



MAV
Delegate
Engagement

MAV Regional Meeting Insights Report

— September 2026 —

The purpose of MAV Regional Meetings are to

Strengthen regional
collaboration

Discuss shared
challenges and
priorities

Coordinate
advocacy positions
including State
Council motions

Gather council
insights to inform
MAV's strategic work

Great South Coast Barwon

Golden Plains Shire Council
Colac Otway Shire Council
Corangamite Shire Council
Glenelg Shire Council
Greater Geelong City Council

Moyne Shire Council
Queenscliffe Borough Council
Southern Grampians Shire Council
Surf Coast Shire Council
Warrnambool City Council

Re-occurring Challenges

Sustainable Economy

- ESVF: Need for continued advocacy
- Waste Reforms: Local analysis highlighting sentiment that glass bin rollout viewed as unnecessary
- Animal Management: The need for increased financial investment in pound facilities.
- Cost Shifting: Impacts of councils undertaking works on land or assets that are not council managed.

Resilience & Recovery

- Disaster Recovery Funding: Increase required for tourism assets impacted by flood damage
- Visitor Economy Partnerships: Need for more secure medium- to long-term funding
- Disaster Funding Arrangements: Need for upfront disaster funding for disaster-prone areas to support preparedness and reduce impacts on council cash flow and resourcing.

Intergenerational Infrastructure

- Local Roads: Need for untied road funding
- Aquatic infrastructure: Need for dedicated state funding arrangements
- Local Sports Infrastructure Fund: Required to support maintenance and growth in sporting infrastructure.

Other Issues of Sector Significance

State Managed Assets: Funding challenges for state-managed tourism assets and community facilities located on land managed by other agencies.

Emerging Issues

Data Centres

The need for stronger regulatory settings that mitigate water impacts on agricultural industry and concerns regarding proposals on land identified for housing

Road Condition Data

Call to release state road data to support transparency and evidence-based road advocacy

Restoration of Tourism Assets

The need to restore tourism assets after natural disasters, recognising its importance to the state economy

Community Infrastructure Provision

Alignment of new school builds with council community infrastructure funding

Emerging Issues

State Council Frequency

Consideration that State Council is held once per year noting the volume of motions and associated work required to progress them

Data Centres

Concerns regarding energy demand, sustainability, social licence and potential special rating arrangements.

Avian Influenza H5N1

Local Government responsibilities relating to agricultural, tourism, wildlife and landfill implications.

Battery Energy Storage and renewable energy infrastructure

Lack of clear progress following earlier review work.

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

- School and kindergarten planning: Decisions resulting in inadequate parking and pick-up/drop-off arrangements.
- Ongoing need for a Local Government Accord: To reduce duplication of effort across agencies, and government departments, implementation of inquiry recommendations and identify regional impacts of agency changes and centralisation

Sustainable Economy

- Circular Economy: Concerns about access to the Sustainability Fund, including for approved energy-from-waste facilities

Climate & Regenerative Design

- Renewable energy and community benefit arrangements: Need for a more coordinated government approach
- Rateability of renewable energy infrastructure: including offshore wind, battery energy storage and broader energy projects.
- Declining social licence: Linked to communities not seeing clear local benefits from renewable energy projects.

Loddon Campaspe Mallee

Buloke Shire Council
Campaspe Shire Council
Central Goldfields Shire Council
Gannawarra Shire Council
Greater Bendigo City Council

Loddon Shire Council
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Mildura Rural City Council
Mount Alexander Shire Council
Swan Hill Rural City Council

Emerging Issues

Councillor Workplace Flexibility

Call for improvements to councillor conditions, including workplace flexibility or concessions for councillors who are CFA members

Treaty

Clearer advice on potential financial, resourcing, statutory and operational impacts for councils, call for funding for any new responsibilities, addressing of misinformation, formal LG involvement and a MAV-led approach

Regional Food Manufacturing

Financial pressures including water, gas and electricity costs and competition from imported products

Local Government Act

Impacts of private prosecution proceedings within proposed amendments

Re-occurring Challenges

Active Local Democracy

Model Governance Rules: Call for distribution

Sustainable Economy

- Fair Jobs Code: Practical impacts on councils.
- Waste Reform: practical and financial concerns associated with the mandated four-bin system, interaction with the Container Deposit Scheme and the need for councils to choose waste solutions suited to local communities
- Councils inheriting ongoing maintenance: or connecting infrastructure responsibilities without adequate planning involvement or funding

Climate & Regenerative Design

Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Sustainable Communities Fund: Concerns about limited local government and community input, the competitive grants direction, and the amount of funding proposed for administration and planning rather than direct investment to community.

Other Issues of Sector Significance

Regional food manufacturing: Consequences for food security and local employment if major manufacturers become unviable.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands

Ararat Rural City Council
Ballarat City Council
Hepburn Shire Council
Hindmarsh Shire Council
Horsham Rural City Council

Moorabool Shire Council
Northern Grampians Shire Council
Pyrenees Shire Council
West Wimmera Shire Council
Yarriambiack Shire Council

Emerging Issues

Renewable energy, mining and transmission projects

Need for coordinated engagement and involvement of local government via MAV rather than individual councils

Disaster Recovery Funding

Limitations to funding arrangements to rebuild community facilities that are not council owned

Local Government Act

Delays in legislative reform in relation to amendments

OHS Protections

Need for stronger legislative protections and practical support that address psychosocial impacts of councillor, CEO and council officer roles

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

- Planning and Building Reforms: Councils being required to administer and enforce conditions imposed by the State Government on major projects despite having limited involvement in original decision-making process

Sustainable Economy

- Fair Jobs Code: Concerns regarding impacts on council operations and governance

Resilience & Recovery

- Resource Sharing Protocols: Consideration to regional based, structured emergency processes to share personnel and other resources

Intergenerational Infrastructure

- Road Maintenance: The need for increased investment in road maintenance and renewal noting deteriorating conditions following weather events

Other Issues of Sector Significance

- Regional Advocacy: Challenges securing meetings and engagement on significant regional issues

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

- Planning Reform: Concerns regarding unintended consequences of the Low Rise Townhouse Code, replacement of usable public open space with broader "public realm" definitions (inclusion of nature strips as open space) and reduction of councils' ability to manage local growth and neighbourhood character.
- Planning Reform: Reduced council influence in planning and decision-making, unclear council responsibilities and funding obligations, and insufficient recognition of local knowledge.
- Waste Management: Continued opposition to the mandatory rollout of glass bins.
- Local Government Accord: Opportunity to reset the relationship between State and local government through a renewed Accord and stronger partnership with councils.

Sustainable Economy

Rate Cap Methodology: Ongoing support for MAV's work around financial sustainability

Fair Jobs Code: Strong support for the MAV's advocacy and leadership

First Peoples Local Government Relations

Native Title Settlement Process: Council's decision to participate, following MAV support and information sessions.

Intergenerational Infrastructure

Aquatics and recreation facilities: Need for State-wide / Federal Funding arrangements as well as collaboration with neighbouring councils on future aquatic and recreation infrastructure planning.

Emerging Issues

Suburban Rail Loop

Ongoing SRL uncertainty regarding planning and changing government commitments creating challenges for council planning and decision making

Illegal Landfill Operations

EPA enforcement and a recent VCAT decision presenting potential statewide implications

Erosion Management Overlay

Support for a coordinated statewide approach to erosion management, recognising the issue affects multiple municipalities

Local Government Act Amendments

Concerns regarding proposed changes

Metro North

Banyule City Council
Darebin City Council
Hume City Council

Merri-bek City Council
Nillumbik Shire Council
Whittlesea City Council

Emerging Issues

Invasive Species

Increasing deer and fox populations and their impacts on safety and the local environment

Waste-to-Energy

Need for a strategic policy discussion on waste-to-energy incinerators and their regional impacts

Animal Shelter Services

Significant cost and intake pressures when outsourced, interest in regional service models and State Government support for business cases

Planning and Transport

Delays and lack of transparency in State Government feasibility studies and business cases for major transport projects

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

- Bus services: highlighted deficiencies in bus services and referenced recent Metropolitan Transport Forum work, suggesting renewed advocacy on public transport access
- Transport approvals: raised delays in Department of Transport and Planning approvals for transport improvement projects
- Open space in growth areas: raised concerns that councils are carrying increasing responsibility for securing and delivering open space in high-intensity growth areas, despite limited funding and competing land-use pressures
- Ministerial planning applications: raised concerns about councils' advisory role in ministerial planning applications and the need for clearer community information about council responsibilities and limitations

Metro South

Cardinia Shire Council
Casey City Council
Frankston City Council

Greater Dandenong City Council
Kingston City Council
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Emerging Issues

SES Unit Infrastructure and Operational Costs

Greater visibility of how emergency services levy revenue is allocated locally

Differential Rates

Greater flexibility for short-term accommodation, gambling venues and golf courses

Food Security

Raised pressure on volunteer-run emergency relief organisations

Homelessness

Compounding local impacts and limited service supports

Re-occurring Challenges

Active Local Democracy

- Local Government Act Review: Concerns about consultation on the proposed powers to remove mayoral powers

Connected Places

- Planning Reforms: Resulting in reduced resident rights and council input
- Housing Growth: Needing to be supported by appropriate infrastructure
- Rooming Houses: Increase in planning applications
- Illegal native vegetation removal: Need for stronger penalties that reflect environmental harm and restoration costs
- Data Centres and Battery Storage: Multiple emerging issues impacting social licence
- Non - Agricultural Land Use: Impacts of non agricultural uses encroaching on farmland

Health & Wellbeing

- Gambling Harm: Links to poverty and homelessness. Support for reforms including limits on electronic gaming machines in disadvantaged or emerging-growth areas, transparency on Community Support Fund revenue and proximity of gaming venues near shopping centres. Concerns about approval of additional EGMs despite previous refusal, with population growth being used to justify expansion without consideration of harm.

Sustainable Economy

- Rating and Revenue Framework: Call for update and modernisation

Metro West

Brimbank City Council
Hobsons Bay City Council
Maribyrnong City Council

Melton City Council
Moonee Valley City Council
Wyndham City Council

Emerging Issues

Industrial Relations

Creating additional pressure across council operations

Building and Planning

Broader market pressures in growth areas causing potential reduction in applications

Cost of Living

Outstanding rates and charges suggesting affordability pressures

Data Centre Expansion

Stronger mandatory planning standards for setbacks, water efficiency, design, landscaping, heat mitigation, noise and storage limits.

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

- Housing Reform: Fast-track processes limiting council influence and community input on significant developments
- Active Transport: Call for additional funding towards strategic cycling corridor
- Infrastructure Delivery: Need for roads and access points to support growth

Health & Wellbeing

- Service Delivery: Future state of life stage services (MCH and CHSP)
- Neighbourhood Houses: Calls for increased funding

Intergenerational Infrastructure

- Capital program impacts: Funding, organisational capacity and delivery challenges.

Other Issues of Sector Significance

- Limited volume of places available in specialist development schools

Inner Metro South East

Bayside City Council
Boroondara City Council
Glen Eira City Council
Melbourne City Council

Port Phillip City Council
Stonnington City Council
Yarra City Council

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

- Housing Reform: Concerns regarding housing targets and activity centre planning, review of housing targets to consider enabling infrastructure, windfall gains tax implications, proposed built form controls, heritage impacts, build-to-rent open space contributions and if social and affordable housing outcomes are being achieved
- Tree canopy: Inconsistency between state targets and management of state-owned land and utilities
- Waste management: glass recycling and proposed purple bin requirements, levy increases, landfill availability and the cost and logistics of transporting waste
- Connectivity and public transport: Existing connection gaps, including links associated with the Suburban Rail Loop
- Strata reform: adequacy of recent legislative reforms
- Community Housing : Tenancy rights
- State/ Local Govt Partnerships: Need for Local Government Accord to improve working relationships

Sustainable Economy

- Service Delivery: Call for review of funding agreements to fund services at an adequate level
- Emergency Services Levy concerns: potential duplication of costs to communities
- Property rate Exemptions: Impacts on council revenue and rate distribution

First Peoples Local Government Relations

- Treaty and Native Title: Implications for councils.

Intergenerational Infrastructure

- Community Infrastructure: costs associated with upgrading ageing facilities, need for gender equitable spaces

Other Issues of Sector Significance

- Potential Animal Management Reform: including capture and release programs for cats.
- Make Polluters Pay Campaign: Requests for council engagement

Emerging Issues

Homelessness

Strengthening of state and LG partnerships

Strategic Cycling Corridors

Coordinated state and LG delivery

Food Security

LG role in coordination and relief

Utility and third-party works on council assets

Management of bonds and need for council review to reinstatement standards

Data Centres

Stronger regulation and a clearer LG role to ensure community, environmental and economic needs

Community Safety

Planning controls and approval processes for tobacco shops

Goulburn Ovens Murray

Alpine Shire Council
Benalla Rural City Council
Greater Shepparton City Council
Indigo Shire Council
Mansfield Shire Council
Mitchell Shire Council

Moira Shire Council
Murrindindi Shire Council
Strathbogie Shire Council
Towong Shire Council
Wangaratta Rural City Council
Wodonga City Council

Emerging Issues

Condition of regional roads

Impacts on safety, liveability and productivity

Disaster recovery arrangements

Need for stronger shared evidence and coordinated advocacy to address pressure on councils

Re-occurring Challenges

Connected Places

Planning Reform: Concerns regarding deemed-to-comply development, planning scheme amendments, bushfire-related subdivision impacts, limited consultation and reduced local decision-making.

Sustainable Economy

Cost Shifting: Concerns regarding inadequate or delayed funding for roads, growth areas, disaster recovery, community infrastructure and one-third funding models, with strong concern that councils are being left to manage State-driven impacts without sufficient resources.

Resilience and Recovery

Disaster Recovery Arrangements: Concerns regarding recovery pressures, inadequate government support, infrastructure damage, power reliability, staff and community impacts, and the need for stronger collective advocacy.

Intergenerational Infrastructure

- Condition of Regional Roads: Concerns about poor road condition, arterial road maintenance, bridge limitations, freight routes, safety, liveability and productivity impacts.
- Growth Area Development and Infrastructure: Concerns regarding lack of early infrastructure planning, community infrastructure gaps, transport corridor planning and risks of creating lower-service communities.

Delegate Resources



Delegate Resources

The State Council
Motion Progress
Dashboard
provides transparency
and accountability of
the implementation of
State Council Motions.

MAV State Council Reporting Dashboard Last updated 24/12/2025
Next update scheduled 06/02/2026 

Council selection | Progress summary | Resolution browser | Portfolios

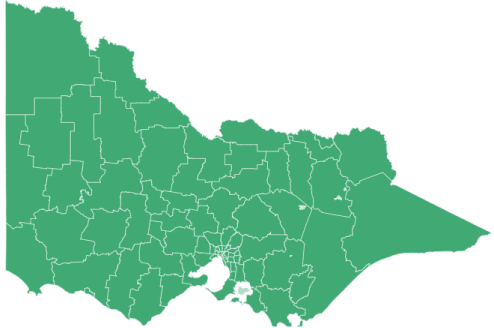
Select which proposing councils you wish to view resolutions from (default is all councils) and then navigate to other tabs.

Region

- ☐ Select all
- ☐ Gippsland (G)
- ☐ Goulburn Ovens Murray (GOM)
- ☐ Great South Coast Barwon (GSCB)
- ☐ Inner Metropolitan South East (IMSE)
- ☐ Loddon Campaspe Mallee (LCM)
- ☐ Metropolitan East (ME)
- ☐ Metropolitan North (MN)

Council

- ☐ Select all
- ☐ Alpine Shire Council
- ☐ Ararat Rural City Council
- ☐ Ballarat City Council
- ☐ Banyule City Council
- ☐ Bass Coast Shire Council
- ☐ Baw Baw Shire Council
- ☐ Bayside City Council
- ☐ Benalla Rural City Council



Zoom

Metro Regional

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Central contact point for questions related to motions
mavgovernancesupport@mav.asn.au



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mav.asn.au