

MAY State Council

BUSINESS PAPERS



Friday 16 May 2025
9:30AM – 3:30pm

Melbourne Town Hall
90/130 Swanston Street
Melbourne

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Municipal Association of Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters, and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past and present who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.

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

MAY State Council

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

9:30 am

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Tea and coffee on arrival

10:00 am

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Wurundjeri Elder Annette Xiberras

10:05 am

WELCOME

Cr Anderson, MAV President

10:15 am

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

State Council 23 August 2024

10:20 am

LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Melbourne City Council

10:35 am

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Honourable Nick Staikos, MP

10:50 am

MORNING TEA

11:10 am

MAV PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cr Anderson, MAV President

11:25 am

MAV CEO'S UPDATE

Kelly Grigsby, MAV CEO

11:40 am

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

1:00 pm

LUNCH

1:40 pm

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

Continued

3:30 pm

MEETING CLOSE

Contents

MINUTES – Friday 23 August 2024.....	Page 8 - 28
MOTIONS – Friday 16 May 2025.....	Page 29 - 161
Strategic to the MAV.....	Page 31 - 92
Consolidated motion 1.1 - Consolidated State Council Motion on the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).....	31
C.1.1.1 - Elimination of State-based levies on local government.....	33
C.1.1.2 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.....	34
C.1.1.3 - Advocacy to the Victorian Government with respect to the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund	35
C.1.1.4 - Request to Reconsider the Model for Collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Motion	36
C.1.1.5 - Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy Funding Model.....	37
C.1.1.6 - Review of Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy.....	37
C.1.1.7 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.....	38
C.1.1.8 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.....	39
C.1.1.9 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Funds	39
C.1.1.10 - Reduce burden on Council and Community of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund	40
C.1.1.11 - Emergency Services Volunteer Fund	41
C.1.1.12 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - Council and Community Impacts	42
C.1.1.13 - Motion to Condemn the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund	43
C.1.1.14 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.....	44
C.1.1.15 - Emergency Services Volunteer Fund	45
C.1.1.16 - Leading the charge to prevent the negative impacts which the proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will have.....	46
C.1.1.17 - Administrative Burden on Local Governments of the revised Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).....	47
Consolidated motion 1.2 - A local and state government partnership to deliver well planned and connected communities	49
C.1.2.1 - Impact on Planning Controls.....	50
C.1.2.2 - Deliberative Engagement – Future Homes	52
C.1.2.3 - Third Party Appeal Rights for Community - Future Homes	52
Consolidated motion 1.3 - Ensuring Victoria’s identified Activity Centre precincts have the infrastructure they need	54
C.1.3.1 - Pilot coordinated Local/State/Federal infrastructure delivery	55
C.1.3.2 - Provision of Infrastructure to Existing & Future Communities	55
C.1.3.3 - Support for infrastructure in activity centres and strategic precincts.....	56

Consolidated motion 1.4 - Ensuring no community is left behind: reforms to Victoria's infrastructure contributions system.....	57
C.1.4.1 - Growth Areas need the Growing Suburbs Fund	59
C.1.4.2 - Draft housing targets & impacts on infrastructure and community services	60
C.1.4.3 - Improved Integrated Planning and Funding for Community Infrastructure	61
C.1.4.4 - Ensuring equity for emerging communities through the State Government's proposed Developer Contributions Reforms	62
Consolidated motion 1.5 - Early Years Infrastructure Funding	64
C.1.5.1 - Support to kindergarten funding	65
C.1.5.2 - Early Years Advocacy for funding for infrastructure	65
C.1.5.3 - Request for the Victorian Government to engage with Council's to address the Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms and the identified issues.	67
Consolidated motion 1.6 - Dedicated flood mitigation infrastructure fund.....	68
C.1.6.1 - Impact on Drainage Infrastructure	69
C.1.6.2 - State funding for flood mitigation works	70
C.1.6.3 - The need for the State to upgrade its Stormwater Infrastructure Drainage Network ...	71
Consolidated motion 1.7 - State-wide consistent approaches for flood, inundation and coastal sea level rise hazard mapping and planning.....	72
C.1.7.1 - Clarity from the Minister for Planning on appropriate sea level rise in flood modelling	73
C.1.7.2 - Streamlining flood-related planning scheme amendment pathways.....	74
C.1.7.3 - Vulnerability Mapping and Coastal Hazard Overlay	75
Consolidated motion 1.8 - Coastal inundation and erosion	76
C.1.8.1 - Coastal Erosion	77
C.1.8.2 - Port Phillip Bay Management Issues	78
Consolidated motion 1.9 - Managing and maintaining state-owned land.....	79
C.1.9.1 - Resource Allocation for Amenity Maintenance of Public Spaces Motion.....	80
C.1.9.2 - Managing the natural estate	81
Motion 1. Financial viability and workforce planning of Maternal & Child Health as State co-funded services	82
Motion 2. Addressing Homelessness	83
Motion 3. Resourcing to support health outcomes	84
Motion 4. Supporting people seeking asylum within our communities	85
Motion 5. The Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the State Government to urgently review its Development Facilitation Program to provide greater transparency for the community and to ensure Council is compensated for review of applications.....	87
Motion 6. Establishment of intergovernmental taskforce to work with the insurance industry for affordable and available insurance for flood and bushfire prone communities	88
Motion 7. Natural Disaster Recovery Funding	89
Motion 8. Increased funding support for Council's Emergency Management obligations	90
Motion 9. Increased Funding for State Emergency Service Response to Emergencies in Victoria.	91

Significant to the Sector..... Page 92 - 149

Consolidated motion 2.1 - Ensuring financial sustainability of councils	92
C.2.1.1 - Inquiry into local government funding and services	93
C.2.1.2 - Cost Shifting.....	94
C.2.1.3 - Addressing Cost Shifting from State and Federal Governments to Local Councils	94
C.2.1.4 - Addressing the Recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Service Delivery in Victoria.....	95
C.2.1.5 - Local Government Sustainability	96
C.2.1.6 - Local Government Financial Sustainability Framework.....	97
C.2.1.7 - Inquiry into Local Government funding and services – implement recommendations	98
C.2.1.8 - Increasing financial sustainability of local governments	99
C.2.1.9 - Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services.....	100
Consolidated motion 2.2 - MCH MOU Amendment.....	101
C.2.2.1 - Maternal Child Health Funding Municipal Association Victoria State Council Motion	102
C.2.2.2 - Maternal and Child Health Costing Model.....	103
Consolidated Motion 2.3 - Increased funding for Victorian libraries.....	104
C.2.3.1 - Increased funding for Victorian Libraries.....	105
C.2.3.2 - Needs-Based Funding for Libraries	106
Consolidated motion 2.4 - Evidence-based approach to recycling reforms	107
C.2.4.1 - Repeal of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2012 Provisions for a mandatory glass bin service.....	108
C.2.4.2 - Improved competitiveness of the Victorian recycling and waste market.....	110
C.2.4.3 - Consideration be given to flexibility measures and alternatives for Victorian glass recycling services.....	111
C.2.4.4 - Negative Impacts of Waste Service Standards on Local Government	112
C.2.4.5 - Cost of living pressures	113
Consolidated Motion 2.5 - Fostering safety and social cohesion.....	114
C.2.5.1 - Fostering community safety and social cohesion.....	115
C.2.5.2 - Fostering safety and social cohesion.....	116
C.2.5.3 - Fostering community safety and social cohesion.....	118
C.2.5.4 - Promoting Community Safety: A Partnership Between State and Local Government	119
Motion 10. Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services.....	121
Motion 11. Prevention of Illegal Rubbish Dumping.....	122
Motion 12. Municipal Industrial and Landfill Levy	124
Motion 13. Waste Service Charges.....	125
Motion 14. Roads and Bridge Infrastructure.....	126
Motion 15. Physical infrastructure – accessibility	127

Motion 16.	Road Funding and Maintenance.....	128
Motion 17.	Funding of State-Owned assets managed by Local Government and community-based committees.	129
Motion 18.	Getting infrastructure on the ground in a timely manner in emerging communities	131
Motion 19.	Equitable Funding of Community Facility Infrastructure	132
Motion 20.	Countering Misinformation.....	133
Motion 21.	Online misinformation and abuse, and request for investigation	134
Motion 22.	Strengthening Mental Health Services for Youth	136
Motion 23.	Providing access to locally based mental services for all communities right across Victoria	137
Motion 24.	Victorian Maternal and Child Health Services Dad Groups - DadsConnect	138
Motion 25.	Reinstate FReeZA Program Funding.....	139
Motion 26.	Providing learning and education opportunities for new and emerging communities	140
Motion 27.	Gambling reform.....	141
Motion 28.	Rooming Houses.....	142
Motion 29.	Balancing Provision of Additional Housing & Protection of Environment Through Vegetation Retention & Planting	143
Motion 30.	Improved clarity on Small Second Dwellings in the State Planning Scheme.....	144
Motion 31.	Designating cellular telecommunication networks as 'essential services' and associated planning controls	145
Motion 32.	Advocating for the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal to set remuneration bands for Council CEOs in Victoria.....	146
Motion 33.	The efficacy and resource impact on Councils of Fire and Safety Regulations	147
Motion 34.	Fines Victoria	148
Motion 35.	Victorian Electoral Processes for Retired Candidates.....	149
Non-Standard / Low Priority.....		Page 150 - 159
Motion 36.	Funding designations for arts galleries	150
Motion 37.	Community Safety	151
Motion 38.	Review of Bail Laws	152
Motion 39.	Stronger action from the State Government on graffiti.....	153
Motion 40.	Improved communications with Local Government on resolution time-frames for locally reported road hazards and issues	154
Motion 41.	Increased Funding to Expand Electric Bus Fleets.....	155
Motion 42.	Strategic Cycling Corridors.....	156
Motion 43.	Advocacy for a strong and competitive Victorian manufacturing industry.....	157
Motion 44.	Food Security	159
Not to proceed.....		Page 161

MAY State Council

MINUTES – Friday 23 August 2024

Minutes MAV Meeting of the State Council

Friday 23 August 2024

Attendees

Alpine Shire Council	Maribyrnong City Council
Ararat Rural City Council	Maroondah City Council
Ballarat City Council	Melbourne City Council
Banyule City Council	Melton City Council
Bass Coast Shire Council	Merri-bek City Council
Baw Baw Shire Council	Mitchell Shire Council
Benalla City Council	Monash City Council
Boroondara City Council	Moonee Valley City Council
Buloke Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council
Cardinia Shire Council	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Casey City Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Moyne Shire Council
Colac Otway Shire Council	Murrindindi Shire Council
Corangamite Shire Council	Nillumbik Shire Council
Darebin City Council	Northern Grampians Shire Council
Frankston City Council	Port Phillip City Council
Gannawarra Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council
Glen Eira City Council	Queenscliffe Borough Council
Glenelg Shire Council	South Gippsland Shire Council
Golden Plains Shire Council	Stonnington City Council
Greater Bendigo City Council	Surf Coast Shire Council
Greater Geelong City Council	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Greater Shepparton City Council	Towong Shire Council
Hepburn Shire Council	Wangaratta Rural City Council
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Warrnambool City Council
Hobsons Bay City Council	Wellington Shire Council
Horsham Rural City Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
Indigo Shire Council	Whitehorse City Council
Kingston City Council	Whittlesea City Council
Knox City Council	Wodonga City Council
Latrobe City Council	Wyndham City Council
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Yarra City Council
Manningham City Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Mansfield Shire Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council

Participating Member Councils not in attendance

Bayside City Council, Brimbank City Council, Campaspe Shire Council, East Gippsland Shire Council, Greater Dandenong City Council, Hume City Council, Loddon Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Moira Shire Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Strathbogie Shire Council.

Item 1: Welcome to Country

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President, opened the meeting at 10.05am welcoming members and staff, followed by a Welcome to Country from Wurundjeri Elder Tony Garvey.

Item 2: Welcome Address

The Chair Cr Clark, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, introduced the Board members present, and welcomed Cr Saab, recently appointed as the Board Director for the MAV (Metropolitan South region), replacing Cr Steve Staikos. The Chair, Cr Clark noted Board member apologies from Cr Hersey and Cr Haweil.

Item 3: Electronic Voting

That voting on matters before the meeting of State Council on 23 August 2024 be conducted by electronic voting.

Moved: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Seconded: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

CARRIED

Item 4: Confirmation of minutes

That State Council approve the unconfirmed minutes of State Council on 17 May 2024.

Moved: Cr Clare Williams, South Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Alan Getley, Buloke Shire Council

CARRIED

Item 5: Procedural Motion: State Council Duration

That the State Council meeting finish no later than the scheduled time being 1:30pm.

Moved: Cr Annemarie McCabe, Baw Baw Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Sharon Gibson, Latrobe City Council

CARRIED

Item 6: ALGA President's Update

The Chair, Cr Clark, MAV President introduced Cr Linda Scott, President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to address the meeting.

Item 7: MAV President's Report

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President, provided his report.

Item 8: MAV CEO's Update

The Chair, Cr Clark, MAV President introduced Kelly Grigsby, MAV Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide her report.

State Council took a break at 11:06 am for morning tea resuming at 11:36am.

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

CONSOLIDATED MOTIONS

C1 Road Safety

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the State and Federal governments to commit to improving road safety on rural and regional roads by:
 - a. An immediate 10% increase in Financial Assistance Grants roads funding by the Federal Government, maintained in real terms thereafter;
 - b. Increased State Government funding for Regional Roads Victoria to keep all Victorian regional roads at acceptable service levels;
 - c. Simplifying and streamlining the process for accessing disaster recovery funding;
 - d. Incorporating provisions for betterment in disaster recovery funding to enable enhancements to road infrastructure alongside repair efforts thus ensuring that funding not only restores infrastructure but also enhances its resilience to withstand future events;
 - e. Improving road maintenance standards across the State;
 - f. Increased funding dedicated to road safety initiatives;
 - g. Increased accountability for Regional Roads Victoria for renewal of the regional road network through performance indicator reporting similar to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.
 - h. Empowering local governments with the ability to reduce the default speed limit on rural roads
2. Acknowledges and welcomes the increase in Roads to Recovery funding for the next 5 years from the Federal Government.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 1: Road Safety on Rural Roads – Nillumbik Shire Council
- Motion 2: Enhancing Road Safety, Renewal, and Disaster Recovery for Victoria's Regional and Rural Roads – Murrindindi Shire Council

Moved: Cr Peter Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Damien Gallagher, Murrindindi Shire Council

CARRIED

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: CONSOLIDATED

Motion 1. Road Safety on Rural Roads

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Standard Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Road Safety

Motion 2. Enhancing Road Safety, Renewal, and Disaster Recovery for Victoria's Regional and Rural Roads

Submitting Council: Murrindindi Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Road Safety

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Motions considered to align with the MAV Strategy by advancing whole of sector policy positions and/or advocacy activities.

Motion 3. Planning for effective flood control and water management

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Fund better flood management in critical areas, such as the Elster Creek catchment.
2. Develop a partnership approach for integrated water management including collaboration between stakeholders who influence urban design, natural resource management, planning, and economic development. Forums like the Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management (IWM) forum should be supported.
3. Lead updating relevant planning schemes to reflect the hazards identified in the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment. Specifically, update the Special Building Overlay (SBO) with climate change modelling.
4. Enhance the legislative framework for councils to better manage flooding by either supporting the use of declarations by a Flood Plain Management Authority to declare a flood level under the Water Act 1989, or by expediting the processing of planning scheme amendments to introduce the updated Special Building Overlay into the planning scheme under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
5. Promote a partnership approach for integrated water management, including collaboration with First Nations communities.

Moved: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Seconded: Cr Clare Le Serve, Bass Coast Shire Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Fund better flood management in critical areas, such as the Elster Creek catchment.
2. Develop a partnership approach for integrated water management including collaboration between stakeholders who influence urban design, natural resource management, planning, and economic development. Forums like the Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management (IWM) forum should be supported.
3. Lead updating relevant planning schemes to reflect the hazards identified in the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment, including Western Port Bay. Specifically, update the Special Building Overlay (SBO) with climate change modelling.
4. Enhance the legislative framework for councils to better manage flooding by either supporting the use of declarations by a Flood Plain Management Authority to declare a flood level under the Water Act 1989, or by expediting the processing of planning scheme amendments to introduce the updated Special Building Overlay into the planning scheme under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
5. Promote a partnership approach for integrated water management, including collaboration with First Nations communities.

CARRIED

Motion 4. Connecting communities with better bus infrastructure

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide funding to increase bus infrastructure and provide better connectivity to townships and existing rail infrastructure.

Moved: Cr Peter Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM, Greater Bendigo City Council

CARRIED

Motion 5. Statutory Planning cost shifting from State to Local Governments

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to put in place a funding agreement with Local Government to ensure the financial sustainability of its planning functions given recent decisions by the State to place more planning powers in the Minister's hands.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Matt Tyler, Hobsons Bay City Council

CARRIED

Motion 6. Revision of Affordable Housing Definition and Inclusion of Mandatory Affordable Housing Requirements

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government

1. to review the definition of affordable housing at Section 3AA and the income ranges at Section 3AB of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, to better reflect the housing needs of those on low incomes.
2. to introduce mandatory affordable housing requirements for all large developments (50+ dwellings).

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Matt Tyler, Hobsons Bay City Council

CARRIED

Motion 7. Development delays

Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to establish a Ministerial Advisory Committee, inclusive of Local Government sector representation, to identify barriers to constructing developments that have received planning approval and to make recommendations on how to overcome those barriers.

Moved: Cr Rohan Leppert, Melbourne City Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

Motion 8. Regional and metropolitan planning

Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council:

1. Reasserts its strongly held view that a single Plan for Victoria is not sufficient, as it cannot adequately recognise or distinguish the distinct metropolitan, regional and rural communities of interest, their unique spatial characteristics and needs;
2. Reasserts that the complexity of metropolitan Melbourne as an integrated labour market requires interconnected planning about housing, employment, transport and environment and, like other regions in the State, requires its own comprehensive plan.
3. Reasserts that, without metropolitan and regional plans, communities of interest and their economies cannot be adequately understood by Government, or be planned to thrive;
4. Therefore calls on the State Government to commit to the creation of distinct comprehensive plans for metropolitan Melbourne and the regions; and
5. Resolves that Local Government stands ready to partner with the State Government on the development of these plans.

Moved: Cr Rohan Leppert, Melbourne City Council

Seconded: Cr Sharon Gibson, Latrobe City Council

CARRIED

Motion 9. Improved standards and funding for infrastructure at risk from climate change

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to ensure there are updated design standards for infrastructure at risk from climate change-related extreme weather events, and funding to retrofit existing assets, including stormwater drainage, in areas of high risk.

Moved: Cr Adrian Schonfelder, Surf Coast Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Ross Ebbels, Queenscliffe Borough Council

CARRIED

Motion 10. E-waste

Submitting Council: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV

1. Advocates to the State Government to provide councils with funds from the waste levy revenue to assist with the costs of collecting and transporting e- waste to be recycled;
2. Continues to advocate to the Federal Government, via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), for industry mandatory product stewardship programmes for electronic items, including but not limited to, televisions, computers, mobile phones, small electrical goods, items with embedded batteries, and photovoltaic cells;
3. Advocates for the State and/or Federal Government to mandate retailers of electrical goods to provide collection points for e-waste; and
4. Advocates to the State and Federal Government to support industry innovation that results in electrical goods being more readily repairable and reusable, as well as creating strong end markets for the resulting e-waste.

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

Motion 11. Circular Economy

Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government for greater investment in programs, policy, community education, infrastructure and market development that achieves higher order outcomes under the waste hierarchy. This includes waste avoidance, reuse and recycling, to help accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Moved: Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Greater Bendigo City Council

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Anderson, Macedon Ranges Shier Council

CARRIED

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: STANDARD PRIORITY

Motions considered consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, are significant to whole sector and relevant to current policy and advocacy activities at state and commonwealth level.

Motion 12. Call for an audit and assessment of the Future Fit Program for Meals on Wheels

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to request the Australian Government carry out a comprehensive audit and assess the efficacy of the Future Fit Program under the award for Business Transition Project for Meals on Wheels Australia.

Moved: Cr Nathan Conroy, Frankston City Council

Seconded: Cr Hadi Saab, Kingston City Council

CARRIED

Motion 13. Protection of Green Wedge

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide a dedicated and ongoing funding commitment to better support Green Wedge councils in their management and enforcement responsibilities.

Moved: Cr Peter Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

CARRIED

Motion 14. Inclusion of Local Government in the Worker Protection Consultation Group

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to include local government in the proposed Worker Protection Consultation Group, to participate in the development of a legislative approach to protecting customer facing workers in the community.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Adrian Schonfelder, Surf Coast Shire Council

CARRIED

Motion 15. State Government Funding for Maternal and Child Health Service

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to honour its commitment to providing appropriate funding support for Maternal and Child Health Service at the rate of 50% of the real cost of providing the service to the Victorian Community.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Karen Stephens, Glenelg Shire Council

CARRIED

Motion 16. Balancing location of renewable energy facilities with protection of High Value Agriculture Land

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to

1. review the Solar Energy Facilities Design and Development Guideline to provide better mapping of areas of high agriculture and landscape value within renewable energy zones
2. introduce criteria to require proposed facilities to consider the agrotourism and agriculture productivity of the site and wider area in assessing the suitability of sites for renewable energy facilities.

Moved: Cr Simon Brooks, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Anderson, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

Motion 17. MAV Budget 2025-26 Submission to the Victorian Government

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV lodge a budget submission 2025-26 to the Victorian Government calling on it to increase funding directly to councils in much needed areas such as:

1. climate change adaption and sustainability;
2. local roads maintenance;
3. community open space and amenity; and
4. other items to be determined.

Moved: Cr Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council

Seconded: Cr Nicki Batagol, Stonnington City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV lodge a budget submission 2025-26 to the Victorian Government calling on it to increase funding to councils in accordance with the priorities MAV's Strategic Plan 2024-27: Shaping our Future.

CARRIED

Motion 18. Assessing the impact of State Government decisions on local government and communities

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to require all new policies, initiatives and legislation affecting local government to have regulatory, financial and community impacts assessed and published.

Moved: Cr Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM, Greater Bendigo City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to uphold its commitment to the Victorian State-Local Government agreement 2014 or a successor agreement to be negotiated in good faith between the parties.

CARRIED

Motion 19. Waste Management: Statewide Waste Procurement & Contact Management

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to the Minister for Environment requesting:

1. The formation of a new body that provides the collective procurement, contract services management recommended by the Victorian Auditor General's 2019 Report Recovering and Reprocessing Resources from Waste, so that local government and the private sector can more efficiently achieve the goals outlined in the Recycling Victoria State Plan.

2. The new body be fully funded from the State Government Waste Levy.

Moved: Cr Elizabeth Nealy, Banyule City Council

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier, Gannawarra Shire Council

CARRIED

Motion 20. Review of Victorian Grants Commission Funds Allocation Methodology

Submitting Council: Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Grant Commission to address the methodology used in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants be reviewed to place greater emphasis on the impacts on rural councils of natural disasters and climate change, the limited alternate revenue options, the increased costs associated with Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), and the increased demands of heavy transport and tourism impacting local roads.

Moved: Cr Damien Gallagher, Murrindindi Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Graeme Moore, Cardinia Shire Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV, while retaining its calls to the Commonwealth Government to increase Financial Assistance Grants funding overall, calls on the Victorian Grant Commission to address the methodology used in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants be reviewed to place greater emphasis on the impacts on rural councils of natural disasters and climate change, the limited alternate revenue options, the increased costs associated with Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), and the increased demands of heavy transport and tourism impacting local roads.

CARRIED

Motion 21. Retaining the Country Character of Rural and Regional Townships

Submitting Council: Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. seek a commitment from the Minister for Planning to recognise and retain the character of rural and regional townships through the creation of appropriate Planning Scheme controls, with these controls set to keep the country character of our small towns and localities.
2. that this commitment provide for planning controls that recognise local constraints and fit the size, character, and location of our rural townships, avoiding local policy being over-ridden by policy and regulations more appropriate to Metropolitan Melbourne.

Moved: Cr Damien Gallagher, Murrindindi Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Steve Rabie, Mansfield Shire Council

CARRIED

Motion 22. Increasing funding for legal support for women to escape family violence

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on State Government to:

1. expand the successful Mabels legal advice service, which places a lawyer part time in Maternal and Child Health Centres with a focus on family violence support, to all parts of Metropolitan Melbourne, noting the successful trial of the model in the outer East.
2. prioritise the expansion of community legal centres for improved service delivery, and in turn advocate to the Commonwealth for additional funding for community legal services when the current agreement between State and Commonwealth expires in mid-2025.

Moved: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

Seconded: Cr Ruth Gstrein, Corangamite Shire Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV calls on State Government to:

1. expand the successful Mabels legal advice service, which places a lawyer part time in Maternal and Child Health Centres with a focus on family violence support, to all parts of Metropolitan Melbourne, noting the successful trial of the model in the outer East.
2. prioritise the expansion of community legal centres in rural and metro areas, including further trials of the Mables initiative for improved service delivery, and in turn advocate to the Commonwealth for additional funding for community legal services when the current agreement between State and Commonwealth expires in mid-2025.

CARRIED

Motion 23. Loss of Community Appeal Rights – VCAT

Submitting Council: Wangaratta Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to State Government as a matter of urgency to repeal aspects of the current legislation, which limits the community's ability to contest a planning decision to Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), to help secure the protection of agricultural land for food, fibre and viticultural production, as any significant change to our rural landscape and its productivity will have adverse impacts economically, socially and environmentally across the whole State.

Moved: Cr Harvey Benton, Wangarrata Rural City Council

Seconded: Cr Danny Chamberlain, Wondonga City Council

CARRIED

Motion 24. Investing in local economies and community renewal

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to commit to investing in initiatives that support local economic and community renewal opportunities, following the cessation of Suburban Revitalisation Boards and cuts to the Growing Suburbs Fund.

Moved: Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council

Seconded: Cr Rose Iser, Moonee Valley City Council

CARRIED

Motion 25. Outcomes from previous MAV Motions from State Council meetings within the 2020-2024 Council term

Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council

Motion:

That the MAV provide the outcomes from previous MAV Motions from State Council meetings within the 2020-2024 Council term, and the status of these motions.

Moved: Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM, Greater Bendigo City Council

Seconded: Lydia Wilson, Whittlesea City Council

CARRIED

Motion 26. Alignment of Victorian Government grant funding extensions with Federal Government Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 and the intent of the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV urgently calls on the Victorian Government to align its recurrent financial grant program funding terms with Councils statutory obligations regarding the Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 (Cwlth) and the Victorian Government's Gender Equality Act 2020 to ensure gender equality for all employees in grant funded roles.

Specifically, Councils seek ongoing undertakings regarding Victorian Government grant funding when:

1. grant funding is for longer than two (2) years, including extensions and renewals, or
2. grant funding has been extended or renewed more than once.

Councils also seek a minimum of six months for recurrent grant funding for the associated written notice of intention to cease or not extend funding to deal with transitional arrangements including termination of staff and cessation of agreements with suppliers.

Moved: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Denise Massoud, Whitehorse City Council

CARRIED

Motion 27. Keeping our children safe

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to include all Domestic and Family Violence convictions to the list of Schedule 4 Working with Children Category B Offences in the Worker Screening Act 2020 (the Act).

Moved: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

CARRIED

Motion 28. Royal Commission Recommendations into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability

Submitting Council: Melton City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Write to the relevant Federal and State Leaders, Ministers, Members of Parliament and shadow counterparts, welcoming and supporting the findings and recommendations outlined in the Final Report of the Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of people with a Disability (Final Report).
2. Request from the Federal and State Governments how they will implement the Recommendations outlined in the Final Report.
3. Acknowledge all people who live with a disability and have suffered from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, many of whom are still suffering within society.
4. Encourage continual advocacy for people with a disability to ensure that violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation is eliminated.

Moved: Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council

Seconded: Cr Rose Iser, Mooney Valley City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Write to the relevant Federal and State Leaders, Ministers, Members of Parliament and shadow counterparts, welcoming and supporting the findings and recommendations outlined in the Final Report of the Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of people with a Disability (Final Report).
2. Call on the State Government to accept the 85 of the joint State and Territory recommendation which have not been done to date
3. Request from the Federal and State Governments how they will implement the Recommendations outlined in the Final Report.
4. Acknowledge all people who live with a Disability and have suffered from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, many of whom are still suffering within society.
5. Encourage continual advocacy for people with a disability to ensure that violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation is eliminated.

CARRIED

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: NON-STANDARD PRIORITY

Motions considered not consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, are significant to whole of sector and relevant to current policy and advocacy activities at state and commonwealth level

Motion 29. Opposition to the Demolition of Public Housing Towers

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to cease demolition of the public housing towers.

Moved: Cr Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council

Seconded: Cr Simon Brooks, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Amendments were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

The original motion then became:

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to halt the demolition of the public housing towers, which will displace 10,000 residents, impacting their well-being and stability, and to:

1. Genuinely engage with the Local Government and residents on the project.
2. Provide data and evidence to justify the demolition, given it will only result in a 10% increase in social housing, which may not justify the significant disruption and displacement of current residents.
3. Explore alternative solutions such as renovation or adaptive reuse, as it is difficult to assess whether the demolition is based on sound reasoning or if alternative solutions were adequately considered.

Motion to amend

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government, with respect to the proposed demolition of the public housing towers, which will displace 10,000 residents, impacting their well-being and stability, to:

1. Genuinely engage with the Local Government and residents on the project
2. Provide data and evidence to justify the demolition, given it will only result in a 10% increase in social housing, which may not justify the significant disruption and displacement of current residents.
3. Explore alternative solutions such as renovation or adaptive reuse, as it is difficult to assess whether the demolition is based on sound reasoning or if alternative solutions were adequately considered.

Moved: Cr Rose Iser, Moonee Valley City Council

Seconded: Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council

CARRIED

Substantive motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government, with respect to the proposed demolition of the public housing towers, which will displace 10,000 residents, impacting their well-being and stability, to:

1. Genuinely engage with the Local Government and residents on the project
2. Provide data and evidence to justify the demolition, given it will only result in a 10% increase in social housing, which may not justify the significant disruption and displacement of current residents.
3. Explore alternative solutions such as renovation or adaptive reuse, as it is difficult to assess whether the demolition is based on sound reasoning or if alternative solutions were adequately considered.

CARRIED

Motion 30. Environmental Education on Crown Land Motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

The internationally significant Ramsar-protected Cheetham Wetlands in Melbourne's western suburbs is visited by thousands of migratory birds annually, significant to First Nations people and has been impacted by climate change upon coastal wetlands.

The following motions have been developed for Council to consider for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting to address the environmental education on Crown Land:

1. Providing educational opportunities to highlight the significance of the inner western coastal wetlands to First Nations people.
2. Promote education about the impact of climate change on coastal wetlands
3. Provide unique eco-tourism and nature-based recreational experiences like a Wetlands Centre in metropolitan Melbourne

Moved: Cr Matt Tyler, Hobson Bay City Council

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV advocate to Federal & State governments for the following:

1. Provide educational opportunities to highlight the significance of coastal wetlands and their importance to First Nations People.
2. Promote education about the impact of climate change on Victoria's Coastal wetlands
3. Provide promotional and developmental support of unique eco-tourism and nature-based recreational experiences such as the Wetlands Centre in metropolitan Melbourne and the Gleneld Estuary and Discovery Bay on Victoria's border with South Australia among many more.

CARRIED

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: LATE MOTIONS

Procedural motion:

That the late motions be admitted for consideration at this meeting of State Council.

Moved: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Aaron Scales, Towong Shire Council

LOST

Meeting close

In closing Cr Clark, MAV President paid tribute to Cr Malcolm Hole, Cr Ray Brown, Cr Bob Redden, Cr David Zyngier, Cr Rod Fyffe and Cr Sarah Carter who passed away during the current term of council. The MAV reflected on their service to their respective councils and the local sector.

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President thanked the State Council attendees for their participation and closed the meeting at 12.25pm.

MAY State Council

MOTIONS – Friday 16 May 2025

MOTIONS LEGEND

Strategic priority to the MAV

MAV priority. Aligns with our priorities, advances advocacy activities, addresses financial need; recognises council leadership; whole of sector, time sensitive.

Significant priority to the Sector

Consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, whole of sector significance, relevant to current policy and advocacy initiatives at State or Commonwealth level etc.

Non-standard / Low priority motions

Limited application, outside government responsibility, inconsistent with MAV policy position etc.

No priority to the MAV and the Sector – advised not to proceed

The Board has determined these motions as not applicable, either does not align with MAV policy position, repetitive with a previously raised motion in August 2024 or cannot be implemented by the MAV.

Strategic to the MAV

Consolidated motion 1.1 - Consolidated State Council Motion on the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)

Motion: The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to review and reform the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) by:

1. Transferring Levy Collection to the State

- a. Strongly call on the Victorian Government to reassess its decision to designate councils as collection agents for the ESVF.
- b. Transfer the responsibility for collecting the ESVF levy from local councils to the State Revenue Office to ensure a more efficient and centralized process.

2. Ensuring an Equitable Funding Model

- a. Reduce the levy burden for all Victorian residents and ensure that the levy is equitably structured and does not disproportionately burden rural communities or primary producers.

3. Fully fund councils to administer the ESVF:

- a. Fully fund councils for administrative costs if collection duties remain delegated to them.
- b. Fully fund any system changes, administrative costs, and community communication efforts required for councils to implement the new ESVF and the associated PPR requirement.

4. Improve Transparency and Communication:

- a. Implement a comprehensive communication strategy to clarify the levy's purpose, allocation, and impact on ratepayers.
- b. Provide a publicly available statement detailing the reasons for changes to the fire services levy, including justifications for any fee increases from 1 July 2025.

5. Conduct an Economic Impact Assessment:

- a. Undertake an economic impact study evaluating how levy increases will affect residents, local businesses, and overall community well-being.
- b. Publicly release the findings to ensure accountability and informed decision-making.

6. Delay and Adjust Implementation of ESVF Changes:

- a. Delay the implementation of the Principal Place of Residence (PPR) obligation under the ESVF beyond 1 July 2026 to allow for a more practical, cost-effective, and consistent verification process.
- b. Explore alternative approaches to PPR verification, such as leveraging existing State Government data, to minimize duplication and inefficiency.

7. Ensure Equitable Fund Distribution:

- a. Adopt a needs-based equalization approach to fund ESVF distribution, ensuring that rural and regional emergency services receive adequate support, given their heightened exposure to natural disasters.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<p><u>Elimination of State-based levies on local government – Frankston City Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund – Bass Coast Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Advocacy to the Victorian Government with respect to the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund – Corangamite Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Request to Reconsider the Model for Collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Motion – Hobsons Bay City Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy Funding Model – Moyne Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Review of Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy – Hepburn Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund – Wodonga City Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund – Hume City Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteers Funds – Strathbogie Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Reduce burden on Council and Community of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund – Yarra Ranges Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services Volunteer Fund – Colac Otway Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - Council and Community Impacts – South Gippsland Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Motion to Condemn the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund – Ararat Rural City Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund – Mansfield Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Services Volunteer Fund – Cardinia Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Leading the charge to prevent the negative impacts which the proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will have – Mitchell Shire Council</u></p> <p><u>Administrative Burden on Local Governments of the revised Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) – Maroondah City Council</u></p>	Yes

C.1.1.1 - Elimination of State-based levies on local government

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the Premier and Opposition Leader to eliminate the placement of collecting levies on local governments – noting the sanctity of respective levels of government, the impost on Victorian ratepayers and the present lack of reparations to local governments that collect such levies on behalf of residents.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable Economy	

Local Government currently collects two levies, the Landfill Levy and Fire Services Property Levy (now rebadged to Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)), on behalf of the State Government. Council receives no funding from the State Government in respect of Landfill Levy collections, and whilst it does receive minimal funding for the ESVF, 2025-26 is the final year of the current funding announced in 2022-23. Councils are currently not receiving fair and sufficient compensation for the collection of these levies. There are costs including, but not limited to, debt collection, customer service calls, administration and technology that add a significant financial burden to Councils that is not adequately recognised.

Council residents find it difficult to distinguish between what is a Council charge and what is a State Levy, with ratepayers essentially only looking at the bottom-line figure on their rates notices and attributing all these costs to Council. These levies are not increasing within the rate cap imposed on Local Government Rates. In fact, the increases have increased significantly over the years that has not demonstrated the Fair Go rationale that the State Government has expected from Local Government.

The State Landfill Levy was introduced in 1992 to encourage recycling by putting a price on every tonne of waste that goes to landfill. This levy will be increased to \$132.76 in 2024-25, and this will rise substantially to \$167.9 per tonne in 2025-26 (an increase of 26.5%). Further, the ESVF will see increases to this levy on the fixed charge component (increasing by CPI) and the variable charge component increasing by 100%. For Frankston City Council, this alone will increase rates for an average residential property by approximately \$63 and an average commercial property by approximately \$492.

This causes Council significant reputational damage and for this reason would prefer that the State Government collect levies utilising their State Revenue Office.

Frankston City Council therefore recommends that the MAV seek to undertake steps to advocate for the removal of State levies from Local Government rate notices.

C.1.1.2 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

Beginning 1 July 2025, the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), with local governments responsible for its collection. This new obligation introduces significant administrative complexity and diverts valuable resources away from essential local government functions. Assigning councils the responsibility for collecting a state-wide tax like the ESVF places an unnecessary burden on them, potentially leading to inefficiencies in service delivery and fund collection.

The process of collecting the ESVF is inefficient, requiring additional payments, reporting, and large dataset reconciliations. The situation is further complicated by the provision of refunds for eligible volunteers. While this is a great incentive for community members who volunteer, it requires a substantial increase in time and resources to assess and determine waiver requests.

Moreover, the State Government holds the accuracy of the principal place of residence data, already used for Land Tax services. The proposed motion calls for the State Government to administer the ESVF.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	19/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, FutureGen, Resilience & recovery and Intergenerational infrastructure	

C.1.1.3 - Advocacy to the Victorian Government with respect to the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund

Submitting Council: Corangamite Shire Council

Motion:

That with respect to the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy the Municipal Association of Victoria request the Victorian Government to:

1. Reassess the funding model to ensure it is equitable and does not disproportionately burden rural communities.
 2. Shift levy collection responsibilities to the State Government.
 3. Compensate councils for administrative costs if collection duties remain delegated.
 4. Implement a comprehensive communication strategy to clarify the levy's purpose and allocation. Corangamite Shire Council is advocating for the State Government to reassess the ESVF for the following reasons:
- The timing of this levy exacerbates existing hardships in rural communities. Many of our residents are already grappling with cost-of-living pressures, the effects of bushfires, and a "green drought." Cashflow issues for farmers and small businesses compound the problem, creating a ripple effect that impacts local economies, service provision, and community wellbeing. Our analysis indicates some ratepayers will experience a doubling of the current FSPL under the ESVF regime. This is inequitable, unjust and undoubtedly this tax will result in job losses for our community.
 - Councils are required to collect the levy on behalf of the State Government, increasing the administrative burden. While the levy aims to incentivise emergency service volunteering, the implementation raises administrative concerns. Systems for assessing and tracking volunteers also remain unclear. These unresolved issues risk undermining the intended benefits of the policy.
 - The policy demonstrates inconsistencies when comparing the significant levy increase, which will exceed 100% for some ratepayers, with the 3% cap on council rate increases. This imbalance places an undue burden on rural councils, which lack alternative revenue streams to offset the financial strain, amplifying the inequities faced by smaller communities.

Our analysis indicates the ESVF has the potential to strip out \$8.9million from our community, with very little return back to support emergency services. This represents an increase of \$4.3million on the Fire Service Property Levy (FSPL) raised in the current financial year, noting it had increased by 33% on the previous year.

The current approach undermines trust in local government, as councils are unfairly positioned as enforcers of a state-imposed tax, with no ability to influence its parameters or mitigate its impact. This is not sustainable and is damaging to the relationship between government and the communities we serve.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy

Corangamite Shire Council acknowledges and greatly values the critical role of emergency services and the dedication of the volunteers, however the ESFV has the potential to impose significant financial and administrative burdens on councils and will be inequitably applied to ratepayers.

C.1.1.4 - Request to Reconsider the Model for Collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

The following motion has been developed for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting to address the changes to the fire services levy coming into effect from 1 July 2025:

1. Request the State Government to provide a statement of reasons for changes to the fire services levy resulting in a rise in charges to residents from 1 July 2025.
2. While funding for emergency services is essential, the collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund places an unfair burden on local governments. We call on the State Government to review the timeframes, funding, and support provided to ensure a fair and sustainable approach to the implementation of this state-wide tax.
3. Request the State Government to undertake an economic impact study to evaluate how fee increases will affect residents, local businesses, and overall community wellbeing, detailing the findings in a publicly released report.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy	

In December 2024, the Victorian Government announced changes to the fire services levy. From 1 July 2025 it is being replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund which will expand the amount of money collected by councils to fund the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES), Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).

Most ratepayers will experience an increase in the amount they have to pay to Council without information regarding how portions of it will be utilised, highlighting the importance of State Government and Council messaging.

For councils, these changes announced by the Victorian Government are expected to place a high load on respective Rates Teams who will be expected to manage CFA and SES volunteer exemptions, reclassification of vacant industrial land, determination of principal places of residence from 1 July 2026, as

well as an anticipated increase in outstanding amounts and ratepayer enquiries. Further concerns around this issue include:

- The timeframe to implement the changes and the required communication plan is unachievable for Council to be able to achieve the best outcomes for residents.
- There is a potential increase in cost to Council to adequately resource relevant teams in order to cope with not only the initial changes, but the ongoing requirements.

Council acknowledges that ensuring services are well-funded is essential, but we believe it is unfair to place the burden of collecting this state-wide tax on local government. Council is seeking to ask the State Government to re-evaluate the timeframes of implementing changes and to provide information detailing the rationale for the fire services levy changes in a clear format for all residents to access.

C.1.1.5 - Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy Funding Model

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV request the Victorian Government to reassess the emergency services and volunteer levy funding model to ensure it is equitable and does not disproportionately burden rural communities including shifting the responsibilities for levy collection to State Government and compensate Council's for administrative costs where collection duties remain delegated to councils.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy

Considering a change to the Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy funding model is essential as the system that is set to be adopted disproportionately impacts rural councils, leading to significant financial strain and administrative burden. This inequitable distribution of costs exacerbates existing economic challenges that rural councils already face. The administrative burden for collecting the levy is being placed on councils that do not have the resources to manage this additional administrative burden.

C.1.1.6 - Review of Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy

Submitting Council: Hepburn Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV strongly calls on the State Government to review their decision to designate Councils as their formal collection agency for the State imposed Emergency Services Volunteer Fund tax.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

The State Government have recently announced replacement of the current Fire Services Levy (FSL) with the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF). Details are available at [Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund | dtf.vic.gov.au](https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/emergency-services-and-volunteers-fund)

The ESVF will be calculated based on a fixed charge that varies by property type, and a variable charge based on property value – the fees are expected to be significantly higher than the current FSL.

State Government requires Council to be the collection agency of the levy, through annual rate notices, and provide all funds to the State Government. The ESVF is problematic because State Government is designating local Councils as the collection agency via annual rates notices, creating administrative burden for councils and creating the perception that local Councils are responsible for the tax increases and also retain the income generated.

This notice of motion is designed to advocate to State Government that the collection of this tax needs to be managed by State Government and the responsibility for this revenue collection should not be passed to local Councils.

C.1.1.7 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate for the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy be collected by the State Revenue Office and not councils.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy	

This matter has been identified by numerous councils, most notably in terms of Wodonga, through the work of Regional Cities Victoria (RCV). It involves a significant increase over the existing fire services property levy, and the requirement that it be collected by councils will place the costs burden for collecting the tax on local communities.

C.1.1.8 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Premier and Minister for Local Government to express concerns regarding the collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. It is proposed that the collection of this fund be managed directly by the state government, rather than local governments, to ensure a more streamlined and efficient process for all parties involved.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Sustainable economy.

The Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025.

Local Councils, through their property rating systems, are currently tasked with collecting over \$839.5 million in state levies, which create significant administrative complexity and diverts resources from essential local government functions.

This responsibility, particularly as it applies to a state-wide tax such as the ESVF, places an undue burden on Councils and could lead to inefficiencies in both service delivery and the accurate collection of funds.

Council has received correspondence from Moorabool Shire Council requesting Council act on this matter.

C.1.1.9 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Funds

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government:

- a) to require the impacted Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies to engage their members to advise Councils if they are exempt from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund service charge on their rates notice.
- b) To ensure equitable distribution of funds on a needs-based equalisation basis, ensuring that the rural and regional branches of the benefiting Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies are adequately supported given the higher impact of natural disasters in the regions.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy

The State Government has announced that the Fire Services Property Levy (FSLP) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) commencing 1 July 2025. It was also announced that active volunteers and life members won't have to pay the ESVF on their primary place of residence.

There is limited information currently available regarding the eligibility of this exemption to pay the ESVF. As 1 July is fast approaching, Council's require clarity of eligibility as soon as possible to ensure the correct information is included in individual rates notices. There needs to be an equitable distribution of funds on a needs-based equalisation basis, to ensure that rural and regional branches of the benefiting Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies are adequately supported given the higher impact of natural disasters in the regions.

C.1.1.10 - Reduce burden on Council and Community of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for an Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund funding arrangement that avoids financial impact to community and Councils

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery

Council is aware that the change from the existing Fire Services Levy to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will have a financial impact on local residents, with disproportioned increases to our primary producers. In addition to the increased cost and administrative burden of implementation, when packaged with rates notices will cause undue backlash against local government.

Council recognises and applauds our emergency service staff and volunteers and supports the intent for them to be reliably and appropriately funded. Council also recognises and applauds the substantial existing

efforts of community to support our emergency services, including many active volunteers, and highly effective local fundraisers.

This change to the levy was enacted by the Victorian Government in December 2024, with minimal consultation with Local Government, and imposes implementation by 1 July 2025. MAV advocacy must work towards outcomes that provide emergency services volunteers and services with the funding and support they need, in a way that avoids placing new burdens on community and Council.

C.1.1.11 - Emergency Services Volunteer Fund

Submitting Council: Colac Otway Shire Council

Motion:

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

1. Reassess the funding model to ensure it is equitable and does not disproportionately burden rural communities.
2. Shift levy collection responsibilities to the State Government.
3. Compensate councils for administrative costs if collection duties remain delegated.
4. Implement a comprehensive communication strategy to clarify the levy's purpose and allocation.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery	

The levy is a state-imposed tax being introduced without appropriate consideration or consultation. The levy will impose an undue burden on rural communities and in particular our farming communities without time for explanation or assessment of impacts. This is particularly harsh when so many regional areas are facing extremely dry conditions and financial stress. For some farmers this change can represent an increase of 300% or more without clarity about how the levy will benefit these communities.

Councils are expected to implement this change by 1 July 2025, adding an administrative burden to incorporate the levy without adequate detail. Moreover, Councils are again being left to be 'the face of change' on behalf of the Victorian Government. Councils will be left to explain the new burden and manage hardship matters for a tax that is not relevant to Councils services which is inefficient and inappropriate.

C.1.1.12 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - Council and Community Impacts

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association Victoria call on the Victorian Government to:

- a. Collect emergency services taxes via the State Revenue Office and not local councils.
- b. Revise the levy amounts, with consideration of the impact the proposed tax reforms will have on ratepayers, and particularly on Victorian farmers who will experience the highest levies.
- c. Commit to further engagement with local government prior to the introduction of tax reforms that will impact rates notices and increase the administrative burden on councils.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	19/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund represents a significant State tax reform, effectively doubling the levy, and this will disproportionately affect regional ratepayers, particularly Victorian farmers.

Additionally, the administrative burden on regional and rural Councils will be overwhelming. Councils will be required to upgrade and reconfigure their systems to manage the collection of this State tax, placing significant strain on resources. Furthermore, the impact on Council staff will be substantial, as they will be required to field calls from ratepayers seeking assistance and dealing with bill shock. This not only creates a logistical challenge but also places an undue burden on local governments that are not equipped to manage such significant changes.

The Victorian Government should leverage the expertise of the State Revenue Office, which is best positioned to administer the collection of the new tax. The current approach fails to adequately engage or consult with Local Government, which will be tasked with administering this tax, despite it being entirely passed through to the State Government.

C.1.1.13 - Motion to Condemn the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund

Submitting Council: Ararat Rural City Council

Motion:

That, while MAV acknowledges the importance of adequate funding for emergency services, MAV condemns the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) for the following key reasons:

- The disproportionate impact of the ESVF on primary producers
- The obscenely steep increase imposed onto all ratepayers
- The ongoing expectation that local councils act as the collection agency for a state-imposed tax

The ESVF variable rate for Primary Production properties is nearly 3 times the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) rate. The exorbitant impost on primary producers penalises the very people who make the biggest contribution to the emergency relief and response efforts in regional and rural areas.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25		
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government		
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No		
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?			

From 1 July 2025, the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).

Local councils are currently tasked with collecting the FSPL and the ESVF, which creates a significant administrative burden on councils as the collection agency. Council staff bear the brunt of disgruntled ratepayers when they see the increased total bill on their rates notice, yet none of the ESVF is guaranteed to be spent in the municipality where it is collected.

For most property sectors in Ararat Rural City, the ESVF is close to double the existing FSPL variable rate (cents per \$1,000 CIV). For the Primary Production properties, the rate is nearly tripled. In dollar terms, the Ararat Rural City Council collected approx. \$2.7m of FSPL in 2024/25 for the State Government. In 2025/26, the ESVF would be over \$5.5m from the Ararat Rural City alone, an increase of \$2.8m. Most of this (88% or approx. \$2.5m) would be paid for by Primary Production properties.

The exemption for active emergency services volunteers and life members provides little relief for many of our local farmers. Their primary place of residence is often on a separate title to their farm or they have multiple properties that have been acquired over the years or generations. For example, an Ararat Rural City farmer and active emergency services volunteer paid approx. \$27,000 in total for the FSPL in 2024/25. In 2025/26 under the ESVF, this farmer would be required to pay over \$77,000. The exemption due to being an active volunteer would only save them \$1,300.

Our ratepayers in Pomonal have been impacted by two significant bushfires in less than 12 months. First in February 2024 where the 45 homes that were lost have not yet been rebuilt, and again by the recent bushfires in the Grampians. The recent bushfires prevented the local tourism businesses from being able to trade during their busiest time of the year, meaning they lost thousands of dollars worth of stock and they missed out on building up their cash buffer for the quieter times. One of these commercial businesses will be charged over \$4,000 in ESVF charges, nearly double what they paid in FSPL in 2024/25.

The ESVF is a poorly formulated revenue system with little regard for the financial impact and circumstances of those who will incur the greatest cost due to this change. The ESVF should therefore be condemned.

C.1.1.14 - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Submitting Council: Mansfield Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to review the new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund by:

1. Collecting the levy through a state government agency and not requiring councils to carry the administrative, reputational and resource costs of the state tax
2. Reducing the tax burden levy rate proposed for all Victorian residents and ratepayers, particularly for primary producers.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	12/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	

This ESVF is a significant increase over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas, which could see an increase of around 3 times the existing levy. This is a significant burden for ratepayers on top of their existing rates and is being introduced alongside the Vacant Residential Land Tax. Councils will bear the brunt of this tax, not only in terms of the reputational impact but in the resource burden of collecting this tax on behalf of the state government.

Costs will ultimately be passed down through the cost of food with the increased cost of operating primary production businesses. Therefore, the new tax will impact all Victorians and has not been applied fairly across the State and will disproportionately affect regional Victoria.

C.1.1.15 - Emergency Services Volunteer Fund

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council:

- i. Supports the intention of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)
- ii. Note the significant impact of the proposed ESVF on local government and the community, particularly on primary production properties;
- iii. Strongly advocate on behalf of the local government sector that a review of the ESVF be undertaken to reduce the impact and burden on farming communities, including delaying its implementation if necessary to allow time for this review;
- iv. Seek that management of the ESVF be adequately funded or managed directly by the State Government to not unnecessarily burden local government.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

The Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025. While we acknowledge the importance of adequate funding for emergency services, there is belief amongst the sector that it is not appropriate for local governments to act as the collection agency for this state-wide tax.

Local Councils, through their property rating systems, are currently tasked with collecting over \$839.5 million in state levies, which create significant administrative complexity and diverts resources from essential local government functions. This responsibility, particularly as it applies to a state-wide tax such as the ESVF, places an undue burden on Councils.

The ESVF significantly increases in cost over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas. Primary producer's costs may be as high as 1.85 times the existing levy, depending on the value of the property.

The implementation and management of this change, including increased volume of customer enquiries, information technology system changes and management, debtor and complaint management may cost up to \$200,000 in the first year.

C.1.1.16 - Leading the charge to prevent the negative impacts which the proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will have

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV continue to lead the advocacy calling on the State Government to fundamentally alter their plans for the proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund and prevent the negative impacts associated with the Government's proposed approach.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy	

The Victorian government's proposed implementation of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund ("ESVF") will impose a significant new burden upon both councils and rate payers.

By implementing a system where the ESVF is attached to a resident's rates notice, the State Government is effectively turning local government into a collection agency for State Government taxes. This is both impractical and inefficient. This will result in an increased cost burden for local government whilst simultaneously putting councils in a position which erodes trust between community and the sector.

The MAV is the best positioned organisation to coordinate and lead advocacy regarding this issue. Local government needs a clear, unified voice around this issue, and this should come from the MAV.

C.1.1.17 - Administrative Burden on Local Governments of the revised Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Delay the implementation of the Principal Place of Residence (PPR) obligation under the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) beyond 1 July 2026, to allow for a more practical, cost-effective and consistent approach to verifying ratepayer residency status.
2. Fully fund any system changes, administrative costs and community communication efforts required for councils to implement the new ESVF and the associated PPR requirement, ensuring that no unfunded burden is placed on councils or ratepayers for a State Government tax measure.
3. Explore alternative approaches to administering PPR verification, such as utilising existing State Government data (e.g. from the State Revenue Office or Valuer-General) to reduce duplication and inefficiency in council-led assessments.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

On Friday 13 December 2024, the Victorian Government announced the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced with the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025.

A key new requirement comes into effect from 1 July 2026, requiring councils to assess and verify whether each residential property is an owner-occupied Principal Place of Residence (PPR). Those that are not classified as a PPR will be subject to a higher non-residential levy, meaning councils must update ratepayer classifications, process PPR declarations potentially, and undertake some form of compliance checks.

Currently, Councils do not maintain PPR classifications within their rating systems, meaning significant IT system changes will be required to track and differentiate properties. New procedures developed to allow ratepayers to declare their principal residence status, with councils responsible for assessing, verifying, and updating records. This will involve major effort, requiring additional staff time, compliance workflows, and potential challenges in clarifying with ratepayers.

Whilst the costs of implementing this system enhancements remain unclear, financial support will be required to cover the full cost of implementation, as well as ongoing increased licensing costs. Generally, all 79 councils will require some form of system modification and/or procedure considerations to:

- Modify IT rating systems to store and apply PPR classifications

- Develop and administer a new PPR declaration process for ratepayers
- Manage community communication to explain the changes to ratepayers, including the significant uplift in the charge itself
- Handle appeals/disputes/debt collection.

A delay in the 1 July 2026 implementation component, would be practical and allow councils to consider the change appropriately and better test the PPR verification processes in a cost-effective manner.

As well as this, full State Government funding to cover system upgrades, staffing costs, and public communication efforts associated with the change is required.

Lastly, a more efficient verification process, such as utilising existing State Government data sources (e.g. from the State Revenue Office, Australian Electoral Commission, or Valuer-General) to minimise duplication and avoid placing councils in the role of tax compliance administrators.

By supporting this motion, the MAV can advocate for a fairer, more practical process to manage the PPR classification under ESVF, ensuring councils are not unfairly burdened with an underfunded and administrative complex requirement.

Consolidated motion 1.2 - A local and state government partnership to deliver well planned and connected communities

Motion:

That the MAV, in recognising the ongoing housing affordability crisis and the Victorian Government's commitment in the *Plan for Victoria* to align the state's settlement strategies with a target of 70% of new homes being built inside established areas, seeks a commitment from the Minister for Planning and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to partner with the MAV and local government to:

1. Undertake deliberative and collaborative engagement in designing and implementing planning system reforms and housing strategies. Specifically:
 - a. support the role of Local Government as the primary decision maker for planning applications
 - b. undertake meaningful community engagement, while maintaining broad third-party appeal rights in strategic and statutory planning decisions
 - c. transparent sharing of housing capacity target data and releasing the Standing Advisory Committee Reports for the 10 pilot activity centres so that the lessons and findings can be shared state-wide
 - d. support and encourage local government's critical role in delivering context-sensitive planning outcomes across ESD, integration of housing with infrastructure needs and sustainable transport options, and delivery of affordable housing through partnerships
 - e. engage with industry and private sector stakeholders to address barriers to construction, such as economic viability and workforce capacity

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Impact on Planning Controls – Bayside City Council</u> <u>Deliberative Engagement – Future Homes – Banyule City Council</u> <u>Third Party Appeal Rights for Community – Future Homes - Banyule City Council</u>	Yes

C.1.2.1 - Impact on Planning Controls

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV seeks a formal commitment from the Minister for Planning and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to collaborate and partner with councils in planning and implementing the planning reform agenda, including but not limited to the 50 train and tram activity centres. Specifically:

1. that the State Government and DTP collaborate on a robust planning framework that includes transparent data sharing, meaningful community engagement, context-sensitive design, integration of housing with infrastructure needs, and delivery of affordable housing, sustainable transport options and infrastructure to support housing growth
2. that the State Government releases the Standing Advisory Committee Reports associated with the 10 pilot activity centres so that the lessons and findings can be positively built on for pending reforms
3. that the State Government and DTP engage with industry and private sector stakeholders to address barriers to construction, such as economic viability and workforce capacity
4. that the proposed Infrastructure Contributions Scheme be implemented simultaneously and in an integrated fashion with all other reforms. In the development of the Infrastructure Contributions, that the Minister for Planning and DTP work in partnership with the MAV and local councils and ensures that the new scheme does not result in any cost shifting or financial burdens to local government.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, FutureGen, Intergenerational infrastructure

The State Government has been undertaking a Planning Reform program which includes but is not limited to:

- Planning and Environment Act 1987 review
- Housing Statement
- Plan for Victoria
- Activity Centres Program
- ResCode Changes/Update
- Car Parking Review
- Infrastructure Contribution Scheme

The Councils understand the need to plan for additional diverse, sustainable and affordable housing in established areas and growth areas. The Councils also consider that it is imperative that the planning controls are appropriate, context-specific and workable.

However, the Minister for Planning and DTP have had minimal engagement with Councils and the community, with any information sharing being for very short periods of time. This has limited Councils and community ability to provide any meaningful opportunity to for comprehensive and considered feedback on the proposed reform agenda.

In particular, the Minister for Planning and DTP failed to share draft planning ordinance (Zones, Overlays, etc.) for the 10 pilot activity centres during public consultation (removing the communities ability to meaningfully engage), has imposed unnecessarily short and rushed process to meet a December announcement (which has not materialised), which has removed a robust and transparent process of which the Victorian Planning System has been successfully based upon until now.

The lack of process has created grave concerns with the delivery of proper and orderly planning outcomes. It has raised many questions regarding procedural fairness and property rights for members of the community.

We call on the Minister for Planning and DTP to pause and work with Local Councils so to deliver a more robust process and genuine partnership on the planning reforms.

We are seeking a commitment to a partnership approach which is underpinned by the following objectives:

- Information sharing including background analysis and data;
- A genuine commitment to community engagement and feedback;
- A focus on place, placemaking and the need for high quality built form and good urban design outcomes which respect the character and heritage values of our municipalities;
- Housing and population growth linked to local infrastructure and service capacity needs and future provision
- A commitment to sustainability including high quality design and support for active transport to enable more walkable, convenient and connected communities
- Support for and outcomes on affordable housing provision
- Activity centres being seen as 'whole' places with a mix of uses, including jobs, services, high quality public spaces, recreation and housing
- Industry and private sector engagement on issues that are holding up construction such as economic viability, access to a trained workforce and an efficient supply chain

It is imperative that we build a planning framework that can support and guide the right planning outcomes in and around our activity centres, now and for many years to come. Supporting the right outcomes for these centres is critical not only in relation to housing but also recognising the important economic and social role that these centres play. Councils have expert knowledge, plan and deliver infrastructure and services, and have a relationship with community and local businesses. Excluding Local Councils, a key industry stakeholder from this reform agenda will result in unintended consequences for our communities for years to come.

C.1.2.2 - Deliberative Engagement – Future Homes

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV Supports advocacy for all Victorian Government lead housing strategies to include deliberative engagement with the public and councils in LGA's across Victoria

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, FutureGen, Diversity, equity & inclusion

Banyule City Council acknowledges the housing crisis facing many Victorians and supports state government initiatives that provide increased housing stock and housing diversity. However, concern has been identified with the process and outcomes undertaken by the State Government in the implementation of Clause 53.24 Future Homes into Banyule's planning scheme, and the remaining planning schemes across Victoria.

An urgent business motion was successfully tabled at Banyule's ordinary Council meeting on 9 December 2024 and foreshadowed to be raised at the next MAV State Council meeting.

C.1.2.3 - Third Party Appeal Rights for Community - Future Homes

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV Supports the role of Local Government as the primary decision maker for planning applications and the maintenance of broad third party appeal rights.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy

Banyule City Council acknowledges the housing crisis facing many Victorians and supports state government initiatives that provide increased housing stock and housing diversity. However, concern has been identified with the process and outcomes undertaken by the State Government in the implementation of Clause 53.24 Future Homes into Banyule's planning scheme, and the remaining planning schemes across Victoria.

Clause 53.24 specifically removes third party appeal rights for objectors to an application lodged via the Future Homes pathway. This has resulted in the removal of public participation in the planning process.

Consolidated motion 1.3 - Ensuring Victoria's identified Activity Centre precincts have the infrastructure they need

Motion:

That the MAV support partnerships with Federal and State Government with Local Government to increase infrastructure funding in identified Activity Centres, strategic precincts and growing communities, including by:

1. piloting coordinated a Local/State/Federal infrastructure delivery project in one of the 12 designated Metropolitan Activity Centres in Victoria
2. calling on the Victorian Government to partner with local governments with declared Activity Centres and strategic precincts to deliver more green open spaces to offset densification, and support the construction of liveable and high-quality dwellings which can provide a genuine stepping stone for home buyers

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Pilot coordinated Local/State/Federal infrastructure delivery – Hume City Council</u> <u>Provision of Infrastructure to Existing & Future Communities - Banyule City Council</u> <u>Support for infrastructure in activity centres and strategic precincts – Kingston City Council</u>	Yes

C.1.3.1 - Pilot coordinated Local/State/Federal infrastructure delivery

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian and Federal Government to pilot coordinated Local/State/Federal infrastructure delivery in one of the 12 designated Metropolitan Activity Centres in Victoria.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure

There are numerous examples where the development of new communities in growth areas has been subject to a significant lack of coordination between all levels of government for the delivery of community infrastructure, roads, public transport, education and health facilities.

With 12 Metropolitan Activity Centres coming to be developed in Victoria there are opportunities for greater collaboration between the three tiers of Government to make sure that communities get the infrastructure and facilities they need in a timely manner and to minimise the ongoing impact of construction and reducing access to services.

C.1.3.2 - Provision of Infrastructure to Existing & Future Communities

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV Supports advocacy with Federal and State Government for increased funding to support infrastructure requirements for growing communities

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Intergenerational infrastructure

Victoria's population continues to increase, with Melbourne's population on track to surpass that of Sydney's within 10 years. To ensure adequate infrastructure is in place to support the State's growing population, it is essential that additional funding is provided by both State and Federal governments.

C.1.3.3 - Support for infrastructure in activity centres and strategic precincts

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to work closely with councils in which there are declared Activity Centres and strategic development precincts and actively collaborate to support, encourage and if necessary, fund: Useable, flexible and green open space to offset densification Measures to ensure the safety and accessibility of public spaces in areas of higher density the construction of liveable and high-quality dwellings which can provide a genuine stepping stone for home buyers.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	

Population growth through the densification of suburbs in the middle ring of Melbourne poses many problems for the lack of infrastructure to support a growing population: schools, kindergartens, open space, sporting and cultural facilities.

Consolidated motion 1.4 - Ensuring no community is left behind: reforms to Victoria's infrastructure contributions system

Motion:

That the MAV leads sector advocacy to ensure appropriate equity and protections are incorporated in the State Government's infrastructure contributions system reforms by calling on the Victorian Government to:

1. Collaborate with the MAV and local government on the design and implementation of a new infrastructure contributions system, and in doing so:
 - a. Develop and deliver contributions mechanisms that provide for community expectations of local infrastructure in growth areas, densifying suburbs, Activity Centres, SRL sites and other strategic precincts
 - b. Include community input to ensure that infrastructure projects meet local needs and expectations
 - c. Develop comprehensive regional infrastructure plans to address the needs of growing communities
 - d. Protect existing Developer Contributions agreements, including DCPs, ICPs, and s173 agreements, whether through grandfathering or appropriate transitional provisions
 - e. Commit to regular updates and transparent communication with the community regarding infrastructure planning and implementation
 - f. Integrate the new system simultaneously with all other planning system reforms
2. Ensure that any new infrastructure contributions system ensures local government can fund its current and future infrastructure needs by:
 - a. not decreasing, in either real or proportional terms, the funding quantum collected by local government to support any additional responsibilities that may be transferred to local government
 - b. maintaining local government's role as a collection agency
 - c. retaining and improving processes that provide access to land for local infrastructure, including equalisation, where required
 - d. retaining local government's ability to develop and implement works in kind or other alternative methods of infrastructure delivery
 - e. allocating additional state funding to support maintenance of community infrastructure and incentive new infrastructure projects that are staged with, and unlock, housing developments
 - f. reviewing the rate cap mechanism to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the sector in the context of these reforms
3. While the above is undertaken, return the Growing Suburbs Fund to its previous funding iteration of \$50million for critically needed community infrastructure

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<p><u>Growth Areas need the Growing Suburbs Fun– Wyndham City Council</u></p> <p><u>Draft housing targets & impacts on infrastructure and community services – Manningham City Council</u></p> <p><u>Improved Integrated Planning and Funding for Community Infrastructure - Maribyrnong City Council</u></p> <p><u>Ensuring equity for emerging communities through the State Government's proposed Developer Contributions Reforms – Mitchell Shire Council</u></p>	Yes

C.1.4.1 - Growth Areas need the Growing Suburbs Fund

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the State Government to ensure that growth areas are not left behind by returning the Growing Suburbs Fund to its previous funding iteration of \$50million for critically needed community infrastructure.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure	

The 2024/2025 Victorian Government budget allocated just \$10 million to the Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF). This represents a significant decline from \$50 million allocated in previous budgets. In the 10 years between 2015/16 and 2024/25 the GSF contributed \$440 million in critically needed local infrastructure. The GSF provides funding for infrastructure projects to meet the current needs of communities in Melbourne's growing outer suburbs.

The limited availability of funding through the GSF and increased construction and infrastructure costs has limited Council's ability to deliver much needed infrastructure in a timely manner. Without appropriate support, projects may need to be delayed by several years or be entirely descope, providing less benefits to residents.

Providing an ongoing commitment to funding the GSF will enable councils to manage a pipeline of projects of infrastructure in a timely manner and correspond to the growing needs of our communities.

C.1.4.2 - Draft housing targets & impacts on infrastructure and community services

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

- Establish ongoing partnership arrangements with councils to deliver a sufficient level of local infrastructure and services;
- Provide alternative ongoing funding streams to enable a sufficient level of development of and maintenance of essential community infrastructure and to meet the increased demand for service provision;
- Provide full and reliable funding streams to support any additional responsibilities that may be transferred to local government; and
- Review the rate cap mechanism to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the sector.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure

As part of the recent State Government Planning Reforms, draft housing targets have been announced for all Council's in Victoria. For Manningham, a target of 39,000 new dwellings has been set to be achieved by 2051.

This represents an increased population of approximately 100,000 people. This is a 76% increase over the current housing stock, which equates to 1,300 new dwellings per annum over 30 years.

It is of significant concern, that the draft housing targets have been prepared without any consideration or planning for the infrastructure and community service needs that would be required to support this level of housing growth.

Planning for the provision of infrastructure and community services is a joint responsibility of both levels of government. This needs to be undertaken in a coordinated manner, as each level of government is responsible for different infrastructure and community services.

For example, no indication has been provided that details the additional schools, health & aged care facilities, hospitals and allied health, police and emergency services and other services that will be required to support this population. It is also acknowledged that the land that will be required to facilitate these community services in appropriate locations will also be in direct competition with land required for additional housing.

A key issue addressed in Council's submission (August 2024) in response to Plan Victoria and the draft Housing Targets highlighted the need for adequate funding mechanisms for councils to ensure that Manningham can deliver its vital services and infrastructure effectively to support this level of population growth.

Council is responsible for a broad range of infrastructure and community services. More specifically, the housing targets need to also consider the projected demand for new or improved infrastructure, such as roads, drains, footpaths, public open space, schools, community and recreational facilities, employment precincts and transport networks.

Like many councils, Manningham faces significant challenges to long-term financial sustainability due to cost shifting, rate capping, rising costs, increasing population and rising community expectations. To address this, Council needs to engage with and seek support from other government levels and stakeholders to find sustainable solutions. Rate capping and funding gaps hinder our ability to meet increasing demands and provide essential services and infrastructure.

The State Government housing target of an additional 39,000 new homes in Manningham by 2051, will lead to a shortfall of over \$13 million per annum (Council estimate based on today's dollars) for Council's operational budget. The income generated by these additional dwellings will not offset the increased expenditure required to deliver the services and infrastructure needs of a significantly larger population.

C.1.4.3 - Improved Integrated Planning and Funding for Community Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to consider and implement:

1. Greater collaboration between state and local governments to ensure that community infrastructure planning is integrated with housing development plans;
2. Development of comprehensive infrastructure plans that address the needs of growing communities;
3. Allocation of additional state funding to support the development and maintenance of community infrastructure;
4. Establishment of funding mechanisms that ensure timely delivery of infrastructure projects in line with housing developments;
5. Inclusion of community input in the planning process to ensure that infrastructure projects meet the needs and expectations of residents; and
6. Regular updates and transparent communication with the community regarding infrastructure planning and implementation.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure

The Victorian Government has set ambitious housing targets to accommodate the growing population and to address housing affordability. However, the provision of adequate community infrastructure, including schools, healthcare facilities, public transport, and recreational spaces, is likely to struggle to keep pace with these targets. Integrated planning and sufficient funding are crucial to ensure that new housing developments are supported by the necessary infrastructure to maintain the quality of life for residents. Adequate community infrastructure is essential for the well-being and prosperity of residents. The Victorian Government is requested to consider improved integrated planning and increased funding, to ensure that new housing developments are supported by the necessary infrastructure, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all Victorians.

C.1.4.4 - Ensuring equity for emerging communities through the State Government's proposed Developer Contributions Reforms

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV take leadership in advocacy ensuring appropriate equity and protections are incorporated through the State Government's Developer Contributions reform with a particular focus upon:

1. Protecting existing Developer Contributions agreements, including DCPs, ICPs, and s173 agreements;
2. Ensuring that local government maintains its role as a collection agency;
3. Ensuring that appropriate processes remain in place to provide access to land for local infrastructure, including equalisation processes where required;
4. Protecting the ability to develop and implement works in kind or other alternative methods of infrastructure delivery; and
5. Ultimately, considering the existing funding pressures already associated with the delivery of infrastructure through development contributions schemes, that the funding quantum collected by councils does not decrease in either real or proportional terms.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure	

The Victorian State Government has flagged reform of the developer contributions system as a key element of its overhaul of the State Planning framework.

Developer contributions are a key source of income, supporting the full range of infrastructure from the local to the regional. For local governments in emerging growth areas, they provide an invaluable source of income to contribute to the delivery of local roads, trunk infrastructure, kindergartens, maternal and child health rooms, sports fields, and much more.

The current system, although delivering less money to local communities as a proportion of infrastructure cost than in the past, at least ensures the councils and the communities they represent are able to negotiate and make decisions which are right for them.

The complexity and extreme potential negative implications implied by any reform of the current system cannot be understated. It is essential that all councils are consulted and engaged and that the unique implications for each council be carefully assessed. Strong advocacy is required to avoid a situation where new and emerging communities are locked out or completely ignored in reform deliberations.

Consolidated motion 1.5 - Early Years Infrastructure Funding

Motion:

That MAV advocates that the State Government:

1. consult with Council's to understand the effects of the BSBL reforms and the identified issues that will prevent all Victorian children from having universal access to two years of funded kindergarten.
2. outline its future plans and commitment to providing adequate funding for the Best Start Best Life kindergarten reforms across all of Victoria to enable Councils to adequately plan and deliver early years infrastructure expansion ensuring the sustainability of early years programs in the face of growing demand and pressure on facilities to meet the reforms.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Support to kindergarten funding – Kingston City Council</u> <u>Early Years Advocacy for funding for infrastructure – Bayside City Council</u> <u>Request for the Victorian Government to engage with Council's to address the Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms and the identified issues. – Casey City Council</u>	Yes

C.1.5.1 - Support to kindergarten funding

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to outline its future plans for financially supporting the Best Start, Best Life kindergarten reforms program and commit to providing adequate funding to ensure the sustainability of early years programs in the face of growing demand and pressure on facilities created by the introduction of Free Kindergarten, Pre-prep and population growth.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?		

The Victorian Government's Best Start Best Life Free Kindergarten program is great in theory, but will result in a massive cost pressure on councils who need to extend, refurbish or build completely new facilities to cope with the extra demand for 3 and 4 years old kindergarten places.

C.1.5.2 - Early Years Advocacy for funding for infrastructure

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to outline its future plans and commit to providing adequate funding across all of Victoria to enable Councils to adequately plan and deliver early years infrastructure expansion to meet the Best Start Best Life reforms.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	FutureGen	

The Victorian Government is already delivering its Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms.

More children have enrolled in Victorian kindergartens since the government announced these reforms. The BSBL reforms include 4-year-old kindergarten transforming into a new universal program called pre-prep, which will begin gradually rolling out from 2025 until 2036, and will be free to all Victorian 4-year-olds for 20 hours each week by 2034, increasing to 30 hours each week by 2036.

Most existing kindergarten infrastructure in Bayside and beyond is ageing and likely to reach end of life within the next 10 years. A 2022 Municipal Association of Victoria survey found that 70% of council buildings used for early years education are more than 40 years old. Within existing community kindergarten infrastructure in established suburbs of Melbourne, many operate as single room kinder services.

Without expansion, single room kinder services will not be able to provide a model of service accommodating both a 3-year-old and 4-year-old group. Although service models can change to mixed age groups, maintaining single room kinder services will result in a reduction of places at a time when demand is increasing.

The challenge for many Council's is that in order to have local facilities that can operate within the new service provision context introduced through the State Government Early Years reforms, significant financial investment is required to upgrade infrastructure due to increasing eligible population, an ageing portfolio of facilities, and a predominance of single room facilities that will not be viable within the new model.

The Victorian Government is service agnostic in its assessment of need and does not take into account community preference where children receive their kindergarten. Community sessional kindergarten is often the preferred model for families as it encourages volunteerism opportunities for families and supports local community strengthening. Families accessing long day care for childcare will often still choose sessional kinder for their child's preschool education.

Planning infrastructure redevelopment and relocation of services takes significant time and planning. It is not just construction planning, but relocation of existing services during construction, to enable ongoing service provision and viability. The State Government focus is currently on areas that will implement reforms by 2032, not allowing adequate time for planning for complex and significant projects in areas that will implement the reforms by 2036.

C.1.5.3 - Request for the Victorian Government to engage with Council's to address the Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms and the identified issues.

Submitting Council: Casey City Council

Motion:

That the MAV requests the State Government to consult with Council's to understand the effects of the BSBL reforms and the identified issues that will prevent all Victorian children having universal access to two years of funded kindergarten.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	

By 2036, an additional 5,800 kindergarten places will need to be provided by the sector, which is more than double the size of Council's current kindergarten service.

The shortfall in kindergarten places needs to be addressed now as the effects of BSBL reforms will be felt from 2026 when Aboriginal, Torres Strait and vulnerable children will have access to 16-30 hours of pre-prep (23% of Casey's kindergarten cohort).

In 2022, the State Government announced its Best Start Best Life policy reform (BSBL) which includes increasing kindergarten to 15 hours of three-year-old kindergarten by 2029 and 30 hours of Pre-prep (four-year-old kindergarten) by 2032. This reform has a significant impact on Council's kindergarten infrastructure planning and provision and our service delivery model.

Analysis of the data and risks, following a review of the Early Years Service, strongly supported the recommendation to build infrastructure for population growth only – that is, continuing service delivery while not taking on new sites or growing Council's kindergarten workforce. Council has endorsed the position that the kindergarten sector, including the State Government, should be responsible for fulfilling the obligations of the reform. This is a financially sustainable position for Council as building to meet the BSBL reforms is likely to place Casey in the position of providing infrastructure beyond its financial means and prioritising kindergarten assets would impact more broadly on community access to social infrastructure. Furthermore, as the ongoing availability of Building Block funding is unknown and at the discretion of the Government of the day, the costs associated with maintenance and renewal (outside of funding criteria) of kindergartens will continue to be borne by Council.

This position means the number of sites managed by Council will decrease over time as the increase in kindergarten hours is implemented and the level of service provision is densified at each site. Early Years Managers (EYM) will be engaged to manage any kindergarten sites (new and existing sites) not operated by Council. This option is financially sustainable and strengthens partnerships across the kindergarten sector in Casey, although it does assume the current level of State Government operational kindergarten funding.

Consolidated motion 1.6 - Dedicated flood mitigation infrastructure fund

Motion:

That the MAV called on the State Government to establish a dedicated flood mitigation infrastructure fund to address the increasing risk of flooding due to climate change, urban expansion, and ageing infrastructure, including state and local drainage upgrades, stormwater retention basins, riverbank stabilisation and levees.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Impact on Drainage infrastructure – Bayside City Council</u> <u>State funding for flood mitigation works – Warrnambool City Council</u> <u>The need for the State to upgrade its stormwater Infrastructure Drainage Network – Yarra City Council</u>	Yes

C.1.6.1 - Impact on Drainage Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to support councils with ageing infrastructure due to the effects of climate change councils are experiencing with increased occurrence of storms and localised high-volume rain events.

Most of the sector's network had been designed for low density residential with large permeable backyards. With modern development and the increased pressures councils will receive with the State Government's 50 new activity zones, this will result in more impermeable surfaces, creating additional stormwater runoff that drains weren't designed for.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Climate & regenerative design, Intergenerational infrastructure	

High volume rain events generate a large volume of work requests related to flash flooding on streets and flooding of cars and properties. These are a challenge to manage both in the short term (immediate response) and longer term (solving ongoing complex drainage issues) and it is hard to meet community expectations around rectification.

Climate change has increased the occurrence of storms and localised high-volume rain events in recent years. Storms often cause damage to drainage infrastructure which in turn impact Council and privately owned assets.

These storm events are expected to become more intense and may increasingly exceed the capacity of local drains. This could be further exacerbated by sea level rise which reduces the capacity of outfalls into Port Phillip Bay and even more so by storm surge (when tidal conditions may further temporarily raise sea level). The outcome of climate change factors (in isolation or combined) causes water to surcharge from low points in the network. Coastal municipalities may be more exposed to this.

Drainage upgrades can be some of the most expensive council projects, often requiring advanced investigation and design, roadworks, excavation, and traffic management. It is not feasible (or even possible) for Councils to upgrade all under-capacity drains, alongside renewal requirements.

Much of the sector's drainage network was designed for low density residential with large permeable backyards. Modern development includes a lot more impermeable surfaces, creating additional stormwater runoff that drains weren't designed for. Intense storms naturally amplify this.

Councils have a largely ageing drainage network and capital requirements are expected to increase significantly over coming decades as drains require rehabilitation or renewal.

Bayside Council is over halfway through a project collecting flood modelling data across the municipality in partnership with Melbourne Water. This will be completed by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. While flood modelling will help us plan future works and support more flood resistant development, it may be controversial (property values) and won't help existing development.

An aging network also creates maintenance issues as drainage assets deteriorate, and become more exposed to collapse, obstruction, or root ingress. As an underground asset, blocked drains may not become apparent until flooding occurs.

C.1.6.2 - State funding for flood mitigation works

Submitting Council: Warrnambool City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to establish and expand dedicated funding streams for flood mitigation works, ensuring local governments have the resources to implement critical infrastructure projects that reduce flood risk and protect communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery	

Flooding poses a significant and increasing risk to Victorian communities, exacerbated by climate change, urban expansion, and aging infrastructure. While local governments play a crucial role in flood risk management, they often lack the necessary financial resources to implement mitigation works, such as levees, drainage upgrades, stormwater retention basins, and riverbank stabilisation.

Existing funding mechanisms, including grants and ad hoc programs, are often competitive, unpredictable, and insufficient to meet the growing need for flood mitigation investment. Councils must balance these critical infrastructure needs against competing priorities, leading to delays in essential projects that could significantly reduce flood impacts.

A dedicated and expanded flood mitigation funding program would ensure councils can proactively implement necessary works to protect communities, infrastructure, and local economies. This funding should be flexible, allowing for both large-scale regional projects and smaller, targeted local solutions, and should be designed to support councils with limited financial capacity.

By advocating for increased investment in flood mitigation works, the MAV can help ensure that councils have the resources needed to strengthen Victoria's resilience to flooding events.

C.1.6.3 - The need for the State to upgrade its Stormwater Infrastructure Drainage Network

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

MAV call on the State Government to urgently upgrade the State's infrastructure drainage network to have sufficient capacity and interconnection with Council assets to assist in reducing the flood risk based on major storm events and future projections

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy	

As our cities, towns and suburbs expand, the increased run off due to the greater number of impervious surfaces (i.e. more concrete, paved roads and roofing) increases. Coupled with increasing intense rainfall events, there is potential to overwhelm the existing stormwater infrastructure networks, which were designed for lower levels of rainfall intensity and runoff.

Most stormwater assets in Australian urban areas are made of clay or concrete and generally have a design life between 100 and 150 years. Many of the country's legacy urban stormwater systems are now struggling with the high cost of retrofits needed to address urban flooding and climate change Council drainage systems are interconnected with State Government drainage assets. As such, the performance and effectiveness of a Councils drainage assets is often greatly influenced by the condition, function and capacity of the State Government drainage assets beyond the municipality. State government drainage assets are generally much larger infrastructure assets compared to Council assets, as historically they catered for much larger catchments (based on the 60-hectare convention rule).

Therefore Council drainage assets greatly rely on State Government assets to be functional, perform effectively and have adequate capacity. Any issues with these asset characteristics greatly increase the flood risk of the connected and dependent Council drainage networks.

Consolidated motion 1.7 - State-wide consistent approaches for flood, inundation and coastal sea level rise hazard mapping and planning

Motion:

That the MAV, in recognising the Victorian Government's commitment in the *Plan for Victoria* to take on a stronger role in coordinating accurate and current flood-mapping, calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Implement a state-led, streamlined planning scheme amendment process for coastal erosion, flood, inundation, and other hazard-related planning scheme amendments
2. Urgently prepare statewide coastal vulnerability mapping, and for the State clarify and update Clause 13.01-2S 'Coastal inundation and erosion' to ensure appropriate planning benchmarks for sea level rise can be implemented into planning schemes

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Clarity from the Minister for Planning on appropriate sea level rise in flood modelling – Warrnambool City Council</u> <u>Streamlining flood-related planning scheme amendment pathways – Warrnambool City Council</u> <u>Vulnerability Mapping and Coastal Hazard Overlay – South Gippsland Shire Council</u>	Yes

C.1.7.1 - Clarity from the Minister for Planning on appropriate sea level rise in flood modelling

Submitting Council: Warrnambool City Council

Motion:

That the MAV seek a commitment from the Minister for Planning to update State guidance, including through Clause 13.01-2S, on appropriate planning for sea level rise at a consistent and agreed level.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Climate & regenerative design, Resilience & recovery	

Accurate and consistent planning for sea level rise is essential for protecting communities, infrastructure, and the environment. Currently, Clause 13.01-2S of the Victorian Planning Provisions mandates planning for a minimum sea level rise of 0.8 metres by 2100. However, recent State Government decisions, including Amendment C69 in Moyne Shire, indicate a shift towards adopting a 1.2m benchmark based on contemporary scientific evidence and local conditions. Here, Moyne Shire Council and the GHCMMA advocated for sea level rise of 1.2m over 0.8m because of global projections and local conditions, despite the reasonably consistent application of policy for 0.8m across the State. Although the Panel concluded that 0.8m was the appropriate measure, the Minister's recommendation was to revert to 1.2m as originally recommended. The move to a more consistent application of 1.2m has equally been signalled via an action in the Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022.

The inconsistency between the Minister's actions and Clause 13.01-2S creates uncertainty for councils attempting to implement climate-responsive flood planning. Without clear, state-wide guidance, councils risk protracted planning disputes, delays in planning scheme amendments, and potential challenges at Planning Panels.

A definitive State Government position would ensure councils can apply evidence-based flood planning with confidence. It would also streamline the amendment process, reducing the administrative burden on local governments and the need for case-by-case Ministerial interventions.

The MAV should advocate for a commitment from the Minister for Planning to update Clause 13.01-2S and other relevant planning instruments to give our communities certainty. This will provide clarity for councils, developers, and communities, ensuring Victoria's planning system remains fit for purpose.

C.1.7.2 - Streamlining flood-related planning scheme amendment pathways

Submitting Council: Warrnambool City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to further streamline the planning scheme amendment pathway via the flood-related amendments Standing Advisory Committee, or other process reform measures.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Climate & regenerative design, Resilience & recovery	

The process for amending planning schemes to incorporate flood studies is complex and time-consuming. Recognising this, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) established the Flood-Related Amendments Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to provide expert guidance related to the implementation of flood studies and associated draft planning scheme amendments.

However, it is unclear whether the SAC format is meant to continue past the funding agreement, and whether further process reform is intended.

To ensure ongoing efficiency, SAC should be maintained and strengthened, with an expanded role that streamlines the amendment process and reduces administrative burdens on councils. A more standardized approach to flood-related amendments would improve consistency across municipalities, allowing for faster implementation while maintaining technical accuracy.

SAC should take on the responsibility of reviewing and validating flood studies, a task that currently falls to individual councils, which often leads to delays and inconsistencies. By assuming responsibility for resolving public submissions and disputes, the SAC could act as a mediator, addressing concerns early in the process and reducing bottlenecks in decision-making. Granting the SAC approval authority for specific categories of amendments, particularly those aligning with existing state policies, would further reduce delays by limiting the need for ministerial intervention. A centralised system for tracking flood-related amendments would improve transparency and accountability, while direct liaison with Catchment Management Authorities would ensure a coordinated and expert-led assessment of flood risks.

C.1.7.3 - Vulnerability Mapping and Coastal Hazard Overlay

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association Victoria call on the Victorian Government to urgently prepare statewide coastal vulnerability mapping and a Coastal Hazard Overlay, or an amended and strengthened Erosion Management Overlay, to be applied to all vulnerable coastal areas in Victoria.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	19/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Climate & regenerative design

Hazard risk mapping and overlays are important to help councils manage and prepare for future climate change impacts. A Victorian-wide overlay would help residents to identify current and future at-risk locations and support councils when considering the appropriateness of development in these vulnerable locations.

Consolidated motion 1.8 - Coastal inundation and erosion

Motion: That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to address the impacts of coastal inundation and erosion by:

1. Articulating, simplifying and streamlining the environmental and infrastructure management roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating around Port Phillip Bay and the Victorian coastline;
2. Establishing an ongoing fund for emergency works required to address the impacts of coastal inundation and erosion, including beach repairs and sand renourishment; and
3. Fully funding flood prevention and adaptation measures around Port Phillip Bay and the Victorian coastline.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Coastal Erosion – Bass Coast Shire Council</u> <u>Port Phillip Bay Management Issues – Kingston City Council</u>	Yes

C.1.8.1 - Coastal Erosion

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

The Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the State Government to clearly articulate its role and actions to manage coastal erosion along the Victorian Coastline. In addition, the State Government establish an ongoing fund for emergency works required to address the impacts of coastal inundation activities occurring more frequently and for longer durations, impacting critical infrastructure, services and the wellbeing of coastal communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	19/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?		

Bass Coast Shire Council, with its 200 kilometres of coastline, is grappling with significant coastal erosion and inundation, often necessitating urgent and emergency interventions.

Council lacks sufficient funds to address these issues both now and in the future. There is an urgent need for a coordinated action plan and investment from State and Federal Governments in response to the effects of coastal erosion and inundation.

To make informed decisions, it's essential to understand coastal erosion and inundation thoroughly, supported by timely and accurate data. The motions call on all levels of government to address and plan for future impacts on the Victorian and national coastline.

C.1.8.2 - Port Phillip Bay Management Issues

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that many municipalities around the shores of Port Phillip now face a risk of inundation as a result of sea level rise that will grow worse over time.
2. calls on the Victorian Government to adequately fund repairs to beach and foreshore damage as it happens, including the renourishment of sand on eroded beaches where natural forces do not repair the beaches naturally. Simplify and streamline the various agencies with responsibility for Port Philip Bay environmental and infrastructure management Adequately fund and support flood prevention and adaptation measures along the Port Phillip coastline.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/3/25		
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government		
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No		
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?			

Port Phillip Bay is a critical natural resource for millions of Victorians and its management is split between multiple agencies that are under-resourced.

Consolidated motion 1.9 - Managing and maintaining state-owned land

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to protect and enhance the amenity of state-owned public land (including national parks and the natural estate, arterial roads and freeways and railway land) across Victoria by:

- increasing investment and routine maintenance, workforce solutions and programs to address management practises on public land
- recognising and reducing the burden on local government by managing the impacts of litter, debris, debris, lack of pest-control and other hazards that migrate onto Council-managed areas

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Resource Allocation for Amenity Maintenance of Public Spaces Motion – Hobsons Bay City Council</u> <u>Managing the natural estate – East Gippsland Shire Council</u>	Yes

C.1.9.1 - Resource Allocation for Amenity Maintenance of Public Spaces Motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

The following motion has been developed for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting to address a request for resource allocation to assist local governments with delivering public amenity maintenance services to spaces owned by State Government.

1. Advocate to the State Government to increase targeted funding and resources for the maintenance of State Government-owned land, including freeway corridors, freeway entrances, arterial roads, and railway land.
2. Request the State Government develop and implement a more frequent and consistent schedule for maintaining these key areas, recognising their role as gateway entrances and prominent tracts of land within municipalities.
3. Emphasise the importance of addressing the upkeep of State Government-owned land to reduce the burden on local governments caused by litter and debris migrating onto Council-managed areas, ensuring a higher standard of public amenity across Victoria.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Council remains committed to maintaining its own spaces and allocating a number of resources across many programs dedicated to making Hobsons Bay look and feel cared for. Programs include the Graffiti Removal Program, regular schedules of beach cleansing and seaweed removal, street and footpath cleaning and sweeping, grass cutting and weed management, a series of rubbish collection programs and cleaning of public areas, toilets and barbecue facilities.

State Government-owned areas of land often serve as key gateway entrances to Hobsons Bay or are prominent tracks of land in highly urbanised areas. When left unmaintained, they can make the municipality appear untidy or cause litter to blow onto Council-managed land, increasing Council's cleanup burden.

Council is urging the Victorian Government to allocate additional resources towards maintaining the spaces they own and manage, such as freeway corridors, freeway entrances, arterial road maintenance and railway land.

C.1.9.2 - Managing the natural estate

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government for increased localised investment through targeted workforce solutions and programs to address the urgent need for the better management of public land (the natural estate).

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy, Resilience & recovery

Victoria is renowned for its natural environment, which provides our community with essential resources for health and wellbeing, including food, fresh water, wood, fibre and fuel. It is crucial that public land is productive and used sustainably, infrastructure is suitable and well managed, and biodiversity is protected and healthy.

Public land in Victoria covers approximately 8 million hectares – about one-third of the State. In East Gippsland, public land is about 75% of the shire.

As climate change increases the number and intensity of extreme events such as heatwaves, drought, bushfires, violent storms, heavy rainfall events and flooding there is an urgent need for investment in public land management programs and the protection of biodiversity values. This includes disaster prevention activities for the management of the natural estate from where most emergency events start.

Local investment supports employment opportunities through land-use management and access using local knowledge, game management, pest control, and training and education will support the better management of public land.

These programs would provide immediate improvements to land management and access, and support job creation, strengthen local economies, and reduce both welfare dependency and expenditure on disaster response and recovery.

Motion 1. Financial viability and workforce planning of Maternal & Child Health as State co-funded services

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

MAV review the financial viability and workforce planning of the Local Government Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Service in light of the adopted Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Employer Enterprise Agreement 2024-28, creating an employment market for highly qualified nurses that is beyond many Councils' financial capacity.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing	

The Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Employer Enterprise Agreement 2024-28, adopted by the Victorian Government introduces salary increases and other benefits, such as roster allowances, that local government cannot match. MCH nurses have additional qualifications and experience and in future years of current EBAs there is significant risk to local government MCH services that our experienced workforce will leave to take up high-paying work within the Victorian Government health system.

Motion 2. Addressing Homelessness

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to address homelessness across the state by:

1. Increasing the level of funding for the specialist homelessness service workforce, including assertive outreach services based in the social support sector.
2. Fund a coordination function based in Councils to lead prevention activities and guide service coordination efforts across community support, community safety and public amenity services.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing

The current cost-of-living crisis in addition to reduced housing affordability, a lack of social and affordable housing stock, record rent rises and record low vacancy rates has increased the rates of homelessness across the nation. Every day, families and children are left without a safe place to call home, while workers in the homelessness sector are experiencing limited pay, disproportionate staff-to-client ratios, and other stressors, leading to high turnover and understaffing.

Australia's 2021 census estimates on housing and homelessness approximated that nearly one in 200 people – a total of 122,494 across the country – were without a safe, secure place to sleep during the night of the census. These figures are likely to have increased significantly since. Among these, 7,636 people were recorded as living in impoverished dwellings, tents and sleeping out. In 2023/24 almost 280,100 clients were assisted by specialist homelessness agencies across Australia. One-quarter (26%) of clients accessing specialist homelessness services identified family and domestic violence as the main reason for these services in 2023–24. Of these clients, 3 in 10 were aged under 18 (27% or 77,000) in 2023–24.

While the Federal and State Governments hold the funding and the mandate to respond to homelessness, communities often look to their local Councils for action and support. Unlike the other levels of government, Councils simply lack the resources to assist.

Councils are not homelessness service providers – they do not provide case management nor assertive outreach services. Council relies on its partners, including service agencies and Victoria Police, to respond to homelessness. Some Councils have received funding to support service coordination roles – but this funding is not distributed equitably and uniformly across LGAs.

Through multiple connections into communities, Councils are well positioned to initiate actions that will prevent homelessness – acting before people reach crisis points and also to drive multi-stakeholder collaborations to address homelessness response. However, current outreach services are overstretched, leaving many individuals without essential support. Without direct funding streams, and without sufficient funding to local support providers, many Councils cannot act.

Motion 3. Resourcing to support health outcomes

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to adequately resource the management and delivery of programs into rural and regional areas to support the complex social determinants that lead to negative health outcomes, such as domestic violence and homelessness.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing

The Victorian Government's Statewide Mental Health and Wellbeing Service and Capital Plan 2024-2037, outlines an 'adaptive service system that improves mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all Victorians'

- The report Consumer-led holistic treatment, care and support
- Treatment, care and support in the community closer to home
- Treatment, care and support delivered through stepped care
- An integrated, compassionate and responsive system
- Fit-for-purpose infrastructure, consistent with therapeutic design principles
- Care, treatment and support delivered by multidisciplinary teams
- Co-designed consumer, family and carer-focused models of care
- Social determinants make the biggest impact on health.

The Department of Health report as published on its website - Inequalities in the social determinants of health and what it means for the health of Victorians 2014 - investigated inequalities in the social determinants of health and how these impact on the health of Victorians, mainly focusing on the social determinants referred to collectively as 'social capital'.

Research shows that higher levels of social capital are associated with higher productivity, greater educational achievement, lower crime rates and better health outcomes.

Social capital is strongly associated with both mental and physical health in Victoria. The evidence supports the need for policies that address lack of social support, lack of social/civic trust, intolerance of diversity and social isolation as a means of improving the mental and physical health of Victorians.

Declining levels of social support and trust, intolerance of diversity and non-engagement with the local community are associated with poorer mental and physical health.

Motion 4. Supporting people seeking asylum within our communities

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to the Minister for Immigration to call upon the Australian Government to:

1. Provide people seeking asylum with a valid visa and the opportunity to work while they await decisions on their protection application, including automating the bridging renewal process. By providing people work rights, they can contribute skills to Australia, remain independent in society and stay engaged in the process.
2. Expand the eligibility criteria of the Status Resolution Support Services program to ensure people's basic needs are met, including health care, accommodation, crisis support, so people in need can live safely and not in destitution and deep poverty.
3. Grant permanent visas to the 7,700 people who have been previously refused a visa via the unfair 'Fast Track' process. Ending the uncertainty, by providing them a pathway to permanency, will at last resolve the matter, enabling them to rebuild their lives.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Diversity, equity & inclusion

The Australian Federal Government has responsibility for providing people seeking refugee protection with a clear pathway to resolve their immigration status and adequate support mechanisms while they navigate the asylum process.

Four out of five people seeking protection in our communities are not eligible for federal-funded support and rely on support from local government and charities to keep food on the table. This places huge burdens on local government and their communities, families are facing poverty and trust in Government systems is eroded.

Financial assistance delivered through the Federally funded Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program has been cut by 95% (from \$300 million in 2015-16 to \$16 million in 2023-24) and the number of people assisted has dropped to only 1,057 in 2024. State governments have wound back support in expectation the Federal Government would step in.

Lengthy delays in visa processing have made the situation much worse. The lack of assistance, coupled with extended waiting times for decisions, have led to people waiting for over 12 years without access to basic health care, safe accommodation and the opportunity to work or study. There are still 8,000 people waiting for their immigration status to be resolved. This includes families with children who are Australian citizens and at risk of separation if the parents are told to engage in return processes to their homelands.

The prolonged uncertainty and harsh conditions experienced during the asylum process in Australia have led to immense trauma and isolation and prevents families living in our community from rebuilding their lives.

Since 2018, the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum has been advocating for people seeking asylum. Established by Greater Dandenong Council, the Taskforce is made up of a growing membership of over 40 councils nationwide, who recognise that this issue is of significance to local government.

Motion 5. The Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the State Government to urgently review its Development Facilitation Program to provide greater transparency for the community and to ensure Council is compensated for review of applications

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

The State Government's Development Facilitation Program (DFP) provides an accelerated planning assessment pathway for eligible projects. Applications lodged with the DFP are determined by the Minister for Planning or the Department of Transport and Planning under delegation. Requirements for public notification can be waived as part of this accelerated pathway, meaning the community may only learn of an application once work commences on a site. Additionally, the community does not have access to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to appeal the Minister's or Department's decisions. Council officers, including town planners, engineers, and waste officers, spend significant time reviewing application materials referred by the DFP. Unlike applications submitted directly to the Council, there is no fee for this service. The proposed motion calls for greater community involvement in applications assessed by the DFP.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	19/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	

Currently Bass Coast Shire Council estimates the total revenue lost to the Council from applications processed to date through the program exceeds \$100,000.

Motion 6. Establishment of intergovernmental taskforce to work with the insurance industry for affordable and available insurance for flood and bushfire prone communities

Submitting Council: Northern Grampians Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) calls on the Victorian State and the Commonwealth Governments to establish an intergovernmental taskforce including MAV representatives, to work with the insurance industry to find affordable and available insurance cover for flood and bushfire prone communities. The scope of the taskforce should include but is not limited to agreeing upon how to ensure there is ongoing strong partnerships between insurers and governments, risk reduction methods and natural hazard management plans that address insurers concerns.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy, Resilience & recovery	

Northern Grampians Shire Council has recently gone through the Grampians Bushfire emergency. A key issue that has emerged from this economic disaster is the challenge businesses have had in securing affordable and available coverage. Without insurance such things as securing or maintaining bank loans becomes almost impossible.

As a result, the Northern Grampians Shire Council resolved at its meeting on Monday, 3 March 2025, that the MAV calls on the Victorian State and Commonwealth Governments to form an intergovernmental taskforce to work with the insurance industry to secure affordable and available insurance for flood and bushfire prone areas. The Grampians are not alone in the state of Victoria with this insurance challenge. Many parts of the state and country are facing this issue.

As Andrew Hall, Chief Executive Officer of Insurance Council of Australia said, "Around the world, lowering premiums, or making insurance more available, only succeeds when industry has a clear line of sight to risk reduction – which governments have custody of." "A strong partnership between insurers and governments is essential to focus efforts on brining downward pressure on premiums, especially in a cost-of-living crisis."

Motion 7. Natural Disaster Recovery Funding

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State and Federal Governments to ensure that the Natural Disaster Recovery Funding is sufficient at a minimum to reinstate the level of service provided by the damaged asset to the same level as before.

Furthermore, all consideration must be given at the time of reinstatement to secure all funding options for a betterment response including, but not limited to, if the previous service delivery level was found to be lacking.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery	

Council has experience where funding for the repair of a damaged asset is well below the required funding to undertake the required works and consequently Council has not undertaken the works due to its inability to self-fund the gap.

- Recovery funding has proven to be problematic following natural disasters and the lack of an equitable funding model appears to leave regional and rural councils fiscally challenged and disadvantaged. Furthermore, the need for betterment funding is crucial, to ensure sustainability of the replaced asset. To do less would be financially irresponsible and not in the best interests of our future.

Motion 8. Increased funding support for Council's Emergency Management obligations

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls upon the Victorian Government to urgently review the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) to ensure provision of realistic funding allocations, indexed to inflation and commensurate with the actual risk profile of each Victorian council.

Officer recommendation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery

Victorian councils play an essential legislated role in Victoria's Emergency Management arrangements. Through close community relationships, councils have identified many opportunities to enhance resilience, relief and recovery outcomes.

The sector understands that by investing in mitigation and resilience building programs (such as www.emergencyprepare.com.au) the return on investment is far greater than investment in response. Prevention is better than cure.

As populations grow and cost of living pressures continue to climb, the effects of climate change are also increasing experienced. The frequency and severity of emergencies and the ability of councils to support communities before, during and after crisis events is under huge financial strain. Despite ongoing calls for sustainable funding from the Victorian Government, funding has remained stagnant for years.

The Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) is the only ongoing State Government program available. It is a small annual grant program available to only 64 of Victoria's 79 Councils. They share \$4.9 million (average \$76,500 each).

Greater Dandenong Council, despite being Australia's most multicultural Local Government Area with five major hazard facilities, extremely high heat vulnerability index and one of Victoria's most disadvantaged socio-economic communities only receives \$40,000 annually to support its emergency management obligations. This significant underfunding is mirrored in all other Local Government Areas with 15 municipalities receiving no funding at all from the MERP.

The current funding allocation is based on each Council's risk profile. Yet no information is provided about the municipality's actual risk profile, who determines it and the methodology of how it is assessed. The grant is not indexed to inflation. Therefore, an urgent review of the MERP and a realistic allocation of funding needs to be prioritised.

Motion 9. Increased Funding for State Emergency Service Response to Emergencies in Victoria

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to: 1. Allocate additional funding to the SES to ensure they have the necessary resources, equipment, and personnel to effectively respond to emergencies within Victoria; 2. Provide funding for comprehensive training programs to equip SES volunteers and staff with the skills needed to handle a wide range of emergency situations, including exercises; 3. Invest in modern and advanced equipment to improve the efficiency and safety of SES operations; 4. Implement initiatives to attract and retain volunteers, recognising their critical role in the SES; and 5. Fund community education and engagement programs to enhance public awareness and preparedness for emergencies.

Officer recommendation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery	

The SES plays a crucial role in the emergency response framework, providing assistance during and after major incidents, including floods, storms, vertical rescues, road crash rescues, and missing persons' searches. Recent events have highlighted the increasing frequency and severity of disasters, necessitating a robust and well-funded emergency response system within Victoria. Increased funding will enable the SES to better prepare for and respond to the growing number of disasters within the state. Investing in training, equipment, and volunteer support will enhance the effectiveness and safety of SES operations.

Strengthening community engagement will improve public resilience and preparedness, mitigating the impacts of disasters. This motion advocates for the necessary resources to enable the SES to continue to provide critical services to communities across Victoria

Significant to the Sector

Consolidated motion 2.1 - Ensuring financial sustainability of councils

Motion:

1. That the MAV call upon the Victorian and Commonwealth governments to work with Victorian local government to ensure councils are sustainably resourced to continue providing critical services and infrastructure to local communities, including through:
2. Responding to the issues raised in MAV submissions to State and Commonwealth parliamentary inquiries into financial sustainability and service delivery
3. Implementing the recommendations of the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into Local Government funding and services
4. Ensuring that additional duties and responsibilities placed on local government are accompanied by the resources needed to fulfil them
5. Increasing the quantum and reviewing the distribution of untied funding provided to local government to achieve the goal of horizontal fiscal equalisation

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Inquiry into local government funding and services – Mansfield Shire Council</u> <u>Cost Shifting – Bayside City Council</u> <u>Addressing Cost Shifting from State and Federal Governments to Local Councils – Moyne Shire Council</u> <u>Addressing the Recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Service Delivery in Victoria – Murrindindi Shire Council</u> <u>Local Government Sustainability – Strathbogie Shire Council</u> <u>Local Government Financial Sustainability Framework – Yarra Ranges Shire Council</u> <u>Inquiry into Local Government funding and services – implement recommendations – East Gippsland Shire Council</u> <u>Increasing financial sustainability of local governments – Greater Dandenong City Council</u> <u>Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services – Maribyrnong City Council</u>	Yes

C.2.1.1 - Inquiry into local government funding and services

Submitting Council: Mansfield Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Supports the Economy and Infrastructure Committee inquiry recommendation 20 that the Victorian Government should not take money out of Commonwealth Government grants allocated to local councils, and
2. Advocates to the State and Federal Governments to ensure such practices are addressed and that future funding allocations are fully directed towards local councils as intended by the Commonwealth Government.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	12/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable Economy

The Victorian Government proposed to deduct 9% (equating to \$176,000) of a \$2 million federal blackspot grant awarded to Mansfield Shire Council intended for a state and council road intersection project for the stated purpose of funding 'internal department costs', despite not managing or contributing financially to the project. The Victorian Government should not be allowed to take money out of Commonwealth Government grants allocated to local councils as it undermines the intended purpose of the funds and places an undue financial burden on local councils and their communities.

C.2.1.2 - Cost Shifting

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV continues to advocate to the State Government on the impact of cost-shifting for local government and to not place additional responsibilities on local government without a sustainable revenue stream.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy, FutureGen, Resilience & recovery

Councils are delivering the essential services and infrastructure to meet the communities' needs and expectations. In addition, Federal and State governments regularly lean on councils to efficiently deliver on local, state and national priorities which occurs with little or no funding.

Cost shifting is a constant funding pressure faced by councils and, in conjunction with the rate capping, is resulting in councils making decisions that do not align with community expectations to cover shortfalls in funding to meet increasing service demands and standards. It undermines the financial sustainability of the local government sector by forcing councils to assume responsibility for more infrastructure and services, without sufficient corresponding revenue.

Whilst rates and grants are councils primary revenue resources, reforms are needed to ensure councils have adequate revenue streams to address cost shifting. For example, many councils are exiting the provision of aged care and whilst Bayside City Council has continued to operate this service, there are other areas that continue to be a challenge.

Council is seeking the MAV to continue to advocate on behalf of the sector to see how we can address the burden for local government resulting from cost shifting.

C.2.1.3 - Addressing Cost Shifting from State and Federal Governments to Local Councils

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to request no further decisions that shift additional cost onto local government until such time as the government responds to the report from the Inquiry into Local Government funding and services and with that address fundamental concerns outlined within the report.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

Moyne Shire asks MAV's support for government to consider the financial impact on less well resourced parts of the Victorian Local Government sector of cost shifting, particularly the rural councils with smaller populations and larger land areas that are facing ongoing financial challenges. Factors impacting the capacity for these councils to ingest the ongoing incremental increase in cost shifting include an inequitable burden of road maintenance obligations, rate capping and its impact upon raising revenue in shires with small populations, limited sources of alternative revenue streams, and rural councils often required role of being a service provide "of last resort".

C.2.1.4 - Addressing the Recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Service Delivery in Victoria

Submitting Council: Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

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

1. Commit to fully implement all 48 recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services; and
2. Work in partnership with the local government sector to deliver these reforms, ensuring councils are financially sustainable and able to meet their communities' needs.

Given the significant and widespread input from the sector, the critical financial pressures facing councils, and the comprehensive nature of the recommendations, the Victorian Government must act decisively to strengthen the future of local government in Victoria.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	26/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?		

On 23 November 2024, the Final Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services was tabled in Parliament.

The Inquiry, conducted by the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee, examined:

- the effect of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils
- the ability of local councils to meet core service delivery objectives
- the appropriateness and sustainability of Local government's revenue structures
- whether there are alternative funding models to consider.

The Inquiry received over 100 submissions, including from the majority of Victoria's 79 councils, peak bodies, and other key stakeholders. It also conducted a series of public hearings across the State. The Committee's 47 findings and 48 recommendations highlight the urgent need to reform local government funding to ensure financial sustainability and service delivery capacity of Victorian local councils.

The Victorian Government is required to provide a formal response to the report within six months, outlining any actions it intends to take.

C.2.1.5 - Local Government Sustainability

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV work in partnership with the State and Federal Governments to derive a funding model that addresses the challenges of Local Government as set out in the MAV Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability (June 2024).

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

Local Government is extremely limited in its ability to raise revenue and thereby pay for the services that it is expected to provide. Councils are often faced with cost shifting from the other levels of government onto local government, which adds additional financial strain on councils.

- Regional and rural councils are disproportionately financially impacted by limited revenue raising capacity and the need to provide additional services arising from the geographical size of the municipality and service gaps within communities.
- An equitable and sustainable funding model is essential for regional and rural councils if they are to (1) maintain, and (2) expand existing service expectations from their communities.

C.2.1.6 - Local Government Financial Sustainability Framework

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV pursue recommendation 8 of the Local Government Funding and Services Inquiry to encourage the Victorian Government to work with the Local Government Sector to establish a financial sustainability framework

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure	

The report of the Legislative Council Economic and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services recommended that the Victorian Government work with the sector, including councils and peak bodies, to establish a local government sustainability framework. The elements of this framework should incorporate: a risk-based approach to financial sustainability; different financial criteria for different council groups; and the inclusion of adjusted underlying result, unrestricted cash and asset renewal indicators in addition to the financial indicators outlined in the Local Government Performance Reporting framework. This framework would need to include a 10- year horizon and allow both aggregate sector view and individual LGA view.

C.2.1.7 - Inquiry into Local Government funding and services – implement recommendations

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to implement of all recommendations from the Inquiry into Local Government funding and services report as tabled on 24 November 2024.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy

As local government authorities, we strive to continue delivering critical services that support the creation of conditions for thriving local communities. Councils provide infrastructure that support communities, the economy, social cohesion and deliver shared responsibilities including emergency management.

Local government is often the provider of last resort service in communities where other levels of government or private sector have not or are not commercially viable to provide those services. This means local government needs to provide the service and absorbs the cost without adequate funding.

Cost-shifting to local government means that already limited funds and resources are being diverted to new services while existing community services and local facilities go unfunded. This has been a significant contributor impacting the sustainability of local government.

The final report into the Inquiry into Local Government funding and services was tabled on 28 November 2024 and includes 48 recommendations. The Victorian Government has six months to respond in writing to any recommendations made in the report.

During the 2024 Inquiry, the Committee heard from a considerable number of local government representatives (and 114 submissions) about the challenges they are facing in meeting the demands of the community today and in remaining sustainable into the future.

The Committee heard about the tensions between the financial challenges faced by local government councils and the capacity of ratepayers to meet the financial demands made on them. It also heard from councils about cost shifting from the other levels of government onto local government, and the financial strain that this places on councils.

The recommendations of the report, if implemented in full, would contribute to addressing the cost-shifting onto local governments and the need to meet core service delivery objectives.

C.2.1.8 - Increasing financial sustainability of local governments

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Continues to advocate to the Federal Government to increase the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to 1.0 per cent of Commonwealth Tax Revenue in a phased approach.
2. Calls upon the Victorian Government to fully implement the 48 recommendations made by the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee in the Local Government Funding and Services Inquiry report.
3. Advocate to the Local Government Grant Commission to review and refine the methodology it uses to allocate Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to increase weighting for language, social-economic and regional cost adjusters, and increased service costs associated with responding to a community with complex vulnerabilities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy

Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants have been a fixture of local government funding since 1974. The grant is paid to local governments via their state or territory grants commissions according to an agreed formula set by the Federal Government.

The last time Financial Assistance Grants were equal to one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue was 1996. Since that time there has been a steady decrease in the percentage of revenue distributed and in 2023-24, Australian local governments received \$3.1 billion in federal Financial Assistance Grants, which is approximately 0.5 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Financial Assistance Grants are untied, meaning that local governments can use this federal funding to address local issues and priorities.

The Local Government Funding and Services Inquiry conducted by the Victorian Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee published its report on 28 November 2024 which contains 47 findings and 48 associated recommendations as result of those findings.

A sampling of those findings indicates that the financial sustainability of Victorian local councils face ongoing challenges into the future.

Finding 1: The costs of infrastructure and service delivery have risen at a pace that outstrips the growth in grant funding.

Finding 3: Local councils are facing increased budget pressures due to cost shifting by state and federal governments. Without substantial changes, the financial sustainability of council operations is at risk, with some services already being reduced or discontinued entirely.

Finding 7: Expenditure has grown faster than council revenue in recent years.

Finding 9: Councils face increased asset renewal costs if they do not prioritise early and ongoing renewal in an asset's lifecycle.

Finding 11: The renewal and upgrade of roads and bridges are a significant cost pressure,

Finding 14: Extreme weather events driven by climate change are a significant cost pressure on Victorian councils

Finding 19: Victorian councils face a trend of deteriorating financial sustainability across all council types, a trend predicted to continue over the next five to ten years, due in part to cost shifting.

Finding 20: Rate capping and cost shifting has significantly constrained councils' revenue and is a key threat to ongoing financial sustainability.

C.2.1.9 - Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to implement in full the recommendations of the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy, Intergenerational infrastructure	

The Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services considered:

- the effects of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils in an examination of vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances;
- whether local councils are adequately delivering on their core service delivery objectives;
- the overall revenue structure of local government; and
- whether the existing revenue structure is sustainable and appropriate or if alternative models exist.

The Inquiry noted 48 recommendations to address the sustainability of local government in providing services, and these recommendations are requested to be adopted in full by the Victorian Government.

Consolidated motion 2.2 - MCH MOU Amendment

Motion:

1. That the Maternal and Child Health Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of local government maternal child health services in Victoria effective from 01 January 2022 to 30 June 2025 be amended during the renegotiation process to include the following:
 - a) That the universal maternal child health program may be delivered by local government, or via a maternal child health service provider servicing the local government area, that is approved by the Department of Health.
 - b) In instances where local government is not the provider of maternal and child health services, the respective local government authority is exempt from contributing an equal (50:50) share towards the provision of the universal maternal child health program delivered within their local government area.
 - c) Where a Hospital or Health Service is delivering maternal child health services within a local government area, the applicable hospital or health service is responsible for the equal (50:50) contribution towards the provision of the universal maternal child health program.
 - d) Where local government does not provide the maternal child health service, and/or immunisation service within their local government area, they are exempt from the requirements outlined in the Maternal Child Health Memorandum of Understanding.
2. That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Department of Health to amend the Maternal and Child Health Service Guidelines to reflect the changes included above in item 1 (a) through to (d).

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Maternal Child Health Funding Municipal Association Victoria State Council Motion – Yarriambiack Shire</u> <u>Maternal and Child Health Costing Mode – Cardinia Shire</u>	Yes

C.2.2.1 - Maternal Child Health Funding Municipal Association Victoria State Council Motion

Submitting Council: Yariambiack Shire Council

Motion:

1. That the Maternal and Child Health Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of local government maternal child health services in Victoria effective from 01 January 2022 to 30 June 2025 be amended during the renegotiation process to include the following:
 - a. That the universal maternal child health program may be delivered by local government, or via a maternal child health service provider servicing the local government area, that is approved by the Department of Health.
 - b. In instances where local government is not the provider of maternal and child health services, the respective local government authority is exempt from contributing an equal (50:50) share towards the provision of the universal maternal child health program delivered within their local government area.
 - c. Where a Hospital or Health Service is delivering maternal child health services within a local government area, the applicable hospital or health service is responsible for the equal (50:50) contribution towards the provision of the universal maternal child health program.
 - d. Where local government does not provide the maternal child health service, and/or immunisation service within their local government area, they are exempt from the requirements outlined in the Maternal Child Health Memorandum of Understanding.
2. That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Department of Health to amend the Maternal and Child Health Service Guidelines to reflect the changes included above in item 1 (a) through to (d).

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	26/2/25		
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government		
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No		
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy		

Many rural councils are evaluating their options for the delivery MCH services, recognising that they may not have the necessary in-house skills and expertise to manage clinical governance compliance. This situation increases their exposure to liability risk.

Furthermore, there has been a sustained increase in cost shifting from the State Government to Local Governments over time, without any additional funding being provided. As a result, more Councils are facing increased financial sustainability pressures, necessitating a review of their service levels and program delivery.

Yarriambiack Shire Council has endorsed that a motion be put forward for consideration at the next Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting, scheduled for 16 May 2025. The motion is seeking endorsement that Local Government should not be required to pay the universal MCH 50% co-contribution if they are not the delivering organisation.

If the service is delivered by a State Government entity, such as a health service, the 50% co-contribution should be provided by that health service, which is funded by the State.

This recommendation then enables Council's to continue to support an alternative provider via a contribution if they wish to do so, however it does not mandate the requirement and reduces the financial pressure on Local Government, with particular focus on small rural Councils.

C.2.2.2 - Maternal and Child Health Costing Model

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

Support the Maternal and Child Health Costing Model motion proposed by Yarriambiack Shire Council and detailed in this report at the MAV State Council and ongoing discussions regarding the Memorandum of Understanding guidelines.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

The Maternal and Child Health service aims to promote health, wellbeing and developmental outcomes for children and their families. The delivery and funding of this service is a shared responsibility between local and State governments through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The current agreement for Maternal and Child Health arrangements between local and the State Government expires on 30 June 2025. The current agreement outlines a proportion of the service is funded based on a 50:50 cost share model between local and state governments.

These agreements are failing to keep pace with the true cost of running the service and meeting the needs of the community. For Cardinia this has resulted in an ongoing cost shift whereby Council contributes more for the effective running of the service. The current cost of delivery for the 2025/26 financial year is forecast to be an approximate 60:40 split between Cardinia and the State Government.

Consolidated Motion 2.3 - Increased funding for Victorian libraries

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Introduce a needs-based funding formula, with consideration for factors such as population and socio-economic disadvantage;
2. Introduce a 'no worse off' test and top-up funding to ensure no individual library service faces a reduction in funding as a result of introducing the needs-based formula;
3. Increase the Public Library funding pool by \$10 million in 2025/26 to achieve these objectives and permanently index funding to CPI thereafter; and
4. Restore the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to at least \$4.5 million annually to build, redevelop or refurbish libraries across the state and to replace mobile library vehicles.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Increased funding for Victorian Libraries – Manningham City Council</u> <u>Needs-Based Funding for Libraries – Brimbank City Council</u>	Yes

C.2.3.1 - Increased funding for Victorian Libraries

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

- introduce a needs-based funding formula;
- introduce a 'no worse off' test and top-up funding to ensure no individual library service faces a reduction in funding as a result of introducing the needs-based formula;
- increase the Public Library funding pool by \$10 million in 2025/26 to achieve these objectives and permanently index funding to CPI thereafter; and
- restore the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to at least \$4.5 million annually to build, redevelop or refurbish libraries across the state and to replace mobile library vehicles.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places	

The funding contribution from the State for public libraries has reduced dramatically in both operational funding and capital grants. This is placing a high level of reliance on local government to meet and manage the costs of this important public service.

Over the last few years in particular, funding from the State has not been based on any apparent funding formula, has arrived after the commencement of the financial year and has not has any CPI increment applied. Libraries are feeling the impacts of this, and their costs are increasing.

Additionally, the Living Libraries funding program which provides infrastructure grants for library renewal and new library construction has had its funding pool reduced, placing a greater impost on local councils to meet the growing costs of proving this highly-valued infrastructure.

Libraries today serve as community hubs where Victorians learn, connect and feel safe. With many people and families battling the rising cost of living and juggling work, study and family commitments, access to the free resources provided in a public library is more vital than ever.

One third of library users speak a language other than English at home. And one in four come from households living on less than \$49,000 per year.

Victoria's 300 libraries help build literate, productive and engaged communities, earning \$4.30 in economic and social benefits for every dollar invested.

We call on the State Government to realistically invest in the future health and learning of Victorians through appropriate levels of library funding.

C.2.3.2 - Needs-Based Funding for Libraries

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to introduce a needs-based formula to distribute funding to individual library services based on factors like population and socio-economic disadvantage.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places	

The role of libraries in building community capacity cannot be overstated. By offering services that enhance digital literacy, employment skills, and social inclusion, libraries help individuals fully participate in society, the digital economy, and the workforce.

The current freeze on the funding distribution formula means State Government grants to libraries have not reflected population growth since 2018. Therefore, government funding for public libraries has decreased significantly in real terms, falling from \$37.25 per capita in 2018/19 to \$31.91/capita in 2023/24. This represents a drop of 14.3% in just that five-year period. Over time, Councils have had to increase their funding levels to libraries, some by up to 50% or more over the past 12 years. The current contribution to libraries by State Government is below 20% in many municipalities and continuing to fall. This is in great contrast to the 50:50 split between State Government and Councils in the 1980s.

To ensure the continued success and growth of library services, the State Government funding formula requires a review to ensure that libraries, particularly those in disadvantaged regions, are sufficiently supported to meet the evolving needs of their communities, supporting the expansion of both the digital and physical offerings.

Earlier this year, Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) provided a submission to the Victorian Government calling for reforms to the Public Libraries Funding Program. One of the asks is for the government to “introduce a needs-based formula to distribute funding to individual library services based on population; adjusted to reflect common equity measures including population dispersion, relative socio-economic advantage or disadvantage, residents’ proficiency in English, the proportion of population aged 60+, and the proportion of population aged 0-5 years”.

Consolidated motion 2.4 - Evidence-based approach to recycling reforms

Motion:

1. That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:
 - a. Work with councils and industry to improve the competitiveness, effectiveness, and resilience of Victoria's waste and resource recovery system, including through improved utilisation of the Sustainability Fund
 - b. Release the business case that informed the decision to require a separate glass recycling stream
 - c. Postpone requirements on councils to introduce a four-stream service to give them time to examine that business case in the context of and with the participation of their local communities
 - d. Give councils flexibility to decide where alternatives to kerbside collection are appropriate, including consideration of the volumes of materials to be collected
 - e. Expand the Container Deposit Scheme to accept a broader range of containers
 - f. Allow the continued use of caddy liners in FOGO collection streams, to ensure ongoing community participation

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Repeal of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2012 Provisions for a mandatory glass bin service – Manningham City Council</u> <u>Improved competitiveness of the Victorian recycling and waste market – Surf Coast Shire Council</u> <u>Consideration be given to flexibility measures and alternatives for Victorian glass recycling services – Yarra Ranges Shire Council</u> <u>Negative Impacts of Waste Service Standards on Local Government – Maroondah City Council</u> <u>(partial) – Cost of living pressures – Kingston City Council</u>	Yes

C.2.4.1 - Repeal of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2012 Provisions for a mandatory glass bin service

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

In the absence of clear evidence which justifies the significant financial impact the glass only service will have on local communities, the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

- repeal the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 provisions which mandate Victorian Councils provide a glass only service to households,
- release the business case for the glass only service so local governments can engage and consult with communities in regard to a new service, and
- postpone the commencement date for the glass only service until local governments have had appropriate time to consider the business case.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25		
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government		
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No		
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy		

The requirement for a glass only recycling bin is a Victorian Government commitment was first mentioned in the release of the Recycling Victoria (RV) Policy in 2020.

Since the release of the Recycling Victoria Policy, local governments have been calling on the State to release the business case for the glass only bin so that the benefits could be communicated effectively to their communities. The State promised the business case would be provided in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the Service Standards (a subordinate regulation to the Circular Economy Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2021 which legislates local governments to provide a 'standard service').

The draft Service Standards were released in August 2024, 4 years into the delivery timeframe for Councils to implement the new service. The Service Standards and RIS did not provide clarity on why the glass only service was chosen as the preferred option, and the financial assumptions throughout the RIS were not aligning with local government's reality of providing the services.

Other Australian States, such as the South Australian Government and the New South Wales Government have undertaken comprehensive modelling and cost benefit analysis assessing the overall net benefits of a glass only bin, and both States found that expanding the CDS is the preferred option to a glass only bin when considering all the benefits and costs to households, industry and government. Both South Australia and New South Wales Governments released their business cases and findings, however the Victorian Government have sealed the glass business case findings and the only method for Victorian Councils to obtain any insights into the business case, was to issue a Freedom of Information (FOI) request.

In the absence of any cost benefit analysis or a business case and in response to a lack of a clearly defined problem that the glass only service would address, independent research was commissioned by a group of

22 Victorian Councils which assessed Council data against the data received from the FOI request which informed the RIS. The research assessed four options for glass recovery, assessing the costs and benefits of the two main systems for glass collection:

- Glass only bin service, plus Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) as is,
- Mixed recycling bin service, plus CDS as is,
- Glass only bin service, plus expanded CDS to include wine and spirit bottles
- Mixed recycling bin service, plus expanded CDS to include wine and spirit bottles

The research found that, similar to the findings of the South Australian and New South Wales Governments, expanding the existing CDS to include wine and spirit bottles, would have similar circularity benefits to a glass only bin service. Expanding the CDS would also support the work of state Environment Ministers who are collaborating to nationally align CDSs across Australia.

An expanded CDS would have the benefits of:

- Producing a pure glass only stream of higher quality and less contamination than a glass only bin service.
- Increased resource recovery, for example, the Queensland Government who has also gone down the path of expanding CDS over a glass only bin, found a 13.4% increase in glass bottles returned via the scheme when CDS expanded to include wine and spirit bottles.
- Less fleet emissions from the introduction of new fleets across 79 Victorian Councils which would be collecting very small volumes of glass.
- Avoided implementation, collection and processing costs from a new glass only service, which would be borne by local communities, rather than the producers of the packaging waste, which is how the CDS is funded.

The research also found a range of financial assumptions in the RIS do not align with the reality of providing waste and resource recovery services. The implementation costs of a glass only service for a 'typical' council in the independent modelling revealed a \$4.7M cost to Councils, compared to the RIS data which showed a \$2.5M cost to Councils. Collection costs were underestimated by nearly \$750,000 for a 'typical' Council, and processing and disposal costs were underestimated by more than \$500,000. Combined, the RIS underestimate the costs to implement and run the glass only service by over \$2.6M and underestimates the total cost to Councils, for all the kerbside reforms, by \$4.5M.

15 Councils co-signed a letter to the Minister for Environment in December 2024 requesting reconsideration of the glass only service and a meeting to discuss the financial discrepancies identified by our research. The group of Councils were disappointed to wait over a month to hear back from the Minister for Environment, only to be told that a meeting wasn't possible, and that the matter would be referred to the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) who would be in contact. Whilst this group of Councils supports measures to increase resource recovery and support local market development, the benefits of a glass only service which are purported in the RIS are not flowing through to local councils, or to our partnering Material Recovery Facility (MRF) recycling processors.

Local governments in Victoria are also acutely aware of the cost-of-living crisis that our communities are facing and do not believe that local communities should have to pay more for recycling services unless the benefit is clear. There are now 26 Councils participating in this advocacy group with a further 32 Councils who have been contacted. The participating Councils believe that there has been a lack of transparency regarding the need for the glass only bin over other alternatives which have less cost but similar circularity benefits. The Councils are disappointed no consultation was ever undertaken with the community, no business case ever released, and that ultimately, it's our local communities who will pay for this during what the State and Federal Governments are continually touting as a cost-of-living crisis.

C.2.4.2 - Improved competitiveness of the Victorian recycling and waste market

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the Victorian Government to implement strategies identified by Recycling Victoria to improve the resilience and competitiveness of the recycling and waste market.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25		
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government		
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No		
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy		

The Victorian recycling and waste sector has experienced significant instability in recent years leading to major financial losses for the industry and significant government intervention.

In 2018 China stopped receiving recyclables from international markets. In 2019 major contractor, SKM Recycling, collapsed resulting in disrupted services for 35 Victorian councils. Floods in 2022 and 2023 also impacted the industry, not the least being an unprecedented demand for waste disposal during the recovery. Recycling Victoria was established in 2022 and its 2023 -2026 strategic plan has four high-level objectives:

- Opportunities to ensure a robust circular economy
- Increasing the resilience of the waste and resource recovery system
- Enabling sector investment and growth
- Building system capacity and capability

To support its strategic work, Recycling Victoria prepared a Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan in 2024 (CERCC) to identify the risks facing the sector.

As the CERCC details, the recycling and waste sector is especially vulnerable to disruption given the interdependence of providers within the supply chain. Much of Victoria's kerbside collection is serviced by just two providers leading to risk of disruption, less innovation and higher prices. The Recycling Victoria's strategy identifies a need for skills training and risk mitigation measures for the industry along with incentives to encourage investment in infrastructure.

The intent of this motion is to ensure strategic objectives related to increased resilience and competitiveness of the sector are given a high priority by the Victorian Government and are pursued through specific actions.

C.2.4.3 - Consideration be given to flexibility measures and alternatives for Victorian glass recycling services

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Apply more flexibility with the introduction of the state's glass recycling service to prevent inefficient and cost prohibitive service structures impacting on community.
2. Seek to expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to include glass bottles, broadening the opportunity for community to positively contribute to the circular economy.
3. Invest in enhancing recycling infrastructure to broaden the state's recycling opportunities, removing the need for singular recycling solutions.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

A group of 22 Councils undertook detailed modelling and research in 2024 and identified the cost to implement a kerbside service across the 22 Councils at \$75 million with an ongoing annual average cost of more than \$1.43 million to operate the kerbside service, amounting to more than \$30 million a year across these municipalities.

Current implementation expectations do not allow for flexibility for Councils to develop services that better suit community needs, such as in outer-metropolitan areas where distances for kerbside collection add significant costs and a local drop-off solution may suffice.

The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for Service Standards provided by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) used assumptions of the cost benefits of the glass only service did not align with the costs forecast by Councils and would impose a significant cost to communities. The report also found that similar benefits could be found via an expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles. This would negate the implementation and ongoing servicing costs to communities, instead having the producers of the waste wear the cost to recycle the materials they put into the market.

C.2.4.4 - Negative Impacts of Waste Service Standards on Local Government

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls upon the Victorian Government to review and amend the new waste service standards to mitigate the negative impacts on local governments. Specifically, that the MAV advocates for:

1. Opposing the removal of the compostable caddy liners from food and organics (FOGO) collection services, recognising that liners are essential for maintaining community participation and hygiene in food waste recycling.
2. The separate glass recycling bin requirement no longer be mandated, given the successful Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) already diverts most glass, making a fourth bin costly, inefficient, and largely redundant.
3. Provision for adequate funding and resources to Councils to implement the new standards without placing undue financial burden on ratepayers. This could come in the form of the State Waste Levy, which is projected to increase by 30% over the next four years, generating an estimated \$1.8 billion in revenue for the Victorian Government.
4. A delay in implementing the State's new household waste service standards, urging the Victorian Government to provide councils with greater flexibility and an extended timeline to roll out service changes at a practical pace.
5. Promotion of sustainable waste management practices that are economically viable and environmentally sound, ensuring long-term benefits for the community.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy

The mandated rollout of a separate glass bin and removal of compostable caddy liners in Victoria are causing unnecessary financial and logistical burdens on councils and residents. The state's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is already achieving high glass recovery rates, making an additional kerbside bin redundant and costly. Banning compostable caddy liners could undermine food and organics recycling, leading to higher contamination and landfill rates.

Councils require more flexibility in implementing service standards to suit their unique circumstances. A delayed and flexible approach to service standards, the retention of caddy liners, and the reconsideration of the separate glass bin rollout are needed for efficient waste solutions that minimise costs and maximise environmental benefits.

Compostable kitchen caddy liners are crucial for the success of food and organics collection programs. Over 80% of Victorian councils with food organics programs allow compostable liners, which increase the amount

of food waste diverted from landfill by more than 30%. Removing liners could increase contamination rates by 10%.

Victoria's newly introduced CDS has proven to be an efficient method for recovering glass containers. Expanding the CDS to include wine and spirit bottles would capture even more glass without imposing new kerbside services. Using the existing CDS infrastructure also avoids extra truck routes, lowering transport emissions compared to a separate glass pickup.

The new standards could negatively impact local government operations, including increased costs, resource allocation challenges, and potential disruptions to existing waste management services. The Victorian Government enforced bin lid colour changes will result in substantial strain on bin manufacturers, causing significant financial and environmental costs.

A delayed and more flexible implementation schedule is required to allow each council to transition to the required services in a cost-effective manner. This would minimise financial strain and service disruptions, allowing councils to phase in new services gradually. It would also provide more time to assess the success of CDS, enabling a more informed position on the requirement for a separate glass service.

The Victorian Government must reconsider its position on the speed and method of introducing these changes. It should aim to place less financial burden on the community, achieve better environmental outcomes, and understand the current arrangements and their success before proposing any changes.

C.2.4.5 - Cost of living pressures

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to act to ease cost of living pressures on Victorian ratepayers by: Eliminating the fixed charge embedded with the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy so that it is less regressive towards ratepayers on lower incomes.

Increasing the financial support provided to households to replace their gas appliances with electric ones under the Victorian Energy Upgrades program. Avoiding pressure for a sharp increase in municipal rates in 2027 by cancelling the requirement for councils to introduce a fourth rubbish bin for glass recycling. Maintaining and increasing the amount of the school savings bonus for parents of government school children.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?		

All levels of government have a role to play in easing cost of living pressures on Victorians, and these are just a few of the ways the Victorian Government should consider reducing the burden.

Consolidated Motion 2.5 - Fostering safety and social cohesion

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocates to the Victorian Government to improve community safety by collaborating with councils to develop and fund place-based initiatives, including:

1. Dedicated funding streams and resources for councils to implement evidence-based community safety initiatives that promote social cohesion and inclusivity, which may include infrastructure improvements (e.g. improved lighting, clear and effective signage, graffiti removal, safer pedestrian routes), delivery of events (e.g. community safety days: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence), community engagement programs (e.g. scam awareness), programs to support vulnerable groups (e.g. Advance to Zero homelessness By Name List; Salvation Army Street Team – late night outreach) and anti-discrimination measures enhancing local law units (e.g. Racism. It stops with me).
2. Support for councils to work with local community groups and stakeholders to co-design targeted solutions that address specific local safety concerns and support community-based organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, to educate residents about safety, share resources, communicate and promote social cohesion.
3. Investment in statewide programs such as Advance to Zero Homelessness By Name List, Welcoming Cities and YourGround that empower councils to address the unique safety concerns of diverse and vulnerable community groups, including women, youth, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
4. Through policy and funding reform, enhance community safety initiatives by improving access to Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) resources for community groups, expanding the availability of CCTV mobile trailers for Victoria Police, and fostering stronger community-police partnerships through safety engagements such as “Coffee with a Cop”.
5. Collaborate with councils to develop and fund place-based safety initiatives, including employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to enhance public space safety, support Community Safety Audits tailored to local circumstances and strengthen local partnerships
6. Request additional police resourcing as well as a commitment to joint patrols with Local Laws staff when required.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion ‘of significance to local government’ that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
<u>Fostering community safety and social cohesion – Stonnington City Council</u> <u>Fostering community safety and social cohesion – Port Phillip City Council</u> <u>Fostering community safety and social cohesion – Glen Eira City Council</u> <u>Promoting community safety: A partnership between state and local government – Yarra City Council</u>	Yes

C.2.5.1 - Fostering community safety and social cohesion

Submitting Council: Stonnington City Council

Motion:

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

1. Provide dedicated funding streams and resources for local councils to implement evidence-based community safety initiatives that promote social cohesion and inclusivity. These initiatives may include infrastructure improvements (e.g. improved lighting, clear and effective signage, graffiti removal, safer pedestrian routes), delivery of events (e.g. community safety days: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence), community engagement programs (e.g. scam awareness), programs to support vulnerable groups (e.g. Advance to Zero homelessness By Name List; Salvation Army Street Team – late night outreach) and anti-discrimination measures (e.g. Racism. It stops with me).
2. Support councils to work with local community groups and stakeholders to co-design targeted solutions that address specific local safety concerns and support community-based organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, to educate residents about safety and promote social cohesion.
3. Enhance community safety initiatives by improving access to Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) resources including expanding the availability of CCTV mobile trailers for Victoria Police, and fostering stronger community-police partnerships through safety engagements such as “Coffee with a Cop”.
4. Invest in statewide programs such as Advance to Zero homelessness By Name List, Welcoming Cities and YourGround that empower councils to address the unique safety concerns of diverse and vulnerable community groups, including women, youth, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Connected places and Diversity, equity and inclusion

Social cohesion is critical to the resilience, wellbeing, and safety of communities. It fosters a sense of belonging, participation, and connection, contributing to healthier, more resilient communities with lower crime rates.

Local councils are central to creating safe, inclusive spaces for all residents. However, effective action requires a collaborative and well-resourced approach. MAV advocacy will ensure councils across Victoria have the capacity and consistency to address safety challenges and promote social cohesion.

This motion will strengthen councils' capacity to deliver programs and services that address local and regional safety concerns and ensures statewide consistency in the allocation of resources for community safety. It also encourages partnerships between local government, Victoria Police, community organisations, and state/federal governments to tackle systemic issues like racism, discrimination, and gender-based violence.

Proactive evidence-based approaches can lead to lower crime rates and stronger perceptions of safety. There is disparity for certain groups, such as women, youth, CALD communities, and those facing discrimination or isolation. The rise in antisemitic incidents and other forms of discrimination highlights the need for targeted safety measures to support vulnerable groups and build resilience across communities.

Immediate actions, such as funding and deploying mobile CCTV trailers for police and engaging community stakeholders in safety planning, can provide tangible benefits. Long-term initiatives, such as participating in Welcoming Cities or implementing tools like YourGround, will create sustainable, inclusive communities.

C.2.5.2 - Fostering safety and social cohesion

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

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

1. Request additional Police resourcing as well as a commitment to joint patrols with Local Laws staff when required.
2. Provide dedicated funding streams and resources for local councils to implement evidence-based community safety initiatives that promote social cohesion and inclusivity. These initiatives may include infrastructure improvements (e.g. improved lighting, clear and effective signage, graffiti removal, safer pedestrian routes), delivery of events, community engagement programs, and anti-discrimination measures enhancing local laws units.
3. Support councils to work with local community groups and stakeholders to co-design place-based and/or targeted solutions that address specific local safety concerns and support community-based organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, to educate residents about safety, share resources, communicate and promote social cohesion.
4. Enhance community safety initiatives by improving access to Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) resources for community groups, expanding the availability of CCTV mobile trailers for Victoria Police, and fostering stronger community-police partnerships through safety engagements such as "Coffee with a Cop".
5. Invest in statewide programs such as Welcoming Cities and YourGround that empower councils to address the unique safety concerns of diverse and vulnerable community groups, including women, youth, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	19/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places and Diversity, equity and inclusion

Social cohesion is critical to the resilience, wellbeing, and safety of communities. It fosters a sense of belonging, participation, and connection, contributing to healthier, more resilient communities with lower crime rates.

Local councils are central to creating safe, inclusive spaces for all residents. However, effective action requires a collaborative and well-resourced approach. MAV advocacy will ensure councils across Victoria

have the capacity and are consistent in their approach to addressing safety challenges and promoting social cohesion.

Concerns have been raised by communities about increased antisocial and criminal behaviour including drug and alcohol use, drug dealing and abuse, and harassment of community members in public places. This impacts safety, amenity, perceptions of safety and the appeal of high streets and other areas as vibrant, attractive and safe places to visit.

This motion will strengthen councils' capacity to deliver programs and services that address local and regional safety concerns and ensures statewide consistency in the allocation of resources for community safety. It also encourages partnerships between local government, Victoria Police, community organisations, and state/federal governments to tackle systemic issues like racism, discrimination, and gender-based violence.

Proactive evidence-based approaches can lead to lower crime rates and stronger perceptions of safety. There is disparity for certain groups, such as women, youth, CALD communities, and those facing discrimination or isolation. The rise in antisemitic incidents and other forms of discrimination highlights the need for targeted safety measures to support vulnerable groups and build resilience across communities.

Immediate actions, such as deploying mobile CCTV trailers and engaging community stakeholders in safety planning, can provide tangible benefits. Long-term initiatives, such as participating in Welcoming Cities or implementing tools like YourGround, will create sustainable, inclusive communities.

C.2.5.3 - Fostering community safety and social cohesion

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Motion:

That the State Council of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Provide dedicated funding streams and resources for local councils to implement evidence-based community safety initiatives that promote social cohesion and inclusivity. These initiatives may include infrastructure improvements (e.g. improved lighting, clear and effective signage, graffiti removal, safer pedestrian routes), delivery of events, community engagement programs, and anti-discrimination measures.
2. Support councils to work with local community groups and stakeholders to co-design targeted solutions that address specific local safety concerns and support community-based organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, to educate residents about safety, share resources and promote social cohesion.
3. Invest in statewide programs such as Welcoming Cities and YourGround that empower councils to address the unique safety concerns of diverse and vulnerable community groups, including women, youth, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
4. Through policy and funding reform, enhance community safety initiatives by improving access to Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) resources for community groups, expanding the availability of CCTV mobile trailers for Victoria Police, and fostering stronger community-police partnerships through safety engagements such as "Coffee with a Cop".

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Connected places, Health & wellbeing and Diversity, equity & inclusion

Social cohesion is critical to the resilience, wellbeing, and safety of communities. It fosters a sense of belonging, participation, and connection, contributing to healthier, more resilient communities with lower crime rates.

Local councils are central to creating safe, inclusive spaces for all residents. However, effective action requires a collaborative and well-resourced approach. MAV advocacy will ensure councils across Victoria have the capacity and consistency to address safety challenges and promote social cohesion.

This motion will strengthen councils' capacity to deliver programs and services that address local and regional safety concerns and ensures statewide consistency in the allocation of resources for community safety. It also encourages partnerships between local government, Victoria Police, community organisations, and state/federal governments to tackle systemic issues like racism, discrimination, and gender-based violence.

Proactive evidence-based approaches can lead to lower crime rates and stronger perceptions of safety. There is disparity for certain groups, such as women, youth, CALD communities, and those facing discrimination or isolation. The rise in antisemitic incidents and other forms of discrimination highlights the need for targeted safety measures to support vulnerable groups and build resilience across communities.

Immediate actions, such as funding, deploying mobile CCTV trailers and engaging community stakeholders in safety planning, can provide tangible benefits. Long-term initiatives, such as participating in Welcoming Cities or implementing tools like YourGround, will create sustainable, inclusive communities.

C.2.5.4 - Promoting Community Safety: A Partnership Between State and Local Government

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the Victorian Government to improve community safety by collaborating with local councils to develop and fund place-based safety initiatives, including employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to:

- a) enhance public space safety
- b) support Community Safety Audits tailored to local circumstances, and
- c) strengthen local partnerships to address crime, anti-social behaviour, and promote social cohesion.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Health & wellbeing	

Victoria is experiencing growing concerns about safety in public spaces, with community confidence declining. Recent data shows 44.9% of Victorians feel unsafe walking alone at night, particularly in urban centres, transport hubs, and high-traffic areas. Poor lighting, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour contribute to these concerns. Crime in public spaces is increasing, highlighting the need for targeted interventions.

Local councils manage and maintain public spaces, making them key partners in improving safety. Many councils use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to deter crime and enhance perceptions of safety. In New South Wales, these are embedded in the assessment of development applications under Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, ensuring safety is considered early in planning. Victoria should adopt a similar approach to enhance public space security and accessibility.

Community Safety Audits should be conducted regularly to assess crime risks, particularly in high-traffic and high-risk areas. These audits allow councils to identify emerging safety concerns and implement practical responses such as environmental modifications, temporary infrastructure, landscaping, and site re-design to deter anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

Community-driven initiatives play a crucial role in fostering social cohesion and crime prevention. Programs like Speak Out Against Racism (SOAR) have successfully tackled racism and discrimination through

education and awareness campaigns. Strengthening neighbourhood connections, including with VicPol and within public housing communities, helps identify safety concerns and co-design solutions. Neighbourhood houses and Council facilities also provide essential services and safe spaces for at-risk groups, including women and children.

Addressing homelessness is another critical component of public safety. The Melbourne Zero campaign has reduced rough sleeping through By-Name Lists and coordinated outreach. Expanding such initiatives would support vulnerable populations while improving safety in public spaces.

The Victorian Government must partner with councils to fund and implement these initiatives, ensuring local governments have the resources to improve safety. By embedding safety in public space design, conducting regular audits, responding to crime hotspots, and supporting community-led programs, Victoria can create safer, more inclusive public spaces.

Motion 10. Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Motion:

"That the MAV call upon the Victorian Government to implement all recommendations from the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee Local government funding and services Inquiry plus:

1. The Victorian Government should conduct a review of developer contributions to grow the use of in-kind agreements to assist councils with the timely delivery of infrastructure.
2. That the Victorian Government conduct a review of prescribed local government fees and fines to ensure they reflect the actual costs to individual councils.
3. That the Victorian Government, in consultation with the local government sector, reinvest more funding from the Sustainability Fund in circular economy initiatives.
4. That the Victorian Government, in consultation with the local government sector, establish a local government climate resilience fund."

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, Diversity, equity & inclusion, Resilience & recovery, Intergenerational infrastructure	

On 3 May 2023, the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

- (i) That this House requires the Economy and Infrastructure Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 28 November 2024, on local government funding and service delivery in Victoria, including but not limited to —
- (ii) the effects of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils in an examination of vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances.
- (iii) whether local councils are adequately delivering on their core service delivery objectives;
- (iv) the overall revenue structure of local government;
- (v) whether the existing revenue structure is sustainable and appropriate or if alternative models of funding would be more sustainable and appropriate; and
- (vi) any other related matters.
- c. The final report was tabled in the Legislative Council on 28 November 2024 and included 48 recommendations.
- e. The Victorian Government has 6 months in which to respond to the report and can decide to:
 - (i) Endorse the report in totality thus creating the opportunity to implement all the recommendations.
 - (ii) Reject the report in totality, thus making the report null and void.
 - (iii) Implement selected recommendations.

Motion 11. Prevention of Illegal Rubbish Dumping

Submitting Council: Melton City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to highlight the significant financial and amenity impact of illegally dumped rubbish on council and private land in Victorian municipalities and request the following to combat illegal rubbish dumping and support the improvement of the State's circular economy:

- Develop an 'Illegal Rubbish Dumping Strategic Plan' and implement a state based preventative and education campaign.
- Release funding from the Sustainability Fund that is collected from the Waste Levy, for increased financial support of local councils to manage illegal rubbish dumping.
- Request additional funding to the EPA to increase resources for the enforcement of illegal rubbish dumping.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

The Victorian Government should develop a state-wide 'Illegal Rubbish Dumping Strategic Plan' to implement preventative measures and a new community education campaign to combat the issue. The main sources of rubbish are the removal of building and demolition materials and household waste by individual residents.

Targeted statewide sustainable education campaigns and compliance activities can be delivered in partnership with the EPA and Sustainability Victoria to assist councils deal with waste dumped illegally on reserves, along roadways, on private land and near waterways, advancing the work of existing EPA programs.

In 2023/24 Melton City Council's operations team managed clean-up and disposal of approximately 5,700 tonnes of illegally dumped waste. To date in 2024/25 (February 2025), Council has already collected 1,747 dumped rubbish jobs equalling 3,881 tonnes of waste collected and disposed of in landfill. Council's Litter Prevention team investigates littering and illegal dumping reports each day, employing 3.5 EFT officers. This will soon increase to 4.5 EFT for 6 months to address the current workload – which rose 32% over the past 2 financial years.

This dumped waste degrades public and private land, diminishes local amenities, and diverts resources from other essential council services. According to the Environmental Protection Authority, illegally dumped rubbish in Victoria costs \$30 million annually has the potential to cause a range of environmental damage,

impact local ecosystems and impact health. The Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund is funded by the Landfill Levy applied to ratepayers and waste disposers and is designed to "foster sustainable use of resources, best practice waste management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions". The Sustainability Fund is the fairest mechanism to channel extra resources to councils and the EPA, to combat illegal rubbish dumping, safeguard community amenities and support improvements to the State's circular economy goals. Extra funding is required for a new statewide engagement approach with multi-media marketing with language translation, with a heavier focus on education and enforcement across Victoria to help change behaviour.

Increased funding and a strategic approach to resolving the issue can assist with the frequency of offences, and impact ongoing environmental, health and wellbeing, social cohesion and tourism.

Motion 12. Municipal Industrial and Landfill Levy

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government for a review of the Municipal Industrial and Landfill Levy which includes consideration of an intermediary rate for growth Councils.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Climate & regenerative design	

The Municipal Industrial and Landfill Levy dictates a rate Council pays which is not commensurate with the waste generated in housing/construction and population growth that is occurring in our community.

Motion 13. Waste Service Charges

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the State Government to review the Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges and reconsider the freeze on waste collection service rates and charges.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

The requirement for a four-bin system may impose significant upfront costs on Councils, including purchasing new bins, modifying waste collection vehicles, and upgrading waste sorting facilities. Councils will face budget strain, limiting resources. Maintaining a four-bin system will also likely increase operational costs due to additional collection routes, increased staffing needs, and higher fuel and maintenance expenses for vehicles. However, the State Government has placed restrictions on Council's ability to increase waste collection fees and levies to cover the increased costs. Local councils may face legal challenges or penalties if they do not comply with the guidelines.

Without additional state funding, Council may need to reallocate funds from other services. If state funding is inconsistent or insufficient, Council will struggle to cover ongoing costs, increasing their financial risk and reliance on other revenue sources.

The Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines must ensure waste service charges are fair, equitable, and based on the actual cost of delivering services and should account for the unique challenges of high-growth areas like Wyndham, where waste service demand is rapidly increasing.

Motion 14. Roads and Bridge Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

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

- Allocate additional funding specifically for the maintenance and renewal of bridges in regional councils, recognizing the disproportionate financial burden on these councils as bridges meeting end of life, and in regards to the cost of repair and replacement as disproportional to the rural, small-sized council ratepayer population or;
- Create a dedicated grant program, or reinstate a similar program to the historic Country Roads and Bridges Program, for bridge maintenance and renewal, or;
- Allocate a specific proportion of existing road safety funding to the purpose of bridge maintenance or renewals where councils with extensive road and bridge networks and low ratepayer bases receive priority.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure	

Rural Council's service a disproportionate amount of maintenance requirements in preserving the bridge structures in their network. The introduction of B-Doubles and PBS vehicle configurations has seen access over structures on the arterial network that were designed when 33- and 44-tonne semi-trailers were the heaviest vehicles on the road network. There are sections of the rural arterial road network where certain vehicle configurations are either not allowed to cross, or are only allowed to access under reduced operational capacity. Investment is needed to upgrade these structures to make them fit for purpose.

To ease the burden of maintaining these structures on rural councils, we seek MAV's support in the allocation of additional funding, through both grant funding and proportional allocation of road safety funding for rural councils that have the burden of this expense.

Motion 15. Physical infrastructure – accessibility

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates for the Victorian Government to establish a dedicated funding program aimed at supporting accessibility upgrades to ageing community facilities and open spaces in municipalities like Nillumbik Shire. This program should focus on:

- Ensuring compliance with the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and universal design principles, including sensory considerations.
- Increasing the number of designated accessible parking spaces.
- Developing continuous accessible pathways, especially around community facilities, parks, trails, and public transport hubs.
- Enhancing social connection, participation, and mobility for people with disabilities.
- Fostering more inclusive communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, Intergenerational infrastructure

Approximately 20 per cent of Victorians live with a disability, and the state's population is ageing. Ensuring that community infrastructure is accessible is vital for promoting social inclusion and upholding the rights of all residents.

Nillumbik Shire, characterized by its stable population and ageing infrastructure, faces challenges in upgrading facilities to meet contemporary accessibility standards.

The Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 mandate that new and modified buildings provide adequate access for people with disabilities. Yet, many existing structures in Nillumbik predate these standards and require significant modifications to comply.

With financial constraints intensified by rate capping, councils like Nillumbik need additional support to upgrade ageing infrastructure. A dedicated state-funded program would enable necessary modifications, ensuring facilities are accessible and inclusive.

This motion aligns with the objectives of the Inclusive Victoria State Disability Plan, aiming to create an inclusive, accessible, and safe state that celebrates diversity. By partnering with the Victorian Government, we can ensure that all residents, regardless of ability, have equitable access to community facilities, thereby enhancing social participation and community well-being.

Motion 16. Road Funding and Maintenance

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Calls on the Victorian Government to review its current approach to maintenance of major roads, and in particular the increased tolerance shown by the Department of Transport and Planning for allowing damaged roads to go unrepaired for very long periods.
2. Calls on the Victorian Government to urgently address the growing safety issue caused by unrepaired potholes, ruts, corrugations, cracking and unmown verges, and
3. Calls on the Victorian Government to end the practice of offering roadside mowing contracts to councils at below cost, in effect another form of cost shifting.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?		

The condition of major roads in the City of Kingston and elsewhere across Melbourne is deteriorating month by month and the longer that road damage goes unrepaired, the more expensive it will be to fix.

Motion 17. Funding of State-Owned assets managed by Local Government and community-based committees.

Submitting Council: Wellington Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to undertake a review of all State Government assets managed by both Local Councils and community-based committees, with a view to the Victorian Government providing an annual fund to support both maintenance and capital works for assets that are fundamentally owned by the State.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/9/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure	

Victorian local governments face increasing financial strain in maintaining both Council and State-owned assets. While councils provide essential services and infrastructure upkeep, they receive no direct funding from the Victorian Government for managing State-owned assets. This creates an unsustainable burden, particularly with rate capping, cost-of-living pressures, and growing community needs.

The Victorian Government's Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services (2024) highlighted cost shifting as a major financial challenge for councils. Key findings include:

- "Local councils are facing increased budget pressures due to cost shifting by state and federal governments. Without substantial changes, the financial sustainability of council operations is at risk, with some services already being reduced or discontinued entirely." (Finding 3)
- "Not all Victorian councils are spending enough on asset renewal to match depreciation. Many face a growing renewal gap." (Finding 8)
- "In some cases, councils who have agreements to maintain State Government assets or Crown land are not adequately funded to do so." (Finding 43)

The Inquiry recommended that "the Victorian Government ensure funding is provided to support agreements to maintain State Government assets or Crown Land." (Recommendation 36). However, no structured funding exists to support councils, exacerbating financial risks and limiting their ability to invest in infrastructure.

This motion calls on the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to advocate for a review of all State Government assets managed by Local Councils and community-based committees. The aim is to establish an annual fund to support maintenance and capital works for assets fundamentally owned by the State. This fund would:

1. Reduce financial strain on councils, allowing better allocation of resources to core services.
2. Ensure fair cost-sharing, aligning with the principle that asset owners should contribute.
3. Improve asset longevity and community benefit, ensuring adequate maintenance.
4. Enhance transparency and accountability, defining clear funding responsibilities.

Given the Inquiry's findings on cost shifting and financial sustainability, councils must collectively call for a funding review. Establishing an annual fund will support local government sustainability while ensuring quality services and infrastructure for Victorian communities.

Motion 18. Getting infrastructure on the ground in a timely manner in emerging communities

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV take a leading role in advocating for the timely delivery of key transport infrastructure in emerging suburbs including metropolitan standard public transport by setting aside appropriate funding for the delivery of train stations and other upgrades for all growth area communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places Intergenerational infrastructure	

New and emerging growth areas, which are growing at a rate of more than 4% per annum, are the new frontier of Victorian communities. Despite being home to our newest communities, the transport connections these areas require often lag by years, if not decades.

Better planning, funding, and delivery timeframes are required to ensure that we do not lock these new communities out of opportunities. In particular, the timely delivery of public transport infrastructure including bus services, train stations, and connecting road and active transport linkages, is essential.

Currently, emerging suburbs including those in Melbourne's North and West lack access to not only electrified rail services, but in some instances have no train stations to access the existing V/Line network. Urgent funding is required to rectify this by delivering train stations, connected bus services, and ultimately rail line upgrades and electrification.

Unfortunately, timely delivery of transport infrastructure in the State's newest and emerging suburbs is not occurring, and action is required now.

Motion 19. Equitable Funding of Community Facility Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls upon the Victorian Government to commit to a review and increased funding for ageing or non-existent infrastructure ensuring equitable access to essential community facilities especially libraries and pool across all municipalities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Equitable access to community facilities is fundamental to the health, well-being, and social fabric of all communities. Councils across the state irrespective of their growth rates, encounter unique challenges in providing and maintaining such infrastructure.

Nillumbik Shire boasts a vibrant and engaged community that heavily utilises its existing infrastructure, particularly libraries and aquatic centres. This high patronage underscores the essential role these facilities play in community engagement, education, and social connection.

However, many of these well-utilised facilities are ageing and require significant upgrades to continue meeting the community's needs effectively. For instance, the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool, a seasonal facility, is one of many across the state that requires significant investment to ensure it meets current standards and is able to provide social connection, participation, and mobility for people at all ages and stages. Nillumbik also has areas of the Shire with non-existing infrastructure and the current funding models often prioritise high-growth areas, inadvertently overlooking councils like Nillumbik, where the demand on existing infrastructure remains high despite stable population figures.

Investing in new, and/or the renewal and enhancement of Nillumbik's community facilities is not merely a response to infrastructure needs but a proactive measure to foster community well-being. Modern, accessible, and well-equipped libraries and aquatic centres serve as hubs for lifelong learning, health, and social interaction, contributing positively to the quality of life for all residents.

By advocating for equitable funding that recognises both usage intensity and infrastructure age, we can ensure that communities like Nillumbik continue to thrive. This approach aligns with the broader objective of fostering resilient, connected, and vibrant communities across all of Victoria. Furthermore, by expanding and adequately funding programs with inclusive eligibility criteria, the Victorian Government can ensure that all outer Melbourne communities have access to the essential facilities they need to prosper.

This motion seeks to strengthen partnerships with the Victorian Government, aiming for a collaborative approach that supports the diverse needs of all municipalities, thereby enhancing the well-being of communities across the state.

Motion 20. Countering Misinformation

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That MAV calls on the State Government to combat misinformation by implementing all the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry into the impact of social media on elections and electoral administration.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Intergenerational infrastructure

In September 2021, the Electoral Matters Committee release the finding of its inquiry into the impact of social media on elections and electoral administration.

This Committee found that social media can often have negative effects on public participation in our democracy. They found that social media often promotes material, which is sensationalist and inaccurate information (fake news) ahead of more restrained and accurate content. This material also tends spread faster and further than the truthful and accurate information.

Users can manipulate social media to amplify certain messages or marginalise others. Fake accounts, bots, high intensity accounts and gate keeping behaviour have also been used to distort what people see on social media.

In addition, there are some people who use social media to abuse and harass people in relation to elections, or who behave in other inappropriate ways. This can reduce willingness to participate in elections. Women and minorities groups tend to be the most affected by this behaviour. The report states that “as an essential part of the electoral environment, social media must be protected from efforts to undermine Victoria’s democratic system.”

The report made 33 recommendations to combat misinformation on social media. In response the State Government supported just 1 recommendation in full:

That, in addressing the negative impacts of social media on elections, the Government adopt a multi-faceted approach which addresses problems through a suite of measures designed to tackle problems in multiple ways. The Government did support 23 recommendations in principle only but has not fully implemented all these recommendations. This includes recommendations (1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32).

Motion 21. Online misinformation and abuse, and request for investigation

Submitting Council: Moonee Valley City Council

Motion:

1. Call on the MAV to support Councils in condemning the personal abuse directed at individuals, and misinformation about Councils, employees and councillors, conveyed regularly online by Council Watch Victoria Inc.
2. Request the MAV to write to the President of Council Watch Victoria Inc. conveying Councils' serious concerns about the unreasonable conduct of the organisation, including the publication of misinformation and abusive and threatening material, and the impact of this conduct on individuals in the local government sector.
3. Request the MAV to support the Mayor of Moonee Valley and other Councils who have written, and similarly write, to the Victorian Electoral Commission, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Government Services seeking an investigation into whether Council Watch Victoria Inc. meets the definition of a third party campaigner organisation under the Electoral Act 2002 (Vic) and is therefore required to comply with relevant reporting provisions and disclosure laws, and requesting that concerns about Council Watch Victoria Inc. also be referred to any other relevant integrity, taxation or regulatory agencies to ensure compliance with financial and other laws.
4. Request that the MAV make relevant representations, submissions and advocacy to the Electoral Matters Committee and other relevant bodies supporting the implementation of truth in political advertising laws in Victoria.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing	

Misinformation and created narratives on social media platforms are dangerous. Unfortunately, Council Watch Victoria Inc. regularly posts allegedly unreasonable and unsubstantiated comments on Councils, Councillors, MPs and organisations.

The impact of the alleged misinformation, and personal attacks and abuse, are far reaching and extend to Councils and councillors across Victoria. It's reached the point where this needs to be called to account.

The motion also questions whether Council Watch is operating as a third-party campaigner organisation and asks for the MAV to request that this, and other compliance matters, are investigated as necessary.

Third-party campaigner organisations are required to disclose donations and expenditure and comply with other requirements. These rules are about transparency and honesty in election campaign activities. Examples of alleged publishing of misinformation include claims that:

- That Councils and councillors have acted unlawfully (6/5/24) (5/6/24)
- That Councillors haven't done training (18/3/24)
- That Councils are responsible for antisemitism (3/4/24)
- That an individual is a front for an organisation (15/9/24)
- That journalists are defending Labor councillors (5/7/24)
- That Councils are not following privacy laws (12/7/24)

Fair-criticism is essential to robust democracy. Personal abuse is when unreasonable, untrue, cruel comments are made that can defame, or cause harm to reputations and wellbeing. Part of the viciousness of the alleged personal attacks on Council Watch are in the comments that are then posted on the page, and the lack of moderation of these by the responsible publisher.

Council Watch has published untrue and unreasonable comments about councillors, CEOs, council officers and journalists including that they are: "...a nasty human, a useful idiot, barely coherent and unable to run a council meeting, spectacularly pathetic, a liar, unfit to chair, a terrible Mayor, supportive of \$15,000 gifts, the subject of unproven and alleged secret allegations of bullying, abusive, caught out colluding ..." There's also unreasonable commentary on organisations, including Councils: comments include – "time to be sacked, needs to be sacked, misleading the Parliament, a croc, trying to hide a confidential settlement, lack competency, peddling garbage, secretive, corrupt." Unreasonable behaviour by Council Watch is harming local democracy in Victoria.

Motion 22. Strengthening Mental Health Services for Youth

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to significantly enhance investment and increase support for youth mental health services, prioritising early intervention, accessible care, and school and community-based mental health programs. Despite existing initiatives, demand continues to outpace capacity, leaving community-based services under-resourced.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing

Children and young people across Victoria are experiencing rising rates of mental health challenges. In areas such as Nillumbik, mental health conditions are more prevalent among young people aged 15–24, with rates surpassing Greater Melbourne averages (11.6 ASR vs. 10.6 ASR per 100). However, being one of the most socioeconomically advantaged areas in Victoria, as reflected by the SEIFA Index, regions like Nillumbik are often overlooked for mental health services and funding. This creates significant service gaps, even though the community experiences higher rates of mental health conditions compared to the state average. Without adequate school and community-based support, these issues go unaddressed, further compounding the impact on students, families, and local health systems.

Local government plays a critical role in identifying and addressing these gaps through community programs, youth services, and partnerships with health providers. Schools also face increasing demand for on-site mental health support to address issues early and mitigate long-term impacts. Additionally, community health services are strained, requiring additional funding to ensure equitable access to care. We call for State Government to fast track the implementation of reforms and launch its Statewide Wellbeing Strategy as well as accelerating the formation of Social Inclusion Action Groups in every LGA. While SIAGs have been successfully implemented in select regions, such as Brimbank, Greater Geelong, Whittlesea, Mildura, and Ballarat, a statewide rollout is essential to ensure all communities benefit from this initiative. Accelerating the formation of SIAGs in every LGA will empower local communities to collaboratively address mental health challenges, promote inclusivity, and develop tailored solutions that resonate with their unique needs.

By investing in mental health resources across schools, local councils, and healthcare providers, the State Government can ensure that communities in both advantaged and disadvantaged areas receive the support necessary to improve mental health outcomes. Investment may include:

- Increasing the availability of psychologists, counsellors, and mental health workers in schools, local government, and health services.
- Funding resilience-building and early intervention programs in educational, community, and healthcare settings. Supporting partnerships between local councils, schools, and community mental health providers to deliver coordinated mental health services.

Motion 23. Providing access to locally based mental services for all communities right across Victoria

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to deliver more mental health services based in local communities, particularly across emerging growth areas, peri-urban townships, and regional and rural communities with the aim of ensuring the communities in every single municipality have access to locally based services.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing

Communities, families and individuals right across Victoria are facing real emotional and mental challenges driven by a broad range of external pressures.

Whilst those delivering mental health services work tirelessly to support everyone across the state, there is a dire lack of provision of locally based mental health services in many communities. Some communities face well over 90-minute commutes to access services which are 'regionally' based, rather than local based. Outreach services are often insufficient, limited in accessibility, and lacking appropriate scaling or ability to triage.

A far greater geographic spread of locally based services is essential to ensure that communities do not fall between the gaps. There should be an expectation that every municipality in Victoria has a locally based mental health service to support their community.

Motion 24. Victorian Maternal and Child Health Services Dad Groups - DadsConnect

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to urgently provide full funding to all Maternal and Child Health services for Dad groups, to support family violence prevention and address the vulnerability of dads transitioning to parenthood and support healthy family relationships.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Diversity, equity & inclusion

Dads are generically included in the MCH target group, but there is a significant gap in funded programs to meet their needs and contribute to addressing prevention of family violence.

The Victorian government is asked to commit funding for Dad Groups to support healthy family relationships, parenting confidence, with priority for new dads and father figures. The Victorian government funds the Maternal and Child Health Service (MCH), a free universal primary health service all Victorian families with children from birth to school age. Currently funded or co-funded programs include:

- Key Age and Stage
- Sleep and Settling
- Lactation support
- Enhanced service
- Supported Playgroups
- First-time Parents groups

MCH nurses are reporting increased disclosures of family violence; problematic gambling and alcohol and other drug use; unemployment; isolation; mental health challenges; homelessness; relationship and family dysfunction; and, unreasonable wait times for vital services.

One in four (1:4) women are experiencing family violence and the person using violence is usually male. One (1) woman is killed as a result of family violence every seven (7) days, usually by a male. In 2018–19, 35 women were killed by an intimate partner (all but one a male intimate partner). A child or children were present at 29.8% or 26,284 family violence incidents [attended by police] occurring in Victoria between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020. Source: Family violence statistics | Safe and Equal Melbourne's outer east: In 2023 the average age of the youngest child at time of first disclosure of family violence was two (2) years of age. By 2024 this had dropped to just over one (1) year of age. Source: Specialist service reports: Eastern Community Legal Centre. Dads need to feel safe to: talk openly, disclose true feelings and struggles and discuss parenting and doing so with peers increase the likelihood of personal growth, new skills, and confidence to use in the parent relationship. Funding should consider the target group needs to meet out of business hours and specialised skills of group facilitator with MCH nurse.

Motion 25. Reinststate FReeZA Program Funding

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the Victorian government urgently reconsiders funding for, and inequity of distribution of, FReeZA programs across Victorian Councils and Victorian young people. The 20-years history demonstrates the significant impact of programs on the leadership, skills development, capacity building and engagement of young people through participation in programs and more broadly through engagement in the resulting events.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	FutureGen

Councils across Victoria have expressed disappointment that most of the 2024 applications for Victorian funding for FReeZA were unsuccessful. In many regions, including the Eastern Metropolitan Region no applications were successful, leaving no resources for collaboration across the region, let alone in local government areas. Some regions received multiple grants.

For over 20 years many Councils have received FReeZA funding, supporting the delivery of a variety of activities and events that young people have planned and delivered to their peers and the wider community. The program has had significant, positive impact on young people's skills development, social connection, capacity building and access to events to showcase local talent and encourage participation of young people in the community either as participants of FReeZA programs and/or event attendees. The failure of the Victorian Government to fund FReeZA in the eastern metropolitan region will have a significant impact on young people's access to safe, fully supervised drug, alcohol, and smoke-free events. The impact on leadership and skill development through participation in the FReeZA committee will also be significant.

Over the 20-year history of FReeZA, funding has been allocated annually by calendar year. The application process by calendar year has resulted in the typical experience of Councils having funding renewed annually. Maroondah received \$34,561 in funding to deliver the FReeZA program during the 2024 calendar year. Planning for 2025 had begun by many young people in Council's who receive FReeZA funding. In mid-December 2024, the outcome of applications for FReeZA funding for programs from 1 January 2025 were announced.

The Victorian government is urgently requested to reconsider the effective cessation of FReeZA funding for Councils across Victoria and young people across Victoria.

Councils understand the financial pressures on the Victorian government. If funding for individual Councils is not possible, at minimum, Councils should be allocated adequate funding to develop sub regional initiatives that will enable ongoing provision of FReeZA programs, albeit on a smaller / sub regional level. Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Councils have indicated a willingness to explore collaborative approaches for the provision of FReeZA, should regional level funding be made available.

Motion 26. Providing learning and education opportunities for new and emerging communities

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV lead the advocacy calling on the State Government to provide increased and targeted planning for the delivery of tertiary education, including TAFE, in new and emerging communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Whilst Victoria has excellent education opportunities, there is a notable lack of planning for future tertiary education particularly in new and emerging communities.

Being able to learn close to home, and close to employment is a key driver in ensuring high levels of engagement and completion of tertiary study and courses. This is not available in the majority of the State's new and emerging areas, with a noted lack of geographic diversity in university and TAFE offerings.

This could be easily rectified if State Government planning, led through the Victorian Planning Authority, were proactive in identifying future opportunities through the Precinct Structure Plan process. Currently these planning processes fail to consider the delivery of this essential community-forming infrastructure.

Motion 27. Gambling reform

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to endorse the recommendations from the 2023 Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry Report 'You Win Some You Lose More'

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing	

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs 2023 Inquiry Report 'You Win Some You Lose More' incorporated 31 recommendations. The Alliance for Gambling Reform supports and encourages the government to adopt and implement all 31 recommendations. Gambling in all its forms continues to be problematic for many people in our community, and it is recommended MAV call on the Victorian Government to implement all 31 recommendations.

Motion 28. Rooming Houses

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate for the changes to state legislation to require planning consent for rooming houses within 200 metres of another rooming house including public exhibition of the proposal.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Connected places	

Whilst it is noting that demand for housing including housing of different types to cope with demand is a real need this intensification in urban renewal should also address neighbourhood character and ensure that requirements are put in place to mitigate where possible any increase antisocial behaviour in neighbourhoods.

Motion 29. Balancing Provision of Additional Housing & Protection of Environment Through Vegetation Retention & Planting

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV supports advocacy to the Victorian Government to consider the impacts of all housing strategies on the natural environment and the ability of urban areas to retain and/or create a 30% tree canopy and reflects the priorities of 'Cooking and Greening Melbourne.'

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Climate & regenerative design	

Banyule City Council acknowledges the housing crisis facing many Victorians and supports state government initiatives that provide increased housing stock and housing diversity. Banyule also acknowledges the need to act on climate change to ensure safe and sustainable environments for future generations. The provision of additional housing statewide, must be undertaken at a density and design that enables sufficient urban canopy to be maintained. Not only to mitigate the impacts of climate change, but also to provide a level of amenity for future residents.

Motion 30. Improved clarity on Small Second Dwellings in the State Planning Scheme

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV work with the Victorian Government and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to clarify planning legislation for tiny homes.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Climate & regenerative design	

Tiny homes are gaining popularity as a housing solution for housing affordability, seasonal workers, inter-generational living and tourism accommodation. Tiny homes are considered to be a partial solution for the housing crisis and are a potentially inexpensive offering to address housing diversity.

We request clarification from the Victorian Government and DTP on an appropriate definition for tiny homes in the Victoria Planning Provisions and clarified information by the Victorian Building Authority over the application of the Building Act 1993 to tiny homes.

This could be achieved through an MAV hosted workshop or working group with the DTP and VBA to ensure consistency between Councils and a clear forward pathway for community.

Motion 31. Designating cellular telecommunication networks as 'essential services' and associated planning controls

Submitting Council: Casey City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian State Government to mandate cellular telecommunication networks as an 'essential service' and implement planning controls that require earlier delivery of cellular communication services in new residential and commercial estates.

Officer recommendation and Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places and Resilience & recovery

The City of Casey is home to a growing number of residents living in mobile blackspots. This is primarily due to the lack of cellular telecommunications infrastructure in our growth areas.

The City of Casey is seeking to have cellular telecommunication networks treated as an 'essential service' in line with existing telecommunications provisions and other services like water and energy, and planning controls that require earlier delivery of cellular communication services in new residential and commercial estates.

This would help prevent prolonged inaccessibility in new developments (as seen in Clyde and Clyde North) and the over-saturation of available bandwidth of existing infrastructure.

It is understood that lack of cellular communication has resulted in people unable to contact emergency services or family members in an emergency, and the effects on businesses was increasingly highlighted during Victoria's response to COVID-19.

Motion 32. Advocating for the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal to set remuneration bands for Council CEOs in Victoria

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes and values the role of a CEO in Victorian local government which is essential to the delivery of council services for the community.
2. Notes that current legislative arrangements require councils to have regard to the state government wages policy and decisions of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal but do not provide any direct guidance on what Council CEOs receive thereby giving some discretion to councils in determining terms and conditions of CEO employment contracts and total remuneration packages.
3. Notes that the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal is responsible for setting remuneration for Members of Parliament, Victorian Public Sector Executives, executives in the Victorian public sector and Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Local Councillors but not council CEOs.
4. Advocates on behalf of the sector and calls on the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal to take responsibility for setting remuneration bands in line with Council Tiers for Council CEOs in Victoria in the future.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Diversity, equity & inclusion	

The role of a CEO in Victorian local government is essential to the delivery of council services for the community. Current legislative arrangements require councils to have regard to the state government wages policy and decisions of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal but do not provide any direct guidance on what Council CEOs receive thereby giving some discretion to councils in determining terms and conditions of CEO employment contracts and total remuneration packages.

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal is responsible for setting remuneration for Members of Parliament, Victorian Public Sector Executives, executives in the Victorian public sector and Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Local Councillors but not council CEOs.

Motion 33. The efficacy and resource impact on Councils of Fire and Safety Regulations

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That MAV call on the Victorian Government to:

- review the requirements for maintenance of essential safety measures to ensure efficacy and confirm the role of owner corporations in complying with those measures
- properly resource councils, directly or indirectly, to fulfil their determined role in administering and enforcing fire safety regulatory requirements

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing, Climate & regenerative design, Resilience & recovery, Intergenerational infrastructure	

On 10 March 2025, the Age reported that a survey of every building inspection undertaken by councils over a year, showed that almost 90 per cent of Victoria's multi-storey apartment buildings don't meet fire safety standards because property owners struggle to maintain increasingly complex systems, leaving residents at risk.

The Victorian Government has set new housing targets that will largely be met through an increase of multi-storey developments. Modern day apartments utilise complex active safety measures to enable larger floor plates and higher buildings. These active safety measures are relied upon for the safety of occupants and the public and it is imperative that they operate to their designed intentions.

The State Building Act and Building Regulations determine the process for nominating what standards need to be maintained and require local government, through their Municipal Building Surveyor, to administer and enforce their compliance. How this is to be achieved is not documented and in a lot of cases resource allocation cannot be determined and is reliant on a complaints basis.

The current requirements in Victoria are complex, and contribute to lack of knowledge, clarity and inevitably non-compliance. The efficacy of these requirements needs to be reviewed, taking into account best practices in Australia. It is also complicated by the ability for Owners Corporations to oversee maintenance and ensure compliance, particularly when dealing with areas outside their control (controlled by apartment owner).

The administration and enforcement of these maintenance requirements is ad hoc, due to ill-defined obligations and how to meet these obligations. The Building Control Plan has been discussed in the past as an avenue to improve this process however has not been released at the time of this review. Also, the direct funding or indirect funding, through supply of building inspectors or a register process similar to NSW, may provide the resourcing to enable the building to function properly in the case of an emergency. However, this must be done in conjunction with an effective maintenance inspection process, or this will impose undue costs to owners of property. It is imperative that this work be undertaken and resources provided where needed, or current issues and problems will be further amplified.

Motion 34. Fines Victoria

Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That the MAV

1. Notes that the performance levels of Fines Victoria in collection of fines have improved but the rate has not returned to levels seen before Fines Victoria became the responsible collections agency in 2018.
2. Recognises that the current performance level of Fines Victoria continues to adversely affect the financial position and budgetary processes of impacted councils.
3. Calls on the Victorian Government to provide the following:
 - a. A timeline in which it anticipates the performance of Fines Victoria will return to or exceed the collection rates achieved pre-Fines Victoria.
 - b. Significant compensation by allowing the responsible Minister to write-off bad debts held by Fines Victoria on behalf of councils (anticipated to include any amounts exceeding 24 months) and provide compensation to each council for an equivalent value.
 - c. Refund to councils by Fines Victoria for services not delivered to the level before Fines Victoria became the responsible collections agency in 2018.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25		
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government		
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No		
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy		

Since 2018, Fines Victoria (FV) has been the responsible agency for the collection of all outstanding state and local government debt including Parking Infringement Notices (PINs) issued by councils. Prior to FV, the Infringements Court held this responsibility. As noted at State Council in March 2023, the implementation of this service was plagued by systems faults and data issues which resulted in significantly lowered debt collection of outstanding fines and a greater number being classified as doubtful fines. This created cash flow challenges for several councils across the state.

Recognising the impact, State Council called on the Victorian Government to take action by providing compensation to councils by allowing the responsible Minister to write off debts held by FV and to seek changes to the methodology and service levels at FV.

The Victorian Government has not offered compensation and although the performance levels of FV have improved in recent years, the return rate is still below the levels achieved pre-FV. This is impacting on the financial position of councils operating in challenging economic conditions.

The City of Melbourne experience is offered to demonstrate the magnitude of the problem. The return rate for every dollar spent in 2024 is \$1.77. This compares to a rate of \$2.10 achieved in 2016 when the Infringements Court had responsibility. The calendar years of 2018 and 2019 saw the lowest paid return rate of \$0.87 and \$1.26 respectively. At this time, the amount paid to FV for services to be delivered was approximately \$10.2m. The Victorian Government should reconsider the matter of compensation to councils disadvantaged due to the performance of FV, particularly in the early years of 2018 and 2019.

Motion 35. Victorian Electoral Processes for Retired Candidates

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to ensure the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) fully complete the process of reviewing nominated candidate eligibility prior to the commencement of printing ballot papers in future local government elections.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy	

During the 2024 Local Government Elections, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) coordinated the full electoral process.

As part of the review of candidate eligibility process following the close of nominations, the VEC advised that 16 local council election candidates across the 79 Councils were 'retired' after being found ineligible to nominate, including one in Maroondah. These retirements largely resulted from candidates who did not complete their compulsory training as declared in their nominations. It is a legislative requirement for candidates to complete this training in the two (2) years before election day, in order to be able to nominate.

As candidate retirement through this VEC process occurred after ballot papers had been printed for 12 of these 16 candidates, they could not be changed to remove the retired candidates. This resulted in 12 'retired' candidates appearing on ballot papers across the State mailed out to residents. When counting votes for these local government elections, votes for retired candidates were reallocated to other candidates according to voters' preferences.

This situation raises concerns regarding the timing of the VEC review of eligibility process for nominated candidates. It is essential that the VEC process relating to candidate eligibility be conducted and completed prior to the commencement of ballot paper printing in order to ensure the accuracy and transparency of the voting practices. The listing of retired candidates on ballot paper has the potential to cause confusion and shifts in voter behaviour.

Adhering to good governance practices, the VEC could potentially request that nominated candidates provide a certificate confirming their completion of the mandatory training outlined in the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020.

By implementing these measures, the VEC can uphold the principles of good governance and maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

Non-Standard / Low Priority

Motion 36. Funding designations for arts galleries

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to prioritise the inclusion of funding for cultural facilities situated in greater metropolitan Councils. Presently, there are funding opportunities for such facilities in areas classified as regional, leaving very limited State level funding opportunities to contribute to the future sustainability of centres outside of these areas.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/2/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, Intergenerational infrastructure

We urge the State Government to review its funding models to ensure greater geographical equity in cultural investment. The current framework disproportionately impacts facilities in Greater Melbourne. Equitable investment in cultural infrastructure across Victoria is vital to fostering a thriving, inclusive, and accessible arts sector for future generations.

Arts and cultural expression are key to creative, healthy, and engaged communities. However, excluding cultural facilities from funding programs based on location fails to recognise their critical role. This inequity threatens the sustainability of essential arts spaces and limits opportunities for audiences to engage with high-quality cultural experiences.

A review of State and Australian Government investment in the arts over the past decade highlights inconsistent gallery funding, creating instability for institutions. Government support has prioritized infrastructure and touring rather than operational funding. This imbalance places public galleries under immense strain, affecting their programs, collections, and workforce. Despite their significant contributions, Victoria's public galleries face a crisis, grappling with an ageing workforce, deteriorating infrastructure, and the challenge of preserving nationally significant collections. The lack of consistent operational funding exacerbates these challenges, threatening cultural heritage and community engagement.

For example, McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery is a vital cultural institution that relies largely on visitor support to sustain its operations. It plays a crucial role in conserving and expanding its collection, curating exhibitions, delivering public programs, and maintaining the park. However, McClelland's government funding eligibility is severely constrained due to its location. This inequity underscores systemic flaws that disadvantage cultural institutions outside select regional partnerships.

With Victoria's population projected to grow by 1.25 million over the next decade, particularly in Greater Melbourne, and with the State population to exceed 10 million, the State Government must reform its funding strategies to support expanding communities. A balanced and regionally equitable approach to cultural investment is essential to ensure all Victorians have access to world-class arts experiences. We call on the government to take urgent action to address these disparities and create a sustainable, inclusive future for Victoria's arts sector.

Motion 37. Community Safety

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

The MAV strongly advocate to the Premier and Minister for Police and Emergency Services for decisive action to combat the significant surge in youth crime, car theft and home invasions including:

- An increase in resources available to Victoria Police to combat these crimes
- A review of sentencing and bail laws
- Appropriate resourcing for proactive community engagement and youth diversion programs

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/2/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing	

Like other areas of Victoria, Bayside is experiencing an increase in car thefts, aggravated burglaries, antisocial behaviour and home invasions. Many crimes are being committed by young people. The increasing crime is creating real and perceived safety concerns for our community.

Local councils are central to creating safe, inclusive spaces for all residents. However, effective action requires a collaborative and well-resourced approach. MAV advocacy will ensure Bayside and councils across Victoria have the capacity and are consistent in their approach to addressing safety challenges.

As well as residents, traders in our vibrant and busy shopping strips are dealing with daily thefts and antisocial behaviour. This increasing criminal activity impacts businesses financially and staff psychologically. It also impacts safety, amenity, perceptions of safety and the appeal of our shopping strips and other areas as vibrant, attractive and safe places to visit.

Everyone has a right to feel safe in their community and to be protected by a police force with sufficient resources. While all members of the community have a safety responsibility, increasing police resources and strengthening bail laws to keep recidivist and serious offenders off the streets is required immediately.

It is imperative there is strong advocacy by the MAV to support safer communities everywhere. Immediate actions, including additional police resources, strengthened bail laws and youth diversion programs are critical to stem the alarming increase in crime.

Motion 38. Review of Bail Laws

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to undertake a comprehensive review of Victoria's bail laws.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Active local democracy, Health & wellbeing

The current system is still not tough enough and does not reflect the expectations of victims or the public.

Motion 39. Stronger action from the State Government on graffiti

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to direct its agencies to take stronger action to police the increasing number of graffiti incidents and remove graffiti from State Government owned assets.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places	

It is an offence to mark graffiti on property that can be seen by the public unless the owner has given permission. There are very serious penalties for making or intending to make graffiti.

Many Councils are forced to allocate budgets in the hundreds of thousands if not millions to address the increasing amount of graffiti in their municipalities.

Local government management of graffiti typically involves prevention (including education and awareness campaigns), deterrent measures through urban design and timely removal programs.

Graffiti management is also a State Government responsibility. Councils regularly report to State Government that their assets are covered in graffiti but often no action is taken.

Racist and offensive graffiti is on the rise and is affecting community cohesion and perceptions of safety. More concerted action is required by the State to enforce State laws and to remove graffiti from their assets in a timely way.

Motion 40. Improved communications with Local Government on resolution time-frames for locally reported road hazards and issues

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV work with the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP/VicRoads) to create an issue resolution portal to communicate with Councils on VicRoads hazard resolution.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Resilience & recovery

The general public are often unaware of whether a hazardous road issue is the responsibility of the LGA or VicRoads. Regardless of hazard reporting route, a public-facing VicRoads/DTP centralised reporting dashboard of hazards and timeframes for resolutions would assist local government councils to answer queries from the public that are awaiting resolution and set expectations and where appropriate, support local safety information to communities. A partnership between MAV and DTP to work together to create inter-governmental collaboration and data transparency in the spirit of community safety would be of benefit to all Victorians.

Motion 41. Increased Funding to Expand Electric Bus Fleets

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Allocate additional funding for infrastructure including providing targeted grants to local councils and bus operators for the development of charging stations, depot upgrades, and grid enhancements to support electric bus operation;
2. Establish a Fleet Replacement Subsidy Program to offer financial incentives or subsidies to bus operators to offset the higher initial costs of electric buses, ensuring that fleet upgrades proceed without financial strain;
3. Invest in training programs to fund the development of training modules and workshops to equip the workforce with the necessary skills for operating and maintaining electric buses;
4. Ensure timely implementation of safety upgrades to address the reported delays in fleet upgrades to prevent compromising school bus safety; and
5. Explore opportunities to leverage federal programs and funding aimed at promoting zero-emission public transport solutions.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Climate & regenerative design

The MAV commends the Victorian Government's commitment to transitioning to zero-emission buses as part of the state's broader strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. However, recent reports indicate that plans to upgrade Victoria's aging bus fleet have been delayed for up to five years. To ensure the successful and timely implementation of this transition, the Victorian Government is requested to allocate increased funding specifically for the expansion of electric bus fleets. The transition to a zero-emission bus fleet is a critical component of Victoria's environmental and public health strategy. While these initiatives are commendable, the recent delays and funding challenges underscore the need for additional financial support to ensure the transition's timely and effective success. By allocating increased funding and addressing the outlined challenges, the Victorian Government can ensure a smooth and timely transition, delivering sustainable and safe public transport for all Victorians.

Motion 42. Strategic Cycling Corridors

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to support the development and implementation of an Investment Program to ensure that Strategic Cycling Corridors are delivered in a transparent, equitable, and efficient manner as follows:

1. Establishment of a more detailed Statewide Strategic Cycling Network Plan based on existing demand, population growth, mode shift requirements, links to employment hubs, and regional connectivity, aligning cycling corridor planning with existing transport and land use strategies, including Plan for Victoria, regional growth plans, and local government cycling plans.
2. Creation of a Project Prioritisation Framework, with a data-driven approach to assess cycling corridor projects based on factors such as demand, safety, connectivity, economic benefits, and social inclusion.
3. Dedicated Investment Program with a long-term funding stream and strategic pipeline for cycling infrastructure to provide certainty for local governments and enable efficient project delivery.
4. Integration with Public Transport and Land Use Planning, prioritise cycling corridors that improve first-and-last kilometre connections to train stations, tram stops, major bus routes and activity centres and supports infrastructure that facilitates multi-modal transport, such as secure bike parking at public transport hubs and end-of-trip facilities in key employment precincts.
5. Partnerships with Local Government and local communities, establishing a collaborative governance model that includes local councils, community stakeholders, and cycling advocacy groups in decision-making.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Connected places, Health & wellbeing

Strategic Cycling Corridors are important transport routes for cycling. The Strategic Cycling Corridors network links up major destinations, which includes central Melbourne, employment and activity centres and regional towns. Strategic Cycling Corridors provide significant benefits, including:

- **Economic Growth:** Cycling infrastructure supports local businesses, tourism, and job creation while reducing congestion-related costs.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Active transport contributes to physical and mental health wellbeing, reducing healthcare costs and improving quality of life.
- **Climate Action:** Investing in cycling infrastructure assists in the reduction in carbon emissions and aligns with Victoria's climate targets.
- **Transport Equity:** A well connected cycling network provides affordable and accessible transport options for all Victorians.

The Victorian Government is requested to prioritise an investment program to deliver Strategic Cycling Corridors across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. The delivery of a coordinated cycling network that connects key destinations and integrates with public transport is essential for the future of Victoria's transport system.

Motion 43. Advocacy for a strong and competitive Victorian manufacturing industry

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to the Ministers for Industry, Innovation & Science, Economic Growth, and Local Government to:

1. Acknowledge the vital role of the manufacturing sector in South East Melbourne, which contributes \$54 billion to gross regional product and provides 24% of Victoria's total manufacturing output.
2. Recognise the increasing risks of manufacturing business closures due to rising operational costs, energy pricing instability, excessive regulatory burdens, and unfair competition from low-cost imports.
3. Call on the Victorian Government to strengthen enforcement of the Local Jobs First policy to ensure government-funded projects prioritise locally manufactured products that meet Australian safety and quality standards.
4. Highlight the growing competitive disadvantage for South East Melbourne's manufacturers due to stronger incentives and financial support provided by other states to attract manufacturing investment, which risks shifting business away from Victoria.
5. Support the State Government's focus on advanced manufacturing by ensuring dedicated funding for innovation, technology adoption, and industry transition to high-value manufacturing, with a specific focus on supporting metropolitan manufacturing hubs in addition to regional areas.
6. Advocate for a competitive tax framework and business cost relief, including reviewing corporate tax settings and ensuring a stable, affordable energy supply to enhance global competitiveness.
7. Urge collaboration between the Victorian and Federal Governments to reinstate and strengthen anti-dumping measures, ensuring fair trade and protecting Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability.
8. Encourage investment in research, skills development, and workforce training to future-proof the sector, ensuring alignment with Victoria's Economic Growth Statement initiatives supporting advanced manufacturing.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/3/25	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Sustainable economy	

Victoria has long been the heartland of Australian manufacturing, yet without stronger support from the Victorian and Federal Governments, it risks losing businesses and jobs to other states offering more attractive incentives. South East Melbourne's manufacturers are facing mounting challenges, including high operational

costs, rising energy prices, skills shortages, and increased competition from both imports and interstate manufacturing hubs.

Victoria's Economic Growth Statement (2024) identifies advanced manufacturing as a priority sector, but support has been largely focused on regional areas, creating a competitive imbalance that disadvantages South East Melbourne.

Other states, such as Queensland, South Australia, and New South Wales, have introduced aggressive incentives, lower taxes, and infrastructure investment to attract manufacturers, pulling investment away from Victoria. Without a targeted response, this could lead to further closures and loss of skilled jobs.

Despite the Local Jobs First policy, major government infrastructure projects continue to source materials from overseas or interstate, bypassing local manufacturers and weakening sovereign capability. Stronger enforcement of local procurement policies is essential to ensuring Victoria retains its industrial strength.

Rising energy costs and regulatory barriers continue to undermine business confidence. Manufacturers require policy certainty to invest in advanced manufacturing, automation, and workforce training. The Economic Growth Statement supports industry development, but without additional support for South East Melbourne's manufacturing sector, the State risks falling behind.

To compete on a national and global scale, manufacturers need a sustainable corporate tax rate, affordable energy, and investment in workforce development. A strong and well-supported manufacturing sector will contribute to Victoria's long-term economic resilience, job security, and global competitiveness.

By advocating for these measures, MAV will help secure Victoria's manufacturing future, protect local jobs, and ensure that South East Melbourne remains a globally competitive manufacturing hub.

Motion 44. Food Security

Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government for greater investment in food systems (including food security) that should involve:

- Developing a comprehensive Victorian Food System Plan and advocacy to the Federal Government to develop a National Food System Plan. Such Plans should provide for food security, including nutritional security. They should have clear objectives and measurable targets set out in action plans and be subject to regular review. They should apply a food systems approach to account for the complex relationships involved from farm to fork, and foster relationships and synergies between government, relevant industries and civil society, and the community.
- Appointing a Victorian Minister for Food and advocating for the appointment of a Federal Minister for Food. These roles should be responsible for leading the development, implementation and evaluation of State and National Food System Plans.
- Supporting the development and implementation of regular monitoring of food security in Victoria against the six dimensions of food security.
- Empowering and resourcing local councils to lead the participatory development of community food system strategies by amending the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.
- Legislating food as a human right and working towards its progressive realisation.
- Improving dignified and affordable access to fresh and healthy food by resourcing local councils to work with State Government and the food relief sector to develop a new collaborative approach to food security grounded in the human right to food.
- Advocating to increase income support payments, including Jobseeker, to above the poverty line and indexed to wage growth.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	17/3/25
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing

The right to food is a universal human right, yet food insecurity is increasing across Victoria and Australia. Food insecurity presents both challenges and opportunities for positive change.

The 2024 Foodbank Hunger Report found that 48% of Australian with income under \$30,000 a year were experiencing food security. This had increased 5% since 2022. There are many local examples where Local

Governments have taken action to better understand and try to address these issues. For examples, rates of food insecurity in Greater Bendigo have been consistently higher than the Victorian average. In 2019, the City conducted the Active Living Census and found that 9.6% of the population was food insecure, almost double the Victorian average at the time. However these actions have had to be undertaken in isolation as currently, there is no Federal or State Plan that guides or coordinates local food systems work, including efforts to support food security. Additionally, it is difficult to fully understand the food security context in not only local government areas, but across the state and nation as current food security measures only include questions related to severe food insecurity (rather than questions related to the six dimensions of food security).

The dominant response to food insecurity in Australia is currently via food relief. However, traditional food relief services can have limitations. Services may not have resources or capacity to meet nutritional needs of people and donations are often shelf stable, ultra processed foods. Food relief recipients often do not get a choice in what food they receive. Lack of agency, as well as societal stigma associated with food insecurity, can fuel shame and embarrassment for those seeking assistance. Finally, with income support payments below the poverty line and the continuation of the 'cost of living crisis' food insecurity may continue to rise across the nation.

Councils, as the closest level of government to community, are uniquely placed to understand local community contexts and lead the participatory development of community food system strategies. Achieving this would require an enabling environment and appropriate resourcing.

Not to proceed

The MAV Board have determined that these motions will not proceed because they are either repetitive in form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council - 23 August 2024 or is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting.

Motion 45. Bus Network Reforms – Manningham City Council	In accordance with the rules, The MAV Board has determined that this motion is repetitive in form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council - 23 August 2024.
Motion 46. Vice-Regal Engagement with the Local Government Sector – Frankston City Council	The MAV Board has determined that this motion is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting
Motion 47. Advocacy - Future Homes – Banyule City Council	The MAV Board has determined that this motion is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting
Motion 48. Port Phillip Bay Water Safety – Frankston City Council	The MAV Board has determined that this motion is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting
Motion 49. West Gate Tunnel Air Quality Measures Motion – Hobsons Bay City Council	The MAV Board has determined that this motion is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting
Motion 50. Extending the application of the Sentencing Amendment (Emergency Worker Harm) Bill 2020 to cover workers involved in water safety and rescue – Frankston City Council	The MAV Board has determined that this motion is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting
Motion 51. Construction of the Melbourne Airport Rail – Brimbank City Council	The MAV Board has determined that this motion is not of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to the local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA