



MAV In Motion



MAV
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

**ELECTION
EDITION**



Dear Delegates

This 2026 State Election edition of MAV in Motion is designed to highlight MAV advocacy progress as it relates to the five statewide election priorities identified by Victorian Councils:

- > **Growing Futures:** Connected Housing
- > **Local Futures:** Safe and Cohesive Communities
- > **Productive Futures:** Safer Roads and Local Transport Connections
- > **Regenerative Futures:** Community Legacy Benefit Sharing
- > **Transformative Futures:** Securing the Future of Local Government

In this edition, you will find a summary of recent MAV submissions and key advocacy actions that are underway, to help shape the development of your state council motions ahead of the October 2026 State Council meeting.

When developing State Council motions, the MAV encourages delegates to consider how their proposals align with the MAV Strategic Plan, existing advocacy priorities and campaigns, and the broader significance of the issue for councils across Victoria.

By focusing on motions that deliver strategic value and reflect shared sector priorities, we can strengthen our collective advocacy and maximise our impact. As part of the MAV's commitment to continuous improvement, greater emphasis will be placed on progressing motions that support a coordinated, statewide advocacy agenda and deliver meaningful outcomes for local government.

Cr Jennifer Anderson
MAV President

Acknowledgement of Country

The Municipal Association of Victoria respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters, and community.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present who carry the stories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forged the path ahead for emerging leaders.



MAV STATE COUNCIL REPORTING DASHBOARD

The MAV Dashboard is your central source for the latest information on the work of MAV State Council motions. Designed with councillors in mind, it provides a clear, interactive view of every resolution passed since May 2025, making it easy to see what issues are already being progressed, where advocacy is underway and how motions have been actioned.

Whether you're preparing for a council meeting, considering a new motion or looking to understand the sector's priorities, the dashboard helps you make informed decisions, build on existing work and stay connected to the issues that matter most to Victorian local government.



**MAV STATE
COUNCIL
REPORTING
DASHBOARD**

**GOV
HUB**



**GOV HUB ENTRY
VICROADS
CONSERVATORY
ARMSTRONG ST**



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2026 STATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The MAV is drawing upon evidence from *The Future is Local: A Case for Transforming Local Government* report in the lead-up to the 2026 state election to advocate for five targeted investment policy and partnership initiatives.

These campaign pillars focus on the critical areas where councils provide essential infrastructure, services, and support democratic participation. Importantly, they deliver immediate community benefits while laying the foundations for enduring change.



**MAV STATE
ELECTION
CAMPAIGN 2026**

- **Growing Futures** | Connected Housing

'Fund the Gap Community Infrastructure Fund' over three years (until statewide infrastructure contribution scheme is in place 2027/28)

- **Local Futures** | Safe and cohesive communities

Funding for a statewide 'Community Cohesion Action Fund' coordinated by the MAV

- **Productive Futures** | Safer roads and local transport connections

Fast track and prioritise investment in state managed arterial roads, public transport and active transport links

- **Regenerative Futures** | Community benefit sharing and better regional engagement

Mandate developer engagement with Local Government to coordinate a regional approach to community dividends and industry engagement in energy transition and critical mineral mining projects across the state

- **Transformative Futures** | Securing the financial future of Victoria's local government sector

Establish a Multi-Year Transformation Fund to lead the local government sector to be more efficient and responsive to changing community needs.

Establish a Local Government Accord – formalising local government as an equal partner with the State government, enabling structured engagement to shape policy, strengthen service delivery, and improve outcomes.

MAV SUBMISSIONS

Growing Futures

Connected Housing



- Sector Submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry into Housing Supply Regulation
- Submission on draft Flood Management Strategy Action Plan 2026-2031

Local Futures

Safe and cohesive communities



- Belonging Matters - Social Connection
- Submission to Inquiry into Racism, Hate and Violence Directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Submission to Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes in Victoria
- Sector Submission to National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026

Productive Futures

Safer roads and local transport connections



- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport.

Regenerative Futures

Community benefit sharing and better regional engagement



- Vic Transmission Plan Guidelines
- Sector Submission on Remaking the Electric Line Clearance Regulations

Transformative Futures

Securing the financial future of Victoria's local government sector



- Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into 2026 Summer Fires Across Victoria
- Submission to Senate Inquiry on the Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program
- Inquiry into Artificial Intelligence and Data Centres
- Royal Commission into Anti-Semitism



MAV
SUBMISSIONS

GROWING FUTURES

Connected
Housing



MAV Housing Innovation Program – Local Government's Blueprint for Action

The MAV is supporting councils to take a leadership role in addressing Victoria's housing challenges through practical, evidence-based solutions. Developed in partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong and funded by a grant from the Commonwealth Government, the Local Government Housing Action Blueprint provides councils with a real-world framework to unlock housing opportunities on council and government-owned land.

Supported by detailed design testing and feasibility analysis in regional and metropolitan contexts, the Blueprint helps councils consider suitable sites, build partnerships and deliver well-located, affordable housing outcomes. This work provides a scalable model that councils across Victoria can adapt to create locally-led housing outcomes for their communities



**LOCAL
GOVERNMENT'S
HOUSING ACTION
BLUEPRINT**

Planning reform remains central and critical work of the MAV

The MAV continues to influence planning system reform that ensures changes are workable for local government and lead to better planning outcomes for communities. We are doing this by advocating directly within the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and briefing the council representative members on the Planning Minister's Planning Regulations Advisory Committee (PRAC).

The MAV has successfully influenced the development of new regulations relating to Planning Scheme Amendments, and we are doing similar work to influence a forthcoming review of the Victoria Planning Provisions and other planning regulations. This includes partnering with the government on updating planning ICT systems to ensure smooth and timely transition for all councils and advocating for work to be progressed on empowering councils to ensure more affordable housing is delivered in their communities.

MAV has engaged deeply across the sector on all these matters. We are now recruiting council planners into technical reference groups for the next phases of the Planning Reform Act implementation over the coming 18 months.

LOCAL FUTURES

Safe and
cohesive
communities



Responses to antisemitism and other forms Religious Intolerance

The MAV's submission to the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion highlights the vital role councils play in fostering safe, inclusive and connected communities.

Drawing on the experiences of local government across Victoria, the submission advocates for practical, place-based approaches that strengthen social cohesion, prevent discrimination and respond to hate in all its forms. It calls for stronger partnerships between all levels of government, sustainable investment in community capacity, and recognition of councils as trusted leaders in building resilient, respectful and cohesive communities.

This work reinforces the MAV's commitment to supporting councils to create places where everyone belongs and feels safe.

Belonging Matters

Strong social connection is fundamental to healthy, resilient communities, and councils are at the heart of creating the places and opportunities where people belong.

Through its *Belonging Matters* initiative, the MAV has built a compelling evidence base demonstrating that investment in social connection is a powerful form of prevention, improving mental wellbeing, strengthening community resilience and enhancing social cohesion.

The report positions councils as essential partners in delivering place-based solutions and provides practical advocacy to secure sustained government investment in the local infrastructure, programs and partnerships that help communities thrive.



**MAV
SUBMISSIONS**



**BELONGING
MATTERS REPORT**

PRODUCTIVE FUTURES

Safer roads and local transport connections



MAV State Road Survey

The MAV's Productive Futures: Safer Roads Survey, launched in May 2026, is helping shape Victoria's roads conversation, with almost half of all councils contributing their insights.

The message from the sector is clear: prioritise investment in state-managed arterial roads, public transport and active transport links that unlock housing, jobs and local economic growth. Your feedback is informing a statewide evidence base that will strengthen the MAV's advocacy for smarter infrastructure investment.

As we continue developing a State Road Prioritisation Proposal, we encourage all councils to stay involved and help ensure local priorities are reflected in this important work.

Partnerships Driving Change

The MAV is proud to partner with RACV and Bicycle Network to strengthen a shared call for safer, better-connected transport networks across Victoria. Building on the successful *My Melbourne Road* campaign in 2025, the MAV is supporting RACV's *My Country Road* campaign, giving regional communities a voice to identify priority road safety upgrades.

At the same time, Bicycle Network's 5% for Safer Streets campaign is advocating for greater investment in active transport through Strategic Cycling Corridors. Together, these partnerships reinforce the MAV's Productive Futures: Safer Roads and Local Transport Connections advocacy to unlock housing, economic growth and safer, more connected communities.



TAKE THE SAFER
ROADS SURVEY



TAKE THE COUNTRY
ROADS SURVEY

REGENERATIVE FUTURES

Community benefit sharing and better regional engagement



Local Government Renewable Energy Transition Forum

In June 2026, the MAV partnered with VicGrid to deliver the inaugural Local Government Renewable Energy Transition Forum. Council CEOs in Renewable Energy Zones and neighbouring Renewable Energy Zones were invited to participate in a day of relationship building and intelligence sharing.

A key focus of the day involved outlining current and future local government resourcing needs to enable full participation in the transition and sharing opportunities for regional collaboration. Participants on the day called for ongoing, formalised engagement mechanisms between the local government sector and VicGrid. The forum represented an important step forward in re-setting the relationship between local government and VicGrid.

Draft 2026 Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines

The MAV provided a submission in response to the Draft 2026 Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines.

The submission called for additional recognition and supports to ensure the local government sector is well-positioned to guide its communities through the transition and secure once-in-a generation legacy outcomes. This includes stronger local input into transmission planning, addressing evidence gaps through impact and readiness studies, considering emerging energy demands like data centres, providing further opportunity for consultation on Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan, and implementing regular and ongoing local-state engagement mechanisms.



**MAV
SUBMISSIONS**



**MAV SECTOR
SUBMISSION**

TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURES

Securing the financial future of Victoria's local government sector



The Local Leaders Series

Local governments are navigating an era of increasing complexity. The Local Leaders Series is a new applied learning program designed to help Mayors and Councillors lead effectively through increasing challenges, including climate impacts, financial pressures and rising community expectations. Delivered by the MAV in partnership with leading academic and industry organisations, the cohort-based program focuses on practical leadership rather than traditional training.

Participants will develop solutions to real governance challenges from their own municipalities while learning from experienced leaders, academics and practitioners. The series also fosters peer collaboration, provides curated learning resources and builds capability to lead long-term transformation in local government.

Fair Jobs Code

The State Budget included an announcement to develop a Local Government Fair Jobs Code and establish a regulator within DGS. The MAV has raised concerns with the Local Government Minister and the opposition's shadow Minister, arguing the reforms lack evidence of widespread insecure work and overreach into councils' workforce responsibilities and that councils have not been meaningfully consulted since a 2023–24 pilot working group ended without agreement.

The proposed Code and regulator create uncertainty around compliance and service delivery impacts. The MAV, through our sector-led working group, is advocating for a co-designed, evidence-based approach that preserves councils' workforce flexibility and will continue briefing Parliament while progressing sector data collection and policy development.



Local is Global

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FOR VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We're excited to introduce Local is Global: International Engagement for Victorian Local Government - a new initiative aligned with the vision outlined in The Future is Local: A Pathway for Transforming Local Government in Victoria.

As the peak body, we're committed to shaping public understanding of local government's legitimate role in diplomacy and international engagement.

This initiative, supported by our Local is Global expert advisory committee, will connect Victorian councils to strategic global opportunities, ensure local government is part of state and federal international engagement strategies, and build sector capability by drawing on world-leading best practice.



**LEARN MORE
ABOUT LOCAL
IS GLOBAL**



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