerns.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

In some cases, the impacts of unmet mental health needs are visible in public spaces. These visible experiences often reflect deeper social and structural factors such as financial stress, homelessness, family violence and substance use.

At times, this distress can escalate to presentations that raise safety risks for the individual, workers and the broader community.

The City of Melbourne is currently undertaking a rapid sprint with external stakeholders to refine advocacy asks in the acute mental health space, with the following emerging statewide priorities:

- Expansion of assertive engagement services that provide non-clinical long term case management support to strengthen service system connections at critical transition points and proactively support individuals to find long term solutions to stabilise their mental health.
- Increased investment in spaces for recovery and respite facilities that are consumer-led and give people the environment and support needed to recover during an acute mental health episode or crisis.
- Establishment or expansion of Adult and Older Adult Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, including one in the City of Melbourne, but equally needed in regional and rural Victoria.
- Health-led emergency responses for people experiencing acute mental health crises, with joint responses between police and ambulance services supported by access to specialist mental health clinical services.

A strengthened statewide acute response system will connect people to the right supports at the right time to prevent crises from escalating, reduce avoidable demand on hospitals and police, and deliver better recovery outcomes for people experiencing mental health challenges across Victoria.

Motion 52. Building Safer, Inclusive Communities

Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. Request the Victorian Government fund Victoria's 79 local government areas (LGAs) to deliver local, place-based initiatives that strengthen community safety and social inclusion. The initiative proposes:
 - a) Provision of place based and needs based multi year funding to Councils via an equitable distributed model
 - b) Funding will be administered by Councils through their existing community grants programs and partnerships with local organisations. Each LGA will encourage community groups and organisations to submit grant applications for either community safety and crime prevention, and/or social inclusion and anti-discrimination initiatives.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The City of Boroondara is working with Councils in Melbourne's east to address emerging challenges in community safety and social cohesion issues. Through this collaboration, 2 critical themes have emerged: community safety and crime prevention, and social inclusion and anti-discrimination. These concerns require coordinated action and sustained investment from the Victorian Government.

Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Metropolitan Melbourne is experiencing significant increases in crime that are impacting community wellbeing. Aggravated burglaries have risen dramatically, with incidents increasing by 143% since 2016. The incident rate per 100,000 population has more than doubled from 53.6 to 114.8 by 2025. Similarly, graffiti-related property damage shows a steady upward trend, recording over 2,600 annual incidents in 2025 compared to 1,971 a decade prior. Small businesses in local shopping centres are particularly affected, experiencing increased vandalism and theft that creates a persistent sense of vulnerability in areas with repeated criminal activity.

Rough sleeping and visible homelessness have also escalated across the region. While comprehensive data is not collected for each local government area, the City of Boroondara alone received a threefold increase in reports about people rough sleeping in 2025, with 255 reports compared to 85 in 2024. Many individuals sleeping rough have complex support needs, yet adequate wraparound services and outreach support remain insufficient to address this growing challenge.

Social Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination

Reports of racism and racial vilification, including antisemitic incidents, are creating distress and fear within communities. The 2023 Victorian Population Health Survey found that 8.6% and 16.3% of Metropolitan Melbourne adults respectively

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

experienced racism and discrimination. The 2025 Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion report reinforces these concerns, finding that 16% of Australian adults experienced discrimination based on their skin colour, religion or ethnic origin in the past twelve months and 67% believe racism is a fairly or very big problem in Australia.

Why this partnership initiative?

This initiative enables the Victorian Government, councils and communities to deliver practical, community-led action that is:

- place-based and can be customised to local needs - allowing each community to design solutions that respond directly to their unique issues
- scalable and delivers impact across the state - with small, targeted investments at the community level generating meaningful, system-wide impact, and
- harnesses the power of communities to find local solutions - whereby Councils partner with trusted local organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, libraries, schools, community groups and Victoria Police, to strengthen relationships, improve communication through verified channels, and deliver practical, inclusive programs that communities trust and engage with.

Funding would support education projects such as home security audits, safety workshops, community forums and safe number plate days. Education campaigns and cultural awareness workshops would address discrimination, while community events would promote diversity and respect.

Motion 53. Strengthening Funding for Victoria's Neighbourhood Houses

Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Highlight the essential contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community resilience, social inclusion, lifelong learning and early intervention support, and emphasise the need for investment that keeps pace with population growth and increasing community complexity.
2. Review the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) funding model to ensure it accurately reflects contemporary service demand, workforce pressures and the expanding scope of community support delivered by Neighbourhood Houses.
3. Commit to an immediate 25% increase to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing NHCP-funded hourly rate, in recognition of rising staffing and operational costs, increasing community reliance on Neighbourhood Houses and their critical role in supporting local wellbeing and social connection.
4. Commit to funding five new Neighbourhood Houses in growth areas each year, aligned with demonstrated population pressures and expanding community need.
5. Review NHCP indexation formulas, noting that indexation has not kept pace with real cost increases, resulting in many Neighbourhood Houses now requiring 100% of NHCP funding to cover staffing costs, leaving no funding for operational expenses.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Neighbourhood Houses play a vital role in building healthy, vibrant and resilient communities. They enable people to participate in community life and the local economy through programs that promote social inclusion, skills development, improved health and wellbeing, and volunteering opportunities.

However, information from the sector peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, shows that rising costs and growing community needs mean current funding levels are no longer adequate, with nearly half of all Victorian Neighbourhood Houses operating at a loss in 2023 and 2024.

For Frankston City's eight Neighbourhood Houses, the community impact is significant, with:

- 112 employees
- 107 volunteers annually
- 281 volunteer hours per week

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

- 5,160 participant hours per week
- 9,997 program sessions annually
- 95–98% of participants reporting positive wellbeing impacts (emotional, physical and social)

The Minister for Carers and Volunteers has acknowledged the importance of Neighbourhood Houses and confirmed that any additional funding is dependent on annual State Budget decisions, highlighting the need for strong, sector-wide advocacy.

A meaningful commitment to increased funding is essential to secure the future of the sector. Without responsive and sustainable investment, Neighbourhood Houses will be unable to meet rapidly growing community needs, retain skilled staff, or deliver the essential services communities rely on. Strengthening the NHCP is critical to safeguarding equitable access, community resilience, and long-term wellbeing outcomes across Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 54. Advocating for Consistent State Funding of Lifesaving Services and Protection Against Cost-Shifting.

Frankston City Council

Motion

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Guarantee recurrent, fully State-funded lifesaving services across Victoria's coastal municipalities, ensuring equitable access to safe and supervised beaches for all communities.
2. Affirm that paid lifeguard services and associated lifesaving operations are essential public safety infrastructure and a core responsibility of the Victorian Government, and must be fully State-funded, including emerging technologies such as drones and helicopters, with no cost-shifting to local government, service users, community organisations or other stakeholders.
3. Implement a transparent and consistent funding framework for Life Saving Victoria that provides certainty for councils and service providers, and avoids ad hoc, annual or short-notice funding requests to municipalities.
4. Work collaboratively with MAV and member councils to establish a sustainable, long-term funding model that reflects growing coastal visitation, climate-driven risk, population growth, and tourism pressures.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victorian coastal communities are experiencing sustained growth in visitation to beaches and foreshore areas, with demand intensifying during summer, extreme heat events and peak tourism periods. At the same time, drowning risk in coastal waters has increased, underscoring the importance of reliable, well-resourced lifesaving services as a core public safety function.

Recent approaches by Life Saving Victoria seeking additional financial contributions from councils, often on an annual or short-notice basis, represent a concerning shift away from a fully State-funded service model. In some cases, councils are being asked to contribute significant unbudgeted funds to maintain existing service levels, creating financial uncertainty and inequity across municipalities.

This approach risks establishing a precedent for cost-shifting State responsibilities to local government, undermining councils' ability to plan responsibly and deliver essential services. It also creates inconsistency in beach safety outcomes depending on a council's financial capacity, rather than community need or risk profile.

Lifesaving services are fundamental to public safety and should be delivered through a clear, equitable and recurrent State funding framework. A consistent model would provide certainty for councils and Life Saving Victoria, support effective workforce and service planning, and ensure all Victorians can access safe, supervised coastal environments.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

This motion seeks sector-wide advocacy through MAV to secure clarity, accountability and sustainability in the funding of lifesaving services, and to protect councils from inappropriate cost-shifting while safeguarding community wellbeing.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 55. Engagement Programs and services for Children Aged 8 to 12 Years

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to secure funding for Children Aged 8 to 12 Year services such as engagement programs, early leadership programs, cyber safety, body image, self-esteem and mental health topics to be provided for primary school aged children.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Recently, data has shown rapidly increasing rates of children experiencing these challenges from a younger age, demonstrating the need for intensive engagement programs for children aged 8 to 12 years as an early intervention and prevention approach.

Motion 56. Land Banking

Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to introduce and implement policy, legislative and economic reforms to strengthen the link between planning approval and timely outcomes on vacant and underutilised sites within designated activity centres, including the delivery of housing and mixed-use development or interim land activation, by:

1. Introducing enforceable commencement timeframes following the grant of a planning permit, in order to discourage prolonged inactivity on approved residential and mixed-use development sites.
2. Establishing clear and consistent frameworks that enable or require temporary activation of approved but undeveloped land where construction has not commenced within a defined period, so the community sees benefit in the interim
3. Reviewing land tax, vacant and undeveloped land taxes, infrastructure contributions, and related settings to reduce incentives for long-term vacancy and support timely housing delivery; and
4. Strengthening alignment between planning approvals, infrastructure investment, and precinct renewal funding to support sustainable, coordinated, and timely housing and precinct development.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils operate within this State-designed framework and have limited statutory authority and financial capacity to compel delivery or fund interim activation, with key legislative, regulatory and taxation levers controlled by the Victorian Government.

Prolonged inactivity delays housing supply, constraints economic activity and undermines the intended role of activity centres. Stronger alignment between planning approval, economic settings and delivery outcomes is therefore necessary to support timely housing and mixed-use development.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 57. Exempting council owned land from the Windfall Gains Tax when rezoned for social or affordable housing.

Greater Dandenong City Council

Supporting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to amend the Windfall Gains Tax Act 2021 to:

1. Exempt council owned land from the Windfall Gains Tax (WGT) when rezoned for the purpose of delivering social or affordable housing.
2. Apply this exemption where rezoning is initiated by councils for a clear public benefit, including:
 - a) Council delivered or council facilitated social or affordable housing;
 - b) Mixed use developments that incorporate a mandated proportion of social or affordable housing; and
 - c) Community oriented development outcomes.
3. Ensure that where councils retain or lease land for housing or community use, the land is not subject to WGT obligations, recognising that councils are public entities delivering community benefit - not private developers seeking uplift value.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils play a critical role in unlocking land for social and affordable housing, yet the WGT creates a significant barrier when Council owned land is rezoned for community benefit purposes. When land is rezoned for housing, councils can incur WGT liabilities in the order of millions of dollars, making many otherwise viable social and affordable housing projects financially unfeasible. Although the tax was introduced to capture private rezoning windfalls, its application to Local Government undermines public policy goals, discouraging councils from repurposing surplus land even when such rezoning aligns with long term community needs.

Under the Windfall Gains Tax Act 2021, land value uplifts above \$100,000 attract tax rates of 62.5% on uplifts between \$100,000 and \$500,000 and 50% on uplifts above \$500,000. However, council owned land rezoned for housing is not exempt unless it is moved into a public land zone. At the same time, the Victorian Government already recognises legitimate exemptions for other public benefit purposes - such as charitable land and university land - yet councils remain excluded despite acting in the public interest and reinvesting uplift into community outcomes.

This inequity is particularly problematic as councils are expected to help deliver Victoria's 800,000 new homes by 2034, including supporting social and affordable housing supply. The WGT acts as a disincentive to strategic rezoning, delaying or preventing project delivery and reducing the effectiveness of Local Government

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

contributions to statewide housing targets. Exempting councils from WGT where rezoning is initiated for public benefit, and where land is retained or leased for social or affordable housing, would unlock more council owned land, reduce cost burdens for ratepayers, shorten project timelines, and support long term housing outcomes.

This motion advances Intergenerational Infrastructure by enabling councils to repurpose land for long term community benefit. It strengthens Connected Places by facilitating well planned neighbourhoods supported by appropriate community assets and infrastructure. It supports Diversity, Equity & Inclusion by removing barriers to delivering housing for low income and vulnerable households.

Exempting councils from WGT is an essential reform to unlock public land, reduce financial barriers, and support equitable, community led delivery of social and affordable housing across Victoria.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 58. Residential villages legislation changes

East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates for legislative changes in Victoria to ensure a more equitable contribution from property owners within lifestyle/residential villages towards the services provided by councils, including:

- a) Property valuations and rating assessments on individual dwellings.
- b) Residential/lifestyle villages paying municipal charges based on the number of individual dwellings within the village rather than as a single entity.
- c) Addressing the disconnect between the planning and rating frameworks that leads to the situation where such property remains a single valuation and rating assessment, however multiple residents are utilising Council services and infrastructure.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Lifestyle/residential villages are a legitimate planning use within the planning scheme. They are generally made up of multiple dwellings on one title and those dwellings are owned individually but the lots are not subdivided/titled and are therefore on a lease arrangement.

- When permits for the dwellings in the villages are granted under Part 4A dwellings they cannot be valued (in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 1960).
- No separate valuations mean no separate rating, therefore no additional municipal charges (in accordance with Local Government Act 1989)
- No valuation for the dwellings means they pay rates on vacant land, regardless of the number of dwellings on the land
- Changes to legislation will ensure a more equitable contribution towards services provided by councils, that are available to all community members.

Because these developments are often approved under specific planning provisions, they may not go through the same subdivision and lot creation process as standard residential developments. This means the development can result in multiple dwellings on a single rateable parcel, which both limits the ability to separately value and rate them and can also reduce the level of community visibility and engagement that typically occurs with conventional residential subdivisions.

Properties within some lifestyle/residential villages – they can number up to 200 homes - are quoted on the open market for more than \$900,000 in some areas, almost double the average house price (rateable) in the same locality.

Motion 59. Rooming Houses

Knox City Council

Motion:

Request the MAV to advocate to the Victorian Government to:

1. Strengthen minimum standards and resident protections for Rooming Houses, including:
 - a. Improved safety, amenity, and liveability standards for tenants;
 - b. Stronger enforcement mechanisms and penalties for non-compliance by operators;
 - c. Enhanced protections for residents relating to privacy, security of tenure, rent setting and eviction processes; and
 - d. More proactive and regular compliance inspections, rather than reliance on complaints-based enforcement.
2. Improve local government input into existing planning controls, including reforms to clause 52.23 of the Victorian Planning Provisions to require planning permits for all Rooming Houses; not just those above a defined scale or impact threshold, along with stronger community consultation (notice) and appeal rights in relation to new or expanded Rooming House developments.
3. Funding and/or increased funding and support for Rooming House regulation, including:
 - a. State funded regional managers, employed by the State Government, to monitor privately owned rooming houses across the state at no cost to tenants, to ensure improved management and tenant welfare;
 - b. Training and workforce support for local government compliance officers;
 - c. Improved State–local coordination to address unregistered and/or unsafe rooming houses;
 - d. Improved funding for wrap-around support services for rooming house residents; and
 - e. Work with well managed rooming houses to promote broader affordable housing and homelessness strategies.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Rooming Houses play an important role in Victoria's housing system, often accommodating vulnerable residents. Provided by government, not for profit and private operators, they are primarily regulated under a complex state regulatory framework involving multiple agencies.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

There is more the Victorian Government can do to improve the experience of tenants within Rooming Houses, particularly the standard of accommodation, operational compliance, Rooming House management, and the protections and rights tenants receive.

One opportunity identified by Council for consideration are state funded regional managers, playing a role to ensure that private Rooming Houses are not just profit driven enterprises and there is consistent quality across all Rooming Houses regardless of their ownership to ensure tenant wellbeing and welfare. Another is the role that exemplary Rooming House managers can play in promoting the role of Rooming Houses as part of broader homelessness and affordable housing strategies, while reinforcing expectations around effective Rooming House management.

Further, acknowledging that Rooming Houses are an important entry to secure housing for many tenants, ensuring wrap around services are adequately provided is essential. Therefore Council is seeking greater levels of funding in this space.

Like many services managed across local government that interface with the State, Council believes increasing pressure is being experienced by local government to manage the impacts of Rooming Houses through registration, inspections, compliance and community response. Council believes there is more that can be done to support councils in its role alongside State Government, including training, workforce support and greater coordination.

Finally, the review of the planning provisions for Rooming Houses would be timely, to ensure they are contemporary and continue to operate effectively. As part of such review, councils need to be given a meaningful opportunity for input as they are often at the front-line managing applications within existing neighbourhoods, looking to achieve the best outcome for existing communities and future tenants. Further, a meaningful opportunity for communities to participate in these applications is essential. Current provisions no longer appear fit for purpose – they don't sufficiently guide locational factors, such as reasonable access to public transport, wrap around services, employment and retail services. Further, the provisions give no consideration for cumulative impacts of clustered Rooming Houses, whether the floor area or bedroom number thresholds remain relevant or whether the exemptions remain warranted. A contemporary review of the Clause 52.23 Rooming House provisions is more than warranted.

Motion 60. Sealed Road Shoulders on major connecting roads

Golden Plains Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to establish and fund a targeted program to improve road safety on regional and rural arterial and connector roads by:

1. Prioritising the provision of sealed road shoulders on key routes between towns, based on risk assessments that consider traffic volumes, active transport use and safety data;
2. Working in partnership with councils to identify priority corridors that support local communities, economic activity and inter-town connectivity.

Submitting Council Rationale:

The absence of sealed road shoulders contributes to higher crash risks and reduced safety for all road users, particularly cyclists and pedestrians. Councils across the sector report similar safety concerns and community expectations.

MAV advocacy enables a coordinated, evidence-based approach to identifying priority corridors and advocating for a targeted funding program delivered in partnership with councils. The motion complements existing road safety strategies and responds to growing sector concern about preventable risks.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 61. Rates and Charges Guidelines undermining Councils' financial sustainability

Warrnambool City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide a clear, revenue-neutral pathway for councils to transfer costs that are no longer eligible to be funded through the waste service charge into general rates, where the transfer does not increase the total rates and charges payable by ratepayers.

Submitting Council Rationale:

In January 2026, the Minister for Local Government issued the Local Government Service Rates and Charges Good Practice Guidelines, which clarify which services must be funded through service charges (including the waste charge) and which must be funded through general rates or other sources.

While the intent of the Guidelines is sound, their implementation creates an immediate funding gap for councils that have historically funded waste-adjacent public amenity and cleaning services – such as street cleaning, foreshore cleaning, and drainage cleaning – through the waste service charge.

Councils can maintain these services without increasing total charges to ratepayers by transferring the relevant costs from the waste charge into general rates. However, under the current rate-capping framework, councils may be unable to make this transfer without undertaking an extensive rate cap variation process, despite the change being revenue-neutral overall.

Without a simple and consistent mechanism to enable this transfer, councils will face material budget impacts and may be forced to reduce essential cleaning and amenity services.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 62. An embargo on all new developments on former golf courses

Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that golf courses are an important source of green open space, habitat, and make a significant contribution to the preservation of vulnerable plant and animal species.
2. Places on record the concern that golf courses are now treated by government and councils as a convenient source of land for development without regard to their special status as some of the last examples of large-scale open space in Greater Melbourne.
3. Calls for an immediate embargo on all golf course developments until the Victorian Government considers special planning rules to ensure golf courses are developed in a way that preserves open space, tree canopy, natural water courses and habitat as the over-riding priority.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Recent examples of golf course sales and redevelopment, together with impending decisions by the State Government make it clear that there is no special significance attached to gold course land, even though they are important habitat, often flood mitigation areas and irreplaceable open space. The government must slow down the push to allow the re-development of golf courses.

Motion 63. Legislative powers for the enforcement of breaches on coastal Crown land

Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to:

1. Advocate to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, the Office of Conservation Regulator and the Conservation Regulator's Stakeholder Reference Group to include unauthorised use or development of coastal Crown land in the regulatory priorities.
2. Advocate to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action for increased resourcing and expanded authority of the Office of Conservation Regulator to enable timely enforcement of sections 77 and 78 of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018; and avoid reliance on local government to follow up breaches of regulation it is not authorised to enforce.
3. Advocate to the Office of Conservation Regulator to review and strengthen its procedures for responding to unauthorised works, use and development on coastal Crown land in line with its enforcement powers under sections 65, 77 and 78 of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018, ensuring early intervention and preventing irreversible damage to the marine and coastal environment.
4. Increase penalty units for breaches of section 21AA of the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978 and section 65 of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 to improve deterrence of unlawful activities on coastal Crown land.

Submitting Council Rationale:

Unauthorised use and development on coastal Crown land continue to cause significant and sometimes irreversible impacts on Victoria's marine and coastal environment. Recent unauthorised works around Port Phillip Bay demonstrate the scale and severity of the issue, including unapproved private seawalls and vegetation removal, which damage the fragile ecosystem, increase erosion risk, hinder natural coastal processes, and undermine longterm foreshore resilience. These works are inconsistent with statewide guidance under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018, which requires consent for all use, works and development on marine and coastal Crown land.

The scale and frequency of unauthorised coastal works appears to be increasing. Illegal works highlight a growing pattern of high-impact, unapproved interventions on Crown land. These often involve the construction of coastal protection structures built without technical assessment or alignment with coastal engineering and geomorphological principles. These structures harden the shoreline, shift erosion hazards onto adjacent properties and the marine environment, and generate long-term management burdens for councils and the State.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Encroachment onto coastal Crown land through progressively expanded private landscaping, structures, and unauthorised coastal protection works continues to place natural systems at risk. Despite the significant environmental and public land impacts, the construction of coastal protection structures—including protection structures or levees regulated under section 21AA of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978—is not currently listed as a regulatory priority for the Office of the Conservation Regulator (OCR). This gap limits proactive compliance focus on some of the most harmful forms of coastal Crown land modification.

Climate change–driven increases in coastal hazards are intensifying pressure for intervention—both lawful and unlawful. As Committees of Management for large areas of foreshore, local councils require stronger and more rapid regulatory action from the State to prevent, halt and remediate unsafe or environmentally damaging works.

While councils can act through the Planning and Environment Act 1987, many unauthorised works fall outside planning triggers or on Crown land, where enforcement by the OCR is likely to be more impactful. Current penalties under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 and Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 remain insufficient to deter illegal development on public land. Strengthening State regulatory priorities and increasing penalty units would better protect natural coastal processes and uphold the integrity of coastal Crown land.

MAV May State Council Meeting 2026

Motion 64. Insurance of Assets on Crown Land

Pyrenees Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to take responsibility for the insurance of assets on crown land for which they have appointed community committees of management.

Submitting Council Rationale:

These crown land areas containing community assets are located in most LGA's across the state.

Individual councils' ability to advocate on this issue is limited and the number of LGA's impacted requires a sector wide approach.

A motion was endorsed by the MAV in 2018 and the response by the Local Government Minister of the day was considered to be dismissive. Financial pressures on councils continue to grow requiring an urgent review of the matter by the Victorian Government.