

STATE COUNCIL

FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2023

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

SOFITEL MELBOURNE ON COLLINS
25 Collins Street Melbourne



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9.00 AM | REGISTRATIONS OPEN |
| 9.30 AM | WELCOME
<i>Cr David Clark, MAV President</i> |
| 9.35 AM | WELCOME TO COUNTRY |
| 9.40 AM | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
<i>State Council 19 May 2023</i> |
| 9.45 AM | KEYNOTE ADDRESS
<i>The Hon. Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Local Government</i> |
| 10.00 AM | ALGA UPDATE
<i>Cr Linda Scott, ALGA President</i> |
| 10.15 AM | MAV PRESIDENT'S REPORT
<i>Cr David Clark, MAV President
Including MAV finance update</i> |
| 10.35 AM | MAV CEO'S UPDATE
<i>Kelly Grigsby, MAV CEO</i> |
| 10.50 AM | MORNING TEA |
| 11.10 AM | PLANNING REFORM |
| 11.40 AM | MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP |
| 1.00 PM | LUNCH |
| 2.00 PM | MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP |
| 3:00 PM | CLOSE |

Minutes MAV meeting of the State Council

Friday 19 May 2023

Attendees

Alpine Shire Council	Maribyrnong City Council
Ararat Rural City Council	Maroondah City Council
Banyule City Council	Melbourne City Council
Bass Coast Shire Council	Melton City Council
Baw Baw Shire Council	Merri-bek City Council
Benalla Rural City Council	Mitchell Shire Council
Boroondara City Council	Monash City Council
Brimbank City Council	Moonee Valley City Council
Buloke Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council
Cardinia Shire Council	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Colac Otway Shire Council	Moyne Shire Council
Corangamite Shire Council	Murrindindi Shire Council
Darebin City Council	Nillumbik Shire Council
East Gippsland Shire Council	Northern Grampians Shire Council
Frankston City Council	City of Port Phillip
Gannawarra Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council
Glen Eira City Council	Queenscliffe Borough Council
Glenelg Shire Council	South Gippsland Shire Council
Golden Plains Shire Council	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Greater Bendigo City Council	Stonnington City Council
Greater Dandenong City Council	Strathbogie Shire Council
Greater Geelong City Council	Surf Coast Shire 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
Hume City Council	Whitehorse City Council
Kingston City Council	Whittlesea City Council
Knox City Council	Wodonga City Council
Latrobe City Council	Wyndham City Council
Loddon Shire Council	Yarra City Council
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Manningham City Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council
Mansfield Shire Council	

Participating Member Councils not in attendance

Ballarat City Council, Bayside City Council, Campaspe Shire Council, Casey City Council, Indigo Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Moira Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council.

Item 1: Welcome and introduction from MAV President

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President, opened the meeting at 9.32am welcoming members and staff, followed by a Welcome to Country from Wurundjeri Elder, Perry Wandin.

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and introduced the Board Members new and returning, and thanked outgoing Board Members Cr Tom Melican, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Kris Bolam, Cr Brett Tessari, and Cr Kylie Grzybek.

Item 2: Electronic Voting

That voting on matters before the meeting of State Council on 19 May 2023 be conducted by electronic voting.

Moved: Cr Haweil, Hume City Council
Seconded: Cr Scales, Towong Shire Council
CARRIED

Item 3: Confirmation of minutes

That State Council approve the unconfirmed minutes of State Council on 14 October 2022 subject to Melton City Council being recorded as voting 'For' the L1 'Review of Annual Subscriptions' motion.

Moved: Cr Symon Maroondah City Council
Seconded: Cr Reeves, East Gippsland Shire Council
CARRIED

Item 4: Procedural Motion: State Council Duration

That the State Council meeting finish no later than the scheduled time being 3:30pm.

Moved: Cr Majdlik, Melton City Council
Seconded: Cr Zanker, Yarriambiack Shire Council
CARRIED

Item 5: Financial Statements

That the State Council receive the financial statements for year ending 30 June 2022.

Moved: Cr Mayne, Manningham City Council
Seconded: Cr Emerson, Northern Grampians Shire Council
CARRIED

Item 6: MAV President's Report

That the State Council receive the President's report.

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council
Seconded: Cr Munroe, Whitehorse City Council
CARRIED

Motions from Membership

Procedural Motion: Consideration of (Late) Motion 100: Safety at Public Council Meetings

That the motion from Yarra Ranges titled Safety at Public Council Meetings be admitted for consideration at this meeting of State Council.

Moved: Cr Staikos, Kingston City Council
Seconded: Cr Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

The Chair, Cr Clark, MAV President then referred to (Late) Motion 100 'Safety at Public Council Meetings' as the first motion for consideration.

100: Safety at Public Council Meetings

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to actively work with the local government sector and other relevant stakeholders to:

1. develop state-wide measures that support councils to manage and prevent disruptive and unsafe behaviour, particularly at Council meetings.
2. coordinate a response to the expanding and increasingly aggressive cohort in the community that have been targeting local councils in recent months.

Moved: Cr Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Seconded: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to actively work with the local government sector and other relevant stakeholders to:

1. develop state-wide measures that support councils to manage and prevent disruptive and unsafe behaviour, particularly at Council meetings.
2. coordinate a response to the expanding and increasingly aggressive cohort in the community that have been targeting local councils in recent months.
3. support councils and their communities to hold inclusive activities and events that celebrate our collective diversity of gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, colour, disability, cultural and language backgrounds, and all protected attributes. We stand firmly behind the principle of equality as protected by human rights frameworks.

Procedural Motion:

That the motion be split

Moved: Cr Scales, Towong Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Rossetti, Wellington Shire Council

CARRIED

Substantive motion 100.1:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to actively work with the local government sector and other relevant stakeholders to:

1. develop state-wide measures that support councils to manage and prevent disruptive and unsafe behaviour, particularly at Council meetings.
2. coordinate a response to the expanding and increasingly aggressive cohort in the community that have been targeting local councils in recent months.

CARRIED

Substantive motion 100.2:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to actively work with the local government sector and other relevant stakeholders to support councils and their communities to hold inclusive activities and events that celebrate our collective diversity of gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, colour, disability, cultural and language backgrounds, and all protected attributes. We stand firmly behind the principle of equality as protected by human rights frameworks.

DIVISION CALLED

A division was called (Motion 100.2). The result of the division was FOR 81% and AGAINST 19% as below:

Council	Motion: Safety at Public Council Meetings (100.2)
Alpine Shire Council	FOR
Ararat Rural City Council	FOR
Banyule City Council	FOR
Bass Coast Shire Council	FOR
Baw Baw Shire Council	FOR
Benalla Rural City Council	FOR
Boroondara City Council	AGAINST
Brimbank City Council	FOR
Buloke Shire Council	AGAINST
Cardinia Shire Council	FOR
Central Goldfields Shire Council	AGAINST
Colac Otway Shire Council	FOR
Corangamite Shire Council	FOR
Darebin City Council	FOR
East Gippsland Shire Council	FOR

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Frankston City Council	AGAINST
Gannawarra Shire Council	FOR
Glen Eira City Council	FOR
Glenelg Shire Council	FOR
Golden Plains Shire Council	AGAINST
Greater Bendigo City Council	FOR
Greater Dandenong City Council	FOR
Greater Geelong City Council	AGAINST
Greater Shepparton City Council	FOR
Hepburn Shire Council	FOR
Hindmarsh Shire Council	FOR
Hobsons Bay City Council	FOR
Horsham Rural City Council	FOR
Hume City Council	FOR
Kingston City Council	FOR
Knox City Council	FOR
Loddon Shire Council	AGAINST
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Manningham City Council	FOR
Mansfield Shire Council	FOR
Maribyrnong City Council	FOR
Maroondah City Council	FOR
Melton City Council	FOR
Mitchell Shire Council	AGAINST
Monash City Council	FOR
Moonee Valley City Council	FOR
Moorabool Shire Council	FOR
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	FOR
Mount Alexander Shire Council	FOR
Moyne Shire Council	FOR
Murrindindi Shire Council	FOR
Nillumbik Shire Council	FOR
Northern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
City of Port Phillip	FOR
Pyrenees Shire Council	FOR
Queenscliffe Borough Council	FOR
South Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Stonnington City Council	FOR
Strathbogie Shire Council	FOR
Surf Coast Shire Council	FOR
Towong Shire Council	FOR
Wangaratta Rural City Council	AGAINST
Warrnambool City Council	AGAINST
Wellington Shire Council	FOR

West Wimmera Shire Council	AGAINST
Whitehorse City Council	FOR
Whittlesea City Council	FOR
Wodonga City Council	AGAINST
Wyndham City Council	FOR
Yarra City Council	FOR
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Yarriambiack Shire Council	FOR

Following the division the motion (100.2) was confirmed as CARRIED.

Consolidated Motions

C1: Financial Sustainability

Motion:

That the MAV take on a leading role in advocating for the financial sustainability of local government by:

1. Facilitating a comprehensive assessment of the impact of cost-shifting on Victoria's 79 councils
2. Exploring the suitability of the Consumer Price Index as the basis for the rate-cap, compared to other measures
3. Calling on the Victorian Government to:
 - a) Review the method for determining the rate cap in line with the costs facing local government,
 - b) Establish a review into the short, medium, and long-term financial sustainability of local government,
 - c) Commit to not placing additional responsibilities on local government without a sustainable revenue stream to support them, and to revisit recent decisions that have resulted in cost-shifting onto local government,
 - d) Distribute a one-off untied grant equivalent to 0.5% of each Council's general rates revenue to bridge the gap between the Essential Service's Commission's recommendation and the rate cap set for 2023/24.

Motions being consolidated:

- Long-term sustainability of local government – Glen Eira City Council (Motion 1)
- Rate Capping – City of Melbourne (Motion 2)
- Also noting late motions: Rate Capping Process (Motion 93) and Cost Shifting to Local Government (Motion 96) – City of Stonnington.

Moved: Cr Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Seconded: Cr Leppert, City of Melbourne

CARRIED

C2: Windfall Gains Tax

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to amend the Windfall Gains Tax so that:

1. Local government is exempt from the Windfall Gains Tax
2. A proportion of Windfall Gains Tax collected in each municipality be hypothecated for projects within that municipality
3. When identifying projects to fund within a municipality, the Victorian Government partner with the relevant council to jointly determine and prioritise the infrastructure needs of the community.

Motions being consolidated:

- Exemption of Local Government from Windfall Tax – Knox City Council (Motion 4)
- Impact of Windfall Gains Tax – Corangamite Shire (Motion 17)
- Also noting late motion – Windfall Gains Tax – City of Greater Dandenong (Motion 83)

Moved: Cr Laukens, Knox City Council

Seconded: Cr Gstrein, Corangamite Shire Council

Procedural Motion:

That the motion be split.

MOVED: Cr Munroe, Whitehorse City Council

The procedural motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

The substantive motion was CARRIED

State Council took a break at 11.06am for morning tea followed by a 'MAV Strategy 2023-25' workshop and lunch, resuming at 2.01pm.

C3: Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to introduce regulatory reforms to prevent and reduce gambling harm, including:

1. A mandatory cashless pre-commitment scheme for all electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in Victoria, in line with the system being introduced in Tasmania. This should be a universal system with binding limits.
2. All Victorian gaming venues to be closed between 2am and 6am daily, with a phased reduction to be introduced over time.
3. Change the definition of what is classified as community benefit, under the Gambling Regulation Act 2003, to genuine philanthropic organisations or charities as defined by tax deductible status or grass roots activities.
4. Introduce a State Government fund to support gaming venues that wish to transition away from EGMs.

Motions being consolidated:

- Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines – Brimbank City Council (Motion 30)
- Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines – Maribyrnong City Council (Motion 31)

Moved: Cr Lancashire, Brimbank City Council

Seconded: Cr James, Monash City Council

CARRIED

C4: Funding for Kindergarten Infrastructure

Motion:

1. That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government on the significant impact on councils to fund and deliver infrastructure for the Best Start, Best Life Kindergarten reform.
2. That the MAV advocate for expanded capital funding for kindergarten infrastructure to ensure that eligibility:
 - a) Recognises individual needs and usage patterns of funded kindergarten programs across different LGAs
 - b) Considers the ability of non-growth areas to expand facilities with limited land availability
 - c) Funding streams and associated agreements offered by the State can work in partnership with each other to enable larger projects to be co-funded.
3. That the MAV advocate that the strategy applied for infrastructure planning for funded 3 year old kindergarten planning be reconsidered and a new approach be developed to plan for future infrastructure for expanded 4 year old kindergarten.

Motions being consolidated:

- Expanding Funding for Kindergarten Infrastructure – Nillumbik Shire Council (Motion 15)
- Fund and deliver Best Start, Best Life Infrastructure – Baw Baw Shire Council (Motion 16)

Cr Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council and Cr Leaney, Baw Baw Shire Council requested motions 15 and 16 be considered separately. This consolidated motion was therefore not put at the meeting.

C5: Electric line clearance in low bushfire risk areas

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to review the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 to embed consideration of amenity, biodiversity, and urban heat island effect in low bushfire risk areas.

Motions being consolidated:

- Electric Line Clearance Guidelines Review for Urban Trees – Brimbank City Council (Motion 51)
- Improved Electric Line Clearance Regulations – City of Port Phillip (Motion 52)

Moved: Cr Lancashire, Brimbank City Council

Seconded: Cr Leppert, City of Melbourne

CARRIED

C6: Circular economy market development

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to:

1. significantly increase its investment in the Recycling Victoria: a new economy policy and action plan to boost processing capacity and markets for recycled materials.
2. set and report on state-wide targets for the use of recycled content in the construction of State-funded infrastructure.

Motions being consolidated:

- Circular Economy – Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 18)
- Greater State investment in boosting recycling market capacity – Glen Eira City Council (Motion 19)

Moved: Cr Stevens, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

C7: Critical local government skill shortages

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian State Government to:

1. Establish funded student placement and career pathway programs within local government, with the support of tertiary institutions.
2. Tackle skills shortages of urban and regional town planners in particular and including:
 - a) Increase support and funding for university placements and introduction of traineeships and short course certificates for entry-level planners and/or candidates with existing tertiary qualifications to commence working in the sector.
 - b) Release qualified planners from State Government roles to enable recruitment of qualified planners into local government positions.
 - c) Finalise and release the various planning reforms currently being developed to improve the operational efficiency of the Local Government sector to deliver more efficient planning decisions in a timely manner
 - d) Review the statutory timeframes outlined in the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to better differentiate between simple, moderate and complex planning matters.
3. Coordinate a media and advocacy campaign to attract skilled resourcing to the local government sector.

Motions being consolidated:

- Critical sector-wide skill shortage in Statutory and Strategic Town Planning specialists – Yarra Ranges Shire Council (Motion 21)
- Local Government Staff Attraction and Retention Issues – Maribyrnong City Council (Motion 22)
- Address skill shortages in Local Government – Maroondah City Council (Motion 23)

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Ireland, Hindmarsh Shire Council

CARRIED

Category 1: Strategically relevant motions

Motions considered of specific strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to local government that they ought to be considered at this meeting of the State Council.

1: Long-term sustainability of local government (C1)

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Financial Sustainability.

2: Rate Capping

Submitting Council: City of Melbourne

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Financial Sustainability.

3: Review of the VEC costs associated with the Electoral Structure

Review Process

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV meets with the Minister for Local Government to urgently request a review of the \$65,000 flat fee structure for the 39 Councils required to undergo the VEC Electoral Structure Review Process.

Moved: Cr Hayes-Burke, Strathbogie Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Getley, Buloke Shire Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV meets with the Minister for Local Government to urgently request a review of the VEC local government structural review to:

1. Reconsider the current fee structure for the 39 councils required to undergo the VEC electoral structural review forum and the financial burden that this represents for small rural shires; and
2. Strongly encourage the VEC panels to the minister to give strong consideration to the submission from even local government about the most appropriate council structure to best serve their communities.

CARRIED

4: Exemption of Local Government from Windfall Gains Tax

Submitting Council: Knox City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 2: Windfall Gains Tax

5: Review of Developer Contribution Schemes

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government for the Department of Transport and Planning to urgently review the developer contributions schemes in light of rising property and construction costs.

Moved: Cr Leaney, Baw Baw Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Harriman, Latrobe City Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government for the Department of Transport and Planning to urgently review the developer contributions schemes in light of rising property and construction costs.

The MAV also advocates for a more efficient and clearer procedure in preparing developer contribution schemes and amendments to existing schemes that reduce the administrative burden, time and costs for councils.

CARRIED

6: Fines Victoria

Submitting Council: City of Melbourne

Motion:

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

1. Note:
 - 1.1. That technical and system integration problems led to significant backlog and delay when Fines Victoria was charged with managing collections in 2017/18.
 - 1.2. The disbursements per fee are only now reaching similar levels of collections that existed pre-Fines Victoria.
 - 1.3. Significant collection issues in the early years has compounded and led to a significant increase in the provision for doubtful debts. This has also led to a greater number of fines being determined to be uncollectable bad debts.
2. Provide:
 - 2.1. 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.
 - 2.2. Changes to the methodology and agreed service performance levels that Fines Victoria operates within.

Moved: Cr Leppert, City of Melbourne

Seconded: Cr Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

7: Regulation of Social Media Bullying towards Candidates and Councillors

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate on behalf of candidates and Councillors for additional resources for the eSafety commissioner, Local Government Inspectorate and other relevant bodies to address online bullying, harassment and trolling of candidates and Councillors on social media platforms, including but not limited to:

1. Expanding the authority of the eSafety Commissioner to remove online abuse on online service provider platforms which would either fall under the current threshold of content with the 'intent of causing serious harm' or under a new threshold of 'unintentionally causing serious harm';
2. Work with local governments to develop specific support and social media management programs available for candidates and Councillors through the eSafetywomen program in the lead up to the 2024 elections.

Moved: Cr Staikos, Kingston City Council

Seconded: Cr Radford, Cardinia Shire Council

CARRIED

8: Regulation of Social Media Bullying towards Candidates and Councillors

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate on behalf of candidates and Councillors for additional resources for the eSafety commissioner, local government inspectorate and other relevant bodies to address online bullying, harassment and trolling of candidates and Councillors on social media platforms, including but not limited to:

1. Expanding the authority of the eSafety Commissioner to remove online abuse on online service provider platforms which would either fall under the current threshold of content with the 'intent of causing serious harm' or under a new threshold of 'unintentionally causing serious harm';
2. Work with local governments to develop specific support and social media management programs available for candidates and Councillors through the eSafetywomen program in the lead up to the 2024 elections.

Motion noted as the same as carried Motion 7 and therefore was not considered.

9: Regulation of Social Media bullying towards candidates and Councillors

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate on behalf of candidates and Councillors for additional resources for the eSafety commissioner, local government inspectorate and other relevant bodies to address online bullying, harassment and trolling of candidates and Councillors on social media platforms, including but not limited to:

1. Expanding the authority of the eSafety Commissioner to remove online abuse on online service provider platforms which would either fall under the current threshold of content with the 'intent of causing serious harm' or under a new threshold of 'unintentionally causing serious harm';
2. Work with local governments to develop specific support and social media management programs available for candidates and Councillors through the eSafetywomen program in the lead up to the 2024 elections.

Motion noted as the same as carried Motion 7 and therefore was not considered.

10: Reporting of Childcare Reimbursements

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations to not require reimbursements of childcare costs or expenses incurred by a Councillor who is a carer in a carer relationship as a reported expense item in the Annual Report or elsewhere published.

Moved: Cr Radford, Cardinia Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Conroy, Frankston City Council

CARRIED

11: Aggregated Reporting of Childcare Reimbursements

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to not require reimbursements of childcare costs or expenses incurred by a Councillor who is a carer in a carer relationship as a reported expense item in the Annual Report or elsewhere published.

Motion noted as the same as carried Motion 10 and therefore was not considered.

12: Aggregated Reporting of Childcare Reimbursements

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to enable details of reimbursements of childcare costs or expenses incurred by a Councillor who is a carer in a care relationship to be presented in Annual Reports as a combined amount for all Councillors and not attributed to Councillors individually.

Motion noted as the same as carried Motion 7 and therefore was not considered.

13: Aggregated Report of Childcare Reimbursements

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to not require reimbursements of childcare costs or expenses incurred by a Councillor who is a carer in a carer relationship as a reported expense item in the Annual Report or elsewhere published.

Motion noted as the same as carried Motion 10 and therefore was not considered.

14: Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding Review

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to undertake a review of the Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding with the intention to improve key quality components of the program including:

1. Key Ages and Stages model to address increased scope
2. Workforce attraction and retention to address workforce shortages
3. Database functionality
4. Program and capital funding provided by the State.

Moved: Cr Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Watson, Boroondara City Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to undertake a review of the Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding with the intention to improve key quality components of the program including:

1. Key Ages and Stages model to address increased scope
2. Workforce attraction and retention to address workforce shortages
3. Database functionality
4. Program and capital funding provided by the State.
5. Review of enhanced MCH funding model to better support family violence and mental health across all LGA's.

CARRIED

15: Expanding Funding for Kindergarten Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for expanded capital funding for kindergarten infrastructure to ensure that eligibility:

1. Recognises individual needs and usage patterns of funded kindergarten programs across different LGAs,
2. Considers the ability of non-growth areas to expand facilities with limited land availability,
3. Funding streams and associated agreements offered by the State can work in partnership with each other to enable larger projects to be co-funded, and
4. For the strategy applied for infrastructure planning for funded 3 year old kindergarten planning be reconsidered and a new approach be developed to plan for future infrastructure for expanded 4 year old kindergarten.

Moved: Cr Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Administrator Wilson, Whittlesea City Council

CARRIED

16: Fund and deliver Best Start, Best Life Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government on the significant impact of the Kindergarten – Best Start, Best Life reform has on councils, and requests detail on how the Victorian Government plans to fund and deliver infrastructure for the reforms.

Moved: Cr Leaney, Baw Baw Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government on:

1. the significant impact of the Kindergarten – Best Start, Best Life reform has on councils and requests detail on how the Victorian Government plans to fund and deliver infrastructure for the reform.
2. establishing long-term funding streams for local government, which covers the full cost of expanding or building new kindergarten infrastructure to facilitate the Victorian Government's Kindergarten Reform
3. that the Victorian Government take responsibility for the costs associated with implementing and the ongoing servicing of the Kindergarten – Best Start, Best Life reform and not increase the financial burden on councils.

CARRIED

17: Impact of Windfall Gains Tax

Submitting Council: Corangamite Shire Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 2: Windfall Gains Tax

18: Circular Economy

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 6: Circular economy market development.

19: Greater State investment in boosting recycling market capacity

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 6: Circular economy market development.

20: Electrification of swimming pools and community facilities

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State and Federal Government to provide for an ongoing funding allocation to retrofit existing leisure centres and community facilities to be carbon neutral.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council

Seconded: Cr Alden, City of Greater Bendigo

CARRIED

21: Critical sector-wide skill shortage in Statutory and Strategic Town Planning specialists

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 7: Critical local government skills shortages.

22: Local Government Staff Attraction and Retention Issues

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 7: Critical local government skills shortages.

23: Address skill shortages in Local Government

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 7: Critical local government skills shortages.

24: Empowering electoral representation advisory panels

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That this State Council call on the Minister for Local Government to:

- a) recognise the expertise of its own appointed electoral representation advisory panels and their ability to recommend an appropriate constitution of a Council, guided by consultation with local communities; and
- b) publish a notice in the Government Gazette in accordance with section 13 of the Local Government Act 2020 enabling all Victorian Councils to be constituted in any one of the three permissible manners, which will have the effect of allowing the electoral representation advisory panels to consider all options.

Moved: Cr Leppert, City of Melbourne

Seconded: Cr Garad, City of Greater Dandenong

CARRIED

25: Regulation of Social Media bullying towards candidates and Councillors

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate on behalf of candidates and Councillors for additional resources for the eSafety Commissioner, Local Government Inspectorate and other relevant bodies to address online bullying, harassment and trolling of candidates and Councillors on social media platforms, including but not limited to:

1. Expanding the authority of the eSafety Commissioner to remove online abuse on online service provider platforms which would either fall under the current threshold of content with the 'intent of causing serious harm' or under a new threshold of 'unintentionally causing serious harm';
2. Work with local governments to develop specific support and social media management programs available for candidates and Councillors through the eSafetyWomen program in the lead up to the 2024 elections.

Motion noted as the same as carried Motion 7 and therefore was not considered.

26: Regional Library Corporation Transition

Submitting Council: Colac Otway Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes that regional library corporations are largely funded by their member Councils.
2. Notes that the Local Government Act 2020 requires existing regional library corporations to be wound up by 30 June 2031, which is 10 years after the commencement of section 110 of the Act.
3. Notes that the cost to transition to an alternate management model may be significant and will be borne by the regional library corporations and their member Councils.
4. Supports regional library corporations and their member Councils to advocate to the Victorian Government for resources, both financial and other support, to transition to an alternative model.

Moved: Cr Hart, Colac Otway Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Martin, Glenelg Shire Council

CARRIED

Category 2: Motions consistent with current sector functions and responsibilities

Motions considered consistent with reference to the MAV Strategy and relevance to local government.

27: Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for Local Government

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the state government for the funding arrangements through Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for recovery of roads and related infrastructure from natural disasters, allows for the road to be improved to a more resilient standard.

The mover proposed amendments to the motion, accepted by the seconder, to consolidate Motion 27 with Motions 28 and 34, and change the title to 'Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for Local Government.'

Consolidated Substantive Motion:

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

1. Simplify the methodology and data inputs required in Victoria to prove Council's eligibility for Disaster Recovery Funding, bringing it in line with other States and ahead of any national unification of claims processes.
2. Financially support Local Government to ensure post-disaster funding programs enable betterment to improve assets beyond the 'previous condition' to provide resilience against future damage resulting from disaster events.
3. Financially support Local Government with an ongoing betterment program to upgrade existing public infrastructure in readiness for increased exposure to future disaster events.

Moved: Cr Hersey, South Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Ridgeway, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

28: Betterment as part of the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (NDFA) scheme

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV urgently advocates to State Government for the need to implement a betterment program within the NDFA that will enable rural and regional Councils to build on existing infrastructure to a resilient level.

This motion was not put as it was combined with Motion 27: Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for Local Government which was carried.

29: Maintenance of Arterial Road Network

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to take back responsibility for the maintenance of their arterial roads and provide an appropriate maintenance response.

Moved: Cr Lancashire, Brimbank City Council

Seconded: Cr Martin, Glenelg Shire Council

CARRIED

30: Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 3: Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines.

31: Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines in Victoria

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 3: Reducing Harm from Electronic Gaming Machines.

32: Addressing Underlying Causes of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls for the Victorian Government to:

1. Adequately resource the Safer Communities Taskforce to enable proactive policing in local streets and neighbourhoods.
2. Provide funding for Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Services and Assertive Outreach Teams to attend incidents with Victoria Police where mental health, homelessness or alcohol and other drug (AOD) misuse is a driving factor.
3. Support local governments to adopt a localised approach to crime prevention by bringing together police, outreach support services, business and community groups to ensure a coordinated response that focuses on both safety and wellbeing.

Moved: Cr Lancashire, Brimbank City Council

Seconded: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

33: Supporting building resilience to natural disasters

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Federal and State Governments to increase funding available to local communities, local government, and individuals, and implement legislation, policy, and regulations to improve and support building resilience to natural disasters.

Moved: Cr Stevens, Mitchell Shire Council
Seconded: Cr Collier, Gannawarra Shire Council

CARRIED

34: Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for Local Government

Submitting Council: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) calls on the Victorian and Australian Governments to:

1. Simplify the methodology and data inputs required in Victoria to prove Council's eligibility for Disaster Recovery Funding, bringing it in line with other States and ahead of any national unification of claims processes.
2. Financially support Local Government to ensure post-disaster funding programs enable betterment to improve assets beyond the 'previous condition' to provide resilience against future damage resulting from disaster events.
3. Financially support Local Government with an ongoing betterment program to upgrade existing public infrastructure in readiness for increased exposure to future disaster events.

This motion was not put as it was combined with Motion 27: Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for Local Government which was carried.

35: Affordable Housing

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to create an integrated planning framework across State and Local Government Departments for delivery of sufficient affordable housing that achieves best practice urban design whilst protecting existing neighbourhood character and heritage values.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council
Seconded: Administrator Wilson, Whittlesea City Council

CARRIED

36: Safe active transport

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government to plan and fund safer pedestrian and cycling access along the arterial road network within activity centres to reduce incidents involving collisions between cyclists/pedestrians and motorists.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council

Seconded: Cr James, Monash City Council

CARRIED

37: Review of gas, water, and electricity service providers

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government to:

1. Undertake a review of the requirements of gas, water and electricity service providers with respect to the placement of infrastructure within front setbacks of new developments to ensure that objectives in relation to access and safety are balanced with impacts on neighbourhood character and streetscape.
2. Require that the current and future requirements of gas, water and electricity service providers with respect to the placement of infrastructure within front setbacks of new developments are published and made available to enable for the orderly planning of new developments and an integrated approach to landscaping and the placement of service infrastructure.
3. Recognise that progressing the State Government's ESD Roadmap Project can eliminate the need for gas servicing which will directly contribute to the outcomes sought in point 1 above.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council

Seconded: Cr Rennie, Darebin City Council

CARRIED

38: Renewable Energy Transmission Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Climate Action, Energy & Resources and State Electricity Commission that infrastructure to support the renewable energy transmission across Victoria be developed using existing easements, be located where practicable underground and require co-location of connecting lines to reduce the impact on agriculture, the visual landscape, recognise risks of bushfire and protect amenity.

Moved: Cr Foster, Moyne Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Emerson, Northern Grampians Shire Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Climate Action, Energy & Resources and State Electricity Commission that infrastructure to support energy transmission across Victoria be developed using existing easements, be located where practicable underground and require co-location of connecting lines to reduce the impact on agriculture, the visual landscape, recognise risks of bushfire and protect amenity, and that extensive consultation be conducted before any further advancement of energy transmission lines is undertaken.

CARRIED

39: Social and Affordable Housing

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. establish regional targets for the supply of social housing to better match the number of vulnerable households;
2. expand the Big Housing Build to further increase the supply of social and affordable housing;
3. conduct an audit of state government land for social housing development opportunities;
4. review the private rental assistance programs as they are not currently supporting people to maintain tenancies;
5. undertake immediate legislative reform to strengthen minimum standards for rooming houses;
6. recognise that private market mechanisms are not fit-for-purpose for many people experiencing homelessness to secure long-term private rental housing, and explore innovative models to support people from rough sleeping into social and affordable housing; and
7. improve the homelessness service system to prevent people from experiencing acute homelessness by rolling out the Zero model across the state, supported by state government funding.

Moved: Cr Conroy, Frankston City Council

Seconded: Cr Garad, City of Greater Dandenong

CARRIED

40: Create environmentally sustainable forms of transport.

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV requests the State Government:

1. commit to creating a State that is climate-safe, equitable and liveable for all residents and visitors through ensuring an accessible and reliable public transport network.
2. commit to the permanency of the Strategic Cycling Corridors pop-up bike lanes and that these will remain a priority for the State Government.

Moved: Cr Garad, City of Greater Dandenong

Seconded: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

41: Flood Recovery

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV work with the State Government to release a flood recovery roadmap outlining next steps, future engagement and potential policy changes in relation to flood recovery.

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Adem, Greater Shepparton City Council

CARRIED

42: Active Transport

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to invest in improving the safety of active transport infrastructure. This includes:

1. Implementation of the strategic cycling corridors.
2. Separate trucks, pedestrians and bicycle riders.
3. Greater provision of separated and safe bicycle infrastructure.
4. Improvement of walking networks and intersection level of service for pedestrians

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Ramesh, Wyndham City Council

CARRIED

43: Public Transport Improvements

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to invest greater public transport services including:

1. Increasing non-peak train frequencies.
2. Implementing bus reform that provides high-capacity, high frequency and direct routes, across metropolitan Melbourne.

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr James, Monash City Council

CARRIED

44: Critical Community Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to implement an ongoing funding stream and prioritisation framework to support the delivery of critical higher order community infrastructure for local government such as public libraries, cultural and community centres, aquatic centres, bicycle infrastructure, and significant recreation facilities to ensure that collectively we can support Victoria's growing population and ensure every Victorian has equitable access to services.

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Majdlik, Melton City Council

CARRIED

45: Municipal Building Surveyor legislative reform

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes with concern the potential impacts of the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of Shout Rock Cafes Pty Ltd v City of Port Phillip & Anor [2022] VSC 615 on the ability of Municipal Building Surveyors to remedy illegal building works or dangerous and non-compliant buildings and land, and
2. Advocates to the State Government to enact legislative reform to confirm the power of Municipal Building Surveyors to issue a building order, including a building order for minor work, to ensure that Councils and the MBS can require remediation in instances of illegal building work or dangerous buildings or land, beyond the limited type of work prescribed in the Building Regulations 2018.

Moved: Cr Nyaguy, City of Port Phillip

Seconded: Cr Zanker, Yarriambiack Shire Council

CARRIED

46: Reform the funding models for social and affordable housing and the planning system to ensure it consistently facilitates new social and affordable housing development.

Submitting Council: Whittlesea City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council advocates to the State Government to:

1. Implement mandatory contributions via the planning system that require the provision of land and/or dwellings for social and affordable housing as part of new residential development, and
2. Provide permanent and ongoing funding to address the critical shortage of social and affordable housing.

Moved: Administrator Wilson, Whittlesea City Council

Seconded: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council

CARRIED

47: Major Infrastructure Funding

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Federal and State Governments to develop, prioritise and appropriately fund major infrastructure for communities in Australia's rapidly growing urban fringe including road, transport, and social infrastructure.

Moved: Cr Stevens, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Scales, Towong Shire Council

CARRIED

48: Guidelines outlining minimum consultation requirements for Major Projects

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Commonwealth Government to develop in partnership with state and territory governments, a community engagement framework which includes local government authorities and minimum consultation requirements to be imposed on proponents of projects that achieve 'Major Project' status.

Moved: Cr Hersey, South Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Ireland, Hindmarsh Shire Council

CARRIED

49: Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2021) – Proposal to amend Kerbside Glass Collection Methodology

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocate to the State Government to collaborate with other local government agencies to investigate options to provide alternatives to the 4th Glass Bin Collection Service.
2. Advocate to the State Government to review and comment upon the NSW business case to expand the CDS service rather than provide a 4th bin to the kerbside service.
3. Advocate to the State Government to ensure that the Container Deposit Scheme equipment and locations allow for future expansion.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council

Seconded: Cr Zanker, Yarriambiack Shire Council

CARRIED

50: State management of Flood Overlays

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to take on the planning, designing and delivery of flood overlays across Victoria.

Moved: Cr Leaney, Baw Baw Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Whelan, Bass Coast Shire Council

CARRIED

51: Electric Line Clearance Guidelines Review for Urban Trees

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 5: Electric line clearance in low bushfire risk areas.

52: Improved Electric Line Clearance Regulations

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 5: Electric line clearance in low bushfire risk areas.

53: Action on Air Pollution

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to work with local government to support the transition of industry and freight to low or no emission methods of operation. This includes:

1. Implementing low emission zones in freight and industry heavy areas, near residential and other sensitive uses.
2. Providing grant programs and funding to support business transition to zero emission methods of operation.
3. Undertaking initiatives to greater separate trucks from where people live and learn.
4. Initiating a heavy vehicle buy-back scheme to incentivise more fuel efficient heavy vehicles.
5. Greater investment in air quality monitoring stations.
6. Greater investment in active and public transport projects.

Moved: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Tyler, Hobsons Bay City Council

CARRIED

54: Planning reform: Sustainable rooftop infrastructure

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government for:

1. Stronger planning controls for new development to maximise the use of rooftop spaces (including podium roofs) for infrastructure that enhances the environmental performance of the building;
2. For such infrastructure to include, but not be limited to, solar panels, green roofs and walls, stormwater capture and retention, urban ecology, food organic gardens, and organics recycling; and
3. The development to be designed so that landscaped roofs are accessible to building residents and/or tenants as communal open space to provide health and wellbeing benefits.

Moved: Cr Nyaguy, City of Port Phillip

Seconded: Cr Munroe, Whitehorse City Council

CARRIED

55: Tree canopy mapping across Victoria

Submitting Council: Knox City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government (via DEECA) for a State Government sponsored tree canopy aerial mapping service to provide communities across Victoria with consistent, comparable, long term tree canopy measurement data to facilitate understanding and reporting of movements in tree canopy to support aligned local and State Government vegetation and climate change policies.

Moved: Cr Laukens, Knox City Council
Seconded: Cr Symon, Maroondah City Council

CARRIED

56: Seeking a variation to landfill levy – Community clean days.

Submitting Council: Whittlesea City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to provide a mechanism for councils to seek dispensation for payment of the landfill levy where this dispensation advances the strategic aim of the landfill levy.

Moved: Administrator Wilson, Whittlesea City Council
Seconded: Cr Haweil, Hume City Council

CARRIED

57: Seeking a variation to landfill levy – Water sensitive urban design clean outs.

Submitting Council: Whittlesea City Council

Motion:

That the State Government creates a mechanism to allow for dispensation of the landfill levy for the disposal of contaminated sediments from urban wetlands and Water Sensitive Design Urban (WSUD) assets.

Moved: Administrator Wilson, Whittlesea City Council
Seconded: Cr Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

58: Support for the Public and Environmental Health sector

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to:

1. Provide support and funding to Councils to ensure that changes to legislation and regulation can be adequately implemented, as well as funding administrative overheads incurred in the management of State Government systems.
2. Subsidise the cost to implement and administer state-wide technology platforms including FoodTrader.
3. Engage with and provide training to Local Government prior to the implementation of amendments or new legislation impacting the Environmental Health sector.
4. Commit to an education recruitment program and supporting universities to undertake Industry Based Learning (IBL) to attract further education seekers to the fields of Health Sciences and Environmental Health.
5. Encourage and support universities to implement IBL and workforce placements with Council to combat the current skills shortage.

Moved: Cr Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Collier, Gannawarra Shire Council

CARRIED

59: Development of a state-wide illegal dumping campaign including specific materials for CALD communities

Submitting Council: Whittlesea City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council advocates to the State Government to develop a state-wide communications campaign materials relating to the issue of illegal dumping, including development of specific material for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Moved: Administrator Wilson, Whittlesea City Council

Seconded: Cr Haweil, Hume City Council

CARRIED

60: Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for the establishment of new fit for purpose relief centres and an upgrade of current relief centre assets

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV urgently advocates to State Government and Federal governments for need to allocate funding for fit for purpose relief centres and the ability to scale up of ERC's regionally to support campaign style emergency events.

Moved: Cr Alden, City of Greater Bendigo

Seconded: Cr Getley, Buloke Shire Council

CARRIED

61: Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for the establishment of new system that enables the response agency to have a standardised and uniform approach to evacuations.

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV urgently advocates to State Government for the need, should an evacuation order is given, that there is an ability for the response agency to be adaptive and provide warning systems are considered and progressive for individual events.

Moved: Cr Alden, City of Greater Bendigo

Seconded: Cr Ridgeway, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

62: Reinstate 'Know Your Council' Website

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to reinstate recurrent funding for the Know Your Council website

Moved: Cr Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Laukens, Knox City Council

CARRIED

63: Benchmarking Cyber Security Incidents and Actions

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to lead a project to undertake ongoing benchmarking of cyber security incidents and mitigation activities at a local government level and provide Council's access to these reports.

Moved: Cr Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Laukens, Knox City Council

CARRIED

64: Regulation on short-stay accommodation

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for more effective and uniform State Government legislation in relation to short-stay accommodation, including AirBnB, to alleviate amenity impacts, and to consider limiting the amount of time in a given year whereby dwellings can be rented out on a short-stay basis in areas where housing availability has been identified as a particular issue.

Moved: Cr Nyaguy, City of Port Phillip

Seconded: Cr Hart, Colac Otway Shire Council

CARRIED

65: Increase Growing Suburbs Fund

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government for increased funding of Councils by doubling the Growing Suburbs Fund to \$100 million commencing from the 2024/25 Budget.

Moved: Cr Leaney, Baw Baw Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Whelan, Bass Coast Shire Council

CARRIED

Category 3: Motions not consistent with current sector functions and responsibilities

Motions that are only partially or non-consistent with current MAV priorities and/or relevant to local government.

66: Investing in Telecommunications & Digital Connectivity in Regional and Rural Communities

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Motion:

That the MAV calls on Government to provide greater investment in telecommunications and digital connectivity in regional and rural communities to support increasing populations and industries, growth in jobs and investment, and remove the technological divide.

Moved: Cr Alden, City of Greater Bendigo
Seconded: Cr Ridgeway, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

67: Urban Food Strategy

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the State Government the need to prioritise the conclusion of the Green Wedge and Agricultural Land review in a manner consistent with the vision and goals of a food-secure Melbourne.
2. Call on the State Government to take all appropriate measures in a timely manner to ensure long-term protection of Melbourne's Green Wedge areas as Melbourne's food bowl, with an accompanying commitment to development a state-wide Food System and Food Security Strategy and Action Plan as called for in the Consensus Statement; and
3. Advocate and support for the protection and enhancement of Melbourne's food bowl, to guard against future shocks associated with climate change and emergencies such as pandemics, and to future proof a resilient, sustainable local food system for Melbourne's population.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council
Seconded: Cr Conroy, Frankston City Council

CARRIED

68: Improved financial vulnerability and wellbeing funding for our communities.

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Australian Government on behalf of Victoria to conduct a review into the funding mechanism that addresses financial vulnerability and wellbeing nationally and establish a dedicated fund that councils can access to address the financial vulnerability and wellbeing within communities.

Moved: Cr Radford, Cardinia Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Garad, City of Greater Dandenong

CARRIED

69: Mental Health and Wellbeing

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV seek funding to improve mental health services by increasing support for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services with an increased focus on mental health prevention.

Moved: Cr Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

70: Private Health Insurance Lifetime Health Cover (LHC)

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call upon the State Government to advocate for the removal of the Australian Government, Private Health Lifetime Insurance levy to allow more people access to private health insurance and improve the waiting period for public medical treatments and Local Government in home supports.

Moved: Cr Conroy, Frankston City Council

Seconded: Cr Staikos, Kingston City Council

CARRIED

71: Police resourcing and support

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government for additional resources for Victoria Police and related government agencies to support councils addressing anti-social, illegal and challenging behaviour by individuals in public spaces.

Moved: Cr Nyaguy, City of Port Phillip
Seconded: Cr Clarke, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

72: Management of Crown Land Recreation Facilities

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to proactively manage community facilities located on Crown Land including regular maintenance and upgrades.

Moved: Cr Leaney, Baw Baw Shire Council
Seconded: Cr Hersey, South Gippsland Shire Council

CARRIED

73: Protection & enhancement of biodiversity

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to provide support to the local government sector to achieve 'No Local Species Extinction' which will support the national response to ongoing biodiversity decline.

Moved: Cr Melican, Banyule City Council
Seconded: Cr Leppert, City of Melbourne

CARRIED

74: Promotion of environmental sustainability

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the office of the Prime Minister to write to the governing authority of the Nobel Prize in Sweden to include a new category "Sustainability of the Planet".

Moved: Cr Whelan, Bass Coast Shire Council
Seconded: Cr Adem, Greater Shepparton City Council

CARRIED

75: Local Government Divestment from Investment in Fossil Fuel Financing Institutions

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to promote and incentivise local governments to redirect funds over and above operational cash towards Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs) that do not invest in fossil fuel industries, eventually moving towards 100% divestment.

Moved: Cr Alden, City of Greater Bendigo

Seconded: Cr Leppert, City of Melbourne

CARRIED

76: Removal of prayer from council meetings

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to member Councils advising that the MAV supports the removal of prayer from Council meetings, on the grounds that a Council prayer no longer reflects community expectations, is not inclusive and may be unlawful.

Moved: Cr Garad, City of Greater Dandenong

Seconded: Cr Iser, Moonee Valley City Council

Procedural Motion:

That the motion be put to a vote.

Moved: Cr Perkins, Nillumbik Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Emerson, Northern Grampians Shire Council

CARRIED

Substantive motion:

That the MAV write to member Councils advising that the MAV supports the removal of prayer from Council meetings, on the grounds that a Council prayer no longer reflects community expectations, is not inclusive and may be unlawful.

LOST

77: Hoon Driving Regulation

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to develop effective regulation to stop hoon driving, because of the impact of anti-social hoon driving on communities.

Moved: Cr Nyaguy, City of Port Phillip

Seconded: Cr Collier, Gannawarra Shire Council

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: State Council time extension

That State Council be extended by half an hour to 4:00pm

Moved: Cr Garad, City of Greater Dandenong

Seconded: Cr Schonfelder, Surf Coast Shire Council

LOST

Procedural Motion: Refer motions not dealt with to MAV Board

That the motions not dealt with by the close of business of this meeting of the State Council be referred to the MAV Board for consideration and discussion with the submitting Council.

Moved: Cr Nyaguy, City of Port Phillip

Seconded: Cr Ridgeway, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

STATE COUNCIL

State Council resolved the following motions would be referred to the MAV Board for consideration.

No.	Motion Title	Submitting Council
78	Utilities Cost of Living Relief (Late Motion)	Manningham
79	Secondary Dwelling Pilot Program (Late Motion)	Surf Coast
80	Climate Change and Social Justice (Late Motion)	Greater Dandenong
81	Decriminalisation of Public Drunkenness (Late Motion)	Greater Dandenong
82	Decriminalisation of Sex Work (Late Motion)	Greater Dandenong
83	Windfall Gains Tax (Late Motion) (C3)	Greater Dandenong
84	Volunteerism sector support (Late Motion)	Stonnington
85	Marketing controls and public education to reduce the uptake of vaping products by young people (Late Motion)	Stonnington
86	Access to Mental Health Service for children, young people, and families (Late Motion)	Stonnington
87	Inclusive and accessible health and community services for LGBTIA+ communities (Late Motion)	Stonnington
88	Continuation of the freeze on late night liquor licences in inner-city municipalities (Late Motion)	Stonnington
89	Increased environmentally sustainable design (ESD) expectations for developers (Late Motion)	Stonnington
90	Housing and homeless sector support (Late Motion)	Stonnington
91	Education and employment pathways for young people (Late Motion)	Stonnington
92	Accessible public transport network (Late Motion)	Stonnington
93	Rate Capping Process (Late Motion) (C1)	Stonnington
94	Statutory fee settling (Late Motion)	Stonnington
95	Collection of parking fines (Fines Vic) (Late Motion)	Stonnington
96	Cost Shifting to Local Government (Late Motion) (C1)	Stonnington
97	Property valuation process from biennial to annual valuations (Late Motion)	Stonnington
98	Proposed Victoria to NSW Interconnector West Energy Transmission Line (Late Motion)	Northern Grampians
Motion received after distribution of Business Paper - 99	<p>Funding community infrastructure</p> <p>Motion: That the MAV call upon the State Government to implement Infrastructure Victoria's recommendation to fund a third of the cost of the construction of library and aquatic centres in and reform to Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) funds in line with the recommendations of the Victorian Auditor General.</p>	Wyndham

Meeting Close

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President, thanked those present for their participation at State Council and closed the meeting at 3.31pm.

The next meeting of State Council will be held on Friday 13 October 2023.

STATE COUNCIL REPORT

Title

MAV Financial Statements

Author

Anthony DeJong, MAV Chief Financial Officer

Background

Under rule 16.3.1 of the MAV Rules 2022, at the annual meeting State Council is to consider an annual report from the President about the activities and financial affairs of the Association.

The MAV financial statements include the following statements for each year.

1. MAV Consolidated financial statements (includes MAV General, MAV Insurance and MAV Work Care)
2. MAV Insurance financial statements (Fidelity and LMI Insurance Schemes)
3. MAV Work Care financial statements
4. MAV LGE financial statements (noting these statements are not included in the MAV consolidated financial statements as they do not meet the accounting standard definition of control).

Key issues

Financial Statements for 30 June 2023

The financial statements are expected to be approved and signed off by the MAV Board in early October 2023, following audit clearance.

The final sign off from our auditors VAGO is not expected to be finalised in time for the distribution of papers for State Council. It is therefore intended that the full set of financial statements will be presented to the following State Council on 17 May 2024 for formal adoption (similar to last year).

An update on the financial performance and position for each financial statement will be provided to the State Council at the meeting on 13th October 2023.

Recommendation

That the MAV State Council notes the report made by the MAV President about the financial position of MAV as at 30 June 2023.



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

STATE COUNCIL MOTIONS

13 OCTOBER 2023

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CONSOLIDATED MOTIONS

C1. Affordable housing and homelessness sector support

Motion:

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

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and homelessness sector support - Boroondara City Council (Motion 1) • Affordable housing and homelessness – Brimbank City Council (Motion 2) • Homelessness and affordable housing – Wyndham City Council (Motion 3) 	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities	Yes

C2. Building resilience into flood-prone communities

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Work with councils to ensure that flood hazard controls within the Victoria Planning Provisions are fit for purpose.
2. Implement a state-led process for ensuring flood mapping is up to date and incorporated into planning schemes.
3. Review the effectiveness of flood warning systems, particularly the information available to at-risk communities.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building resilience to future flood events – Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 4) • State Government leadership in planning scheme amendments to incorporate updated flood mapping - East Gippsland Shire Council (Motion 5) • Modification to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay - South Gippsland Shire Council (Motion 6) 	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment	Yes

C3. Don't leave the growth areas behind

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Funding for Growth Areas - Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 7) • Victorian Government financial support for Councils for infrastructure planning and delivery – Wyndham City Council (Motion 8) 	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment	Yes

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

Motion:

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning reforms to give greater weight to environmental sustainability in the assessment process - Surf Coast Shire Council (Motion 9) • Aligning the Victorian Planning Framework to Government Climate Change Policy - Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 10) 	<p>MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment</p> <p>MAV Strategy Priority 4: Changing climate and circular economy</p>	Yes

C5. Exempt rural councils from the Windfall Gains Tax

Motion:

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windfall Gain Tax - Northern Grampians Shire Council (Motion 11) • Call to revoke Windfall Gains Tax in rural Victoria - Ararat Rural City Council (Motion 12) • Addressing Windfall Gains Tax in rural areas - Towong Shire Council (Motion 13) 	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils	Yes

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

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Community Access to Underutilised Land and Broader Community Open Space needs - Glen Eira City Council (Motion 14) • Open Space within metropolitan Melbourne – Port Phillip City Council (Motion 15) 	<p>MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities</p> <p>MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment</p>	<p>Yes</p>

C7. Retain and protect community voice in the planning system

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Planning Reforms - Yarra City Council (Motion 16) • Keep Local Democracy on Planning Decisions - Mansfield Shire Council (Motion 17) 	<p>MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment</p> <p>MAV Strategy Priority 5: Sector capability and good governance</p>	<p>Yes</p>

C8. Victorian Government Erosion of Funding for Public Libraries

Motion:

That the MAV:

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

Which motions are being consolidated?	Does the motion align with MAV Strategy 2021-25 Priority?	Is the motion of significance to Local Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Library Grants – Erosion of Library Services to Community – Maroondah City Council (Motion 18) • Victorian Government Funding of Public Libraries – Knox City Council (Motion 19) 	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils	Yes

BOARD MOTION

BM1. Local Government Emergency Management Arrangements

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

Motion:

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

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

Rationale

All of these issues have been raised at the MAV Emergency Management Committee for the past several years. As is outlined below they have been provided to State and Federal government as budget bid, and as part of MAV's position statement. This motion highlights the priority areas of concern raised by the MAV Municipal Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

In 2019, a state-facilitated assessment through the State Government's Councils & Emergencies project found sector-wide capability and capacity gaps in several of councils' critical emergency management roles. Despite this, there has been no investment in sector training and development, nor an increase in funding commensurate with their expanding role.

Emergency management is complex and the stakes are high. It is critical that councils are empowered and adequately funded to lead local resilience building, support local planning and effectively coordinate local-level relief and recovery.

The Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) is currently the main emergency management funding source for the 64 eligible rural, regional and interface councils. This program provides an annual share of \$4.9 million to eligible councils and is based on a formula devised in 2012.

Significantly higher levels of ongoing funding, reflective of risk and community expectations are essential. As an immediate step, an additional \$7 million is needed to fund one FTE in each council, while a transparent risk and capacity-based formula is developed.

DRFA must be urgently reviewed and streamlined. Councils are growing increasingly concerned about the administrative burdens associated with making claims, and the frequency at which legitimate claims are not accepted. Funding needs to flow quickly to local communities after emergencies. Recovery packages must also be guaranteed to ensure the long-term needs of communities can be met, including allowing infrastructure to be built back to a more climate-resistant standard.

Victorian councils have observed a continued roll out of disparate emergency management reforms across separate departments and agencies in recent years. In this environment, there is a significant risk that council roles and responsibilities will be reshaped in a piecemeal approach without strategic consideration. The roles and responsibilities of councils in emergency management must be reviewed and agreed on in collaboration with the MAV and all 79 councils. They must reflect the importance of local, council-led resilience building and relief and recovery coordination as crucial strengths and central to any revised approach. The roles determined must then be adequately financed, for both job security and stability of known roles within the community.

For many years, councils have been calling on the Victorian Government for better support with dedicated training for statutory emergency management roles. If councils are expected to fill Municipal Recovery Manager and Municipal Emergency Management Officer roles described in legislation, appropriate training must be developed and delivered.

MOTIONS LEGEND

Strategic Priority motions

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

Standard Priority motions

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.

MOTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED

Motion 1. Housing and Homelessness Sector Support [\(C1\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Provide adequate funding for the homelessness sector to deliver critical wrap-around services for individuals with complex needs and who have experienced long term homelessness to develop skills to exit homelessness, live independently and retain their housing. This is in line with the Council to Homeless Persons' 2023/24 state budget submission that called on the Victorian Government:

"... to invest an additional \$47.5 million in 2023-24 (\$220.6 million over four years) to continue and grow the From Homeless to a Home program to support at least 2,100 households (growing to 2,400 by year 4) for as long as that support is needed to sustain that home (page 4, State Budget Submission 2023–24 - Council to Homeless Persons website (chp.org.au))."

2. Provide adequate funding for sufficient staffing of homelessness service agencies to support individuals who are sleeping rough out of homelessness in a timely manner. This includes funding for out-of-hours (before 9 am and after 5 pm) assertive outreach.
3. Increase social housing stock and improve living standards of existing social housing including increased support for residents to maintain their tenancy.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

The motion should be considered because Council considers funding for the housing and homelessness sector is still inadequate. The Salvation Army - Homelessness East, Council's homelessness entry point, continues to experience high demand and Council has experienced delayed response times for assertive outreach. Council also recognises that there is an inadequate supply of social housing to meet the needs of people who are homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Council is also aware that full funding was not received by Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) in response to their State Budget Submission 2023–24. Funding is requested to enable CHP and the housing and homelessness sector to end - rather than simply manage - homelessness in Victoria.

Motion 2. Affordable Housing and Homelessness [\(C1\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

- a) Directly support local government homelessness response by funding the establishment of assertive outreach services and community connector roles, based in councils to lead prevention activities and guide service coordination efforts.
- b) Extend the Big Housing Build by funding an increase in social and affordable housing to at least 60,000 dwellings over 10 years and commit to a target for priority LGAs.
- c) Urgently develop a state-wide social and affordable housing strategy that addresses housing need across a range of tenures, from emergency housing to long term community and private rental housing.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Homelessness and housing stress is a significant and worsening issue faced by people living in Victoria. Australia’s 2021 census estimates on housing and homelessness, released in March 2023, estimated nearly one in 200 people – a total of 122,494 across the country – without a safe, secure place to sleep at night. Among these, 7,636 people were recorded as living in impoverished dwellings, tent and sleeping out.

While the Federal and Victorian government hold the funding and the mandate to respond to homelessness and housing, communities often look to their local council to respond to homelessness. Unlike the other levels of government, Councils simply lack the resources to assist.

Through their 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 housing and homelessness response. However, without direct funding streams, many councils cannot act.

The current four-year Big Housing Build is a record investment in building new community housing and upgrading existing public housing. More than 1,700 new social housing homes have been completed, with another 7,381 on the way. However, more than 100,000 Victorians are on the waitlist for social housing. Victoria needs 60,000 new social housing properties over the next 10 years.

Motion 3. Homelessness and Affordable Housing [\(C1\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to continue to address the growth in homelessness through construction of affordable housing across the state.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Significance to local government

Addresses a need for more homeless support services and affordable housing across Victoria, as communities continue to experience hardship with high inflation and soaring cost of living.

Rationale

As inflation continues to remain high, more and more households are experiencing financial In the last census (2021) it was estimated that were more than 120,000 people experiencing homelessness across Australia. In Victoria, there are some 30,000 people experiencing this, a 24% increase since data was last collected. In terms of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria, this grew by 40% to over 1000 people in the past five years.

Furthermore, 25% of Victorians without a home are young people between the ages of 12 – 24. In Victoria, there are 96 people who have been turned away from accessing homelessness services. In the 2021-22 financial year, these homelessness services assisted 102,000 people. This number equates to 37% of total clients nationwide. According to the Australian Institute Health and Welfare of Specialist homelessness services report (2021/22), the top three reasons for people seeking homelessness services in Victoria were:

- Financial difficulties (46%)
- Family and domestic violence (44%)
- Housing crisis (34%)

When a person does not have suitable accommodation, they are considered homeless, if their current living arrangement:

- Is in a dwelling that is inadequate; or
- Has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or

- Does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations

This may include:

- Rough sleeping, for example on park benches, in public toilets, under bridges
- Makeshift tents
- Sleeping in a car
- Staying temporarily with a friend, family member or acquaintance (couch surfing)
- Staying at refuges, in boarding houses, or other forms of crisis or transitional housing for the homeless

Overcrowded housing – that is, dwellings that require four or more extra bedrooms to adequately accommodate the residents.

Across Victoria, we have seen a decline in housing affordability for a variety of reasons. In 2021, the Real Estate Institute of Australia released a report stating that housing affordability in Victoria has fallen 9.7 percentage points since 2001, with a shortage in adequate housing was driving competition for homes, which in turn caused prices to skyrocket and affordability to plummet.

The report also stated that a family earning the typical median weekly income of \$2018 – or about \$104,936 a year – must now siphon off more than a third of their salary to pay back lenders, with the average loan amount for a Victorian home has blown out to \$568,188 – a jump of more than 261 per cent on the average \$157,064 loan from two decades ago.

The MAV, as the peak body for councils, should make a submission to the inquiry and continue to work with the State Government to try and reduce homelessness and improve housing affordability for all Victorians.

Motion 4. Building resilience to future flood events [\(C2\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to build resilience against future flood events through improving flood warning and mitigation systems by:

1. Reviewing the effectiveness of flood warning systems, with particular focus on the accessibility of data to at risk communities; and
2. Requesting the State Government to take responsibility for embedding completed flood studies into the appropriate planning schemes.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

Flood warnings are effective if they enable people to take action to lessen the impacts of a flood and assist agencies to carry out their legislated responsibilities. Community members impacted by the October 2022 floods have highlighted that they did not receive effective warnings prior and during the event. Improvements to this warning system would dramatically improve community resilience. Aligned with this, having up-to-date planning schemes which incorporate up-to-date flood studies will promote responsible and informed development which is integral to building resilient communities.

Rationale

The 2022 Victorian Flood event highlighted the importance of building and supporting community resilience. Key to this are timely and effective warning systems, and appropriate and informed planning.

The Total Flood Warning System was introduced in 1995 and although considered to compare favourably against international flood warning frameworks, continuous improvement should always be a priority.

Considered improvements to the community warnings should include:

- Review of Service Level specifications (warning lead times)
- Review of Flood class levels

- Amendments to Vic Emergency app to include place-based information such as local flood guides

The purpose of flood studies is to improve the management of flood risks for communities, with a particular focus on making informed decisions on development within the floodplain.

Whilst numerous flood studies have been completed, many of these have not yet been incorporated through a planning scheme amendment. These studies hold invaluable strategic planning and risk management data and are vital information when building community resilience to future flood events. This failure presents an unnecessary flood risk to developing communities. Funding and support must be made available to Councils to enable the implementation of flood studies. Combined, better warning systems and the implementation of up-to-date flood studies would support the ongoing development of resilience to future flood events.

Motion 5. State Government leadership in planning scheme amendments to incorporate updated flood mapping [\(C2\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on State Government to lead, coordinate and resource the amendment of planning schemes to include updated flood mapping in a coordinated State-wide approach.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Recent events including the 2022 flooding events have demonstrated the need to review and update flood mapping within planning schemes.

This is also the case in East Gippsland and other coastal councils where sea level rise contributes to flooding risks through coastal inundation. Updating flood mapping is a technical process where there is limited opportunity to take into account changes to respond to community views.

Management of flood risk is a state-wide issue requiring a state-wide planning policy approach. Differing community views in relation to local planning policy may create significant challenges for individual local governments seeking to respond to those views while consistently implementing State policy.

The inclusion of updated flood mapping is analogous to the implementation of the Bushfire Management Overlay which was implemented through a streamlined Minister-led planning scheme amendment. It is appropriate that updated flood mapping be implemented in a similar, streamlined and coordinated manner.

Motion 6. Modification to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay [\(C2\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to work in partnership with Local Government to fund and implement modifications to the Victorian Planning Provisions to amend, and strengthen, the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to manage risk in coastal areas that are vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) identifies properties that may be affected by flood risk, however, the current Overlay features outdated data and does not adequately represent expected sea level rises or rainfall intensity.

State-wide coordination and updated flood mapping are needed to ensure additional lots are not created, and increased population densities are not encouraged, in potentially hazardous locations. Out-of-date flood maps mean that buyers may not have the information they need to make informed, risk-based, decisions about their potential land purchase. It could also mean they purchase in areas where dwellings would not be permissible if updated flood mapping were available.

This also presents a long-term risk to councils, who may have to deal with costly mitigation measures and remedial works.

An updated LSIO could be modelled on the Bushfire Management Overlay, which was amended to be a state-wide mechanism to identify potential bushfire risk.

Motion 7. Essential funding for growth areas [\(C3\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to highlight the importance of continued funding for infrastructure construction in the growth areas, including social and community infrastructure, through mechanisms such as returning the Growing Suburbs Fund to \$50m per annum.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

The recent announcements of decreased funding for growth area infrastructure, including the slashing of the essential Growing Suburbs fund may result in the creation of isolated, underserved communities on Melbourne’s outer fringe. A continued investment in growth area infrastructure is essential to support healthy communities.

Rationale

Melbourne’s growth areas have seen historic rates of growth over the previous twenty years. All of Melbourne’s growth corridors are now in full stages of development, with significant communities either already in residence, or soon due to move in.

The State Government has recent made a number of announcements and decisions which have highlighted a shift in commitment from growth area investment to inner-Melbourne densification. Concerningly, this is clearly resulting in a substantially decreased investment in infrastructure in Melbourne’s outer growth areas.

An exemplar of this shift has been the slashing of the Growing Suburbs Fund. This fund has been an essential source of funding for Councils to be able to deliver social and community infrastructure. Without this fund many communities would have been left without access to essential services and community building opportunities.

Melbourne’s growth areas have not ceased or slowed down. For example, the Northern Growth Corridor is likely to see, at a minimum, another 350,000 people over the coming decades. The development of these communities has already begun. By slashing funding, including the Growing Suburbs Fund, the State Government is leaving these communities at serious risk of existing without essential social, economic, and physical infrastructure.

Motion 8. Victorian Government financial support for Councils for infrastructure planning and delivery [\(C3\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to prioritise infrastructure and services funding for Growth Area Councils who are experiencing significant population growth.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

This motion relates to a recent shift in State Government policy and seeks funding to support Councils who may be worse off as a result.

Rationale

This prioritisation is required in light of the Victorian Governments increased focus on delivering on Plan Melbourne's goal of delivering 70 per cent of new housing in established areas.

Plan Melbourne, released in 2014, outlines the Victorian Government's plan to deliver 1.6 million homes over the next 35 years, while addressing housing affordability, housing diversity, and access to jobs and services. The Strategy includes a goal of distributing 70 per cent of the additional housing in Melbourne's established areas.

In 2023, Deputy Premier Jacinta Allan acknowledged that this ratio was not being met, and foreshadowed a change to the Victorian Government's approach to planning to drive growth in established areas in a bid to create a more liveable and sustainable Melbourne.

While this is a welcome move, delivering on Plan Melbourne, this can not come at the expense of other Councils still taking substantial rates of growth. All tiers of government are facing funding constraints, and the local government sector is not exempt. With rate capping, costs of labour and materials increase, and cost shifting putting pressure on budgets, Councils have limited access or ability to find other streams of revenue to fund the shortfall.

The Victorian Government's Victoria in Future document includes population projections to 2056, and is deemed the Government's official projections of population and households. Of the 11.2 million that the state's population is expected to grow to by 2056, 9 million will be located within Greater Melbourne, and 2.2 million in regional Victoria.

This highlights that significant growth will occur in established and inner-city Melbourne local government areas, growing by 2.7 per cent annually. Metropolitan growth areas will grow on average by 3 per cent each year, peri-urban areas by 1.8 per cent, and regional areas by 1.8 per cent also.

Local government is in need of appropriate, needs-based funding streams to support this growth right across Victoria, as increases in population growth will lead to increased demands for services and infrastructure – for the delivery of new infrastructure, as well as the upgrade of existing.

For example, in the 2023/24 Victorian State Budget, the Growing Suburbs Fund – a vital funding stream which has supported approximately 350 community infrastructure projects since its implementation in 2015 – was reduced from \$50 million a year to \$10 million, forcing Councils to find the funds to fill the gap. These challenges are also faced in service delivery, with services such as Universal Maternal and Child Health no longer being funded in a 50-50 split between Councils and the Victorian Government, with local governments now providing, on average, 70 per cent of the cost of delivering the service.

Motion 9. Planning reforms to give greater weight to environmental sustainability in the assessment process [\(C4\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to reform the Victorian Planning System to give greater weight to environmental sustainability in the assessment process, in line with the guidelines for sustainable buildings and subdivisions, developed by the Council Alliance for a Sustainable and Built Environment (CASBE).

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

When considering planning applications Councils have limited powers to assess applications according to environmental sustainability criteria.

Whilst individual councils do develop their own local planning schemes, each scheme is governed by over-arching controls including the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Victorian Planning Provisions

Changes to the planning provisions would strengthen the ability of councils to assess planning permit applications, and subdivision design, based on how well applications meet environmental sustainability criteria.

The Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) gives guidance on best practice standards for sustainable building and subdivision.

To achieve higher ratings for environmental sustainability, CASBE recommends buildings be assessed on elements such as daylight, natural ventilation, external shading, zero carbon development, water efficiency, stormwater management, site permeability and building materials.

In 2019 CASBE and the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) partnered to develop a sustainable subdivisions framework which identifies seven categories that contribute to better environmental performance within subdivisions: site layout and liveability, streets and public realm, energy, ecology, integrated water management, urban heat and circular economy.

This motion calls for reforms to the Victorian Planning System that give greater weight to environmental sustainability criteria in the assessment process.

Motion 10. Aligning the Victorian Planning Framework to Government Climate Change Policy [\(C4\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the Victorian Planning Framework to better align with the State's current stance on climate change mitigation and prevention of heat island effect. Opportunities to do this include progressing with the amendment to introduce elevating ESD targets in the planning scheme project, and enabling greater control over percentages of adequate private and public tree canopy coverage.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 4: Changing climate and a circular economy
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

Significance to local government

The Victorian Planning Framework directs and informs a range of key outcomes for planning and development. Considering the ever increase impacts of climate change it is essential that the Framework aligns with the State's Climate Change policies and actively works to prevent the heat island effect. The elevating ESD targets in the planning scheme.

Rationale

Planning and development have a significant role in addressing and responding to the increasing impacts of climate change. As climate change continues to pose significant challenges, it is essential that the planning framework clearly aligns with policies and strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Urban heath islands occur where development replaces green or open spaces with concentrations of buildings, roads or other hard surfaces. The effect increases localised temperatures and negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of communities. It is essential that the Victorian Planning Framework actively considers and requires the implementation of efforts to minimise this effect.

A review of the Victorian Planning Framework is required to ensure that suitable provisions are included to enable better, more climate responsive outcomes. This review should be wholistic and include the broad range of potential solutions, including percentages of public and private green space and tree canopy cover, and any other effective measures which align with current climate change policies and strategies.

Motion 11. Windfall Gains Tax [\(C5\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Northern Grampians Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian State Government to revoke application of the Windfall Gains Tax in rural communities. The tax serves as a significant disincentive for rural councils to implement appropriate strategic planning measures to ensure provision of adequate residential, commercial, and industrial land for future development and further disengages commercial developers from rural markets leading to substantial market failure.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

The tax serves as a significant disincentive for rural councils to implement appropriate strategic planning measures to ensure provision of adequate residential, commercial, and industrial land for future development and further disengages commercial developers from rural markets leading to substantial market failure.

Rationale

The tax serves as a significant disincentive for rural councils to implement appropriate strategic planning measures to ensure provision of adequate residential, commercial, and industrial land for future development and further disengages commercial developers from rural markets leading to substantial market failure.

Housing is consistently raised as the biggest barrier to economic growth. Investment in residential and commercial development is critical to leveraging opportunities and unlocking the potential in rural areas. In particular, renewed investment in housing is needed to meet existing shortfall in housing diversity and to enable planned business expansions. If current housing supply trends continue, it is estimated that there will be shortfall of 220 housing in Northern Grampians alone.

Slim profit margins (by comparison to larger regional centres and metropolitan areas) have long been among the barriers to securing the level of investment needed in housing development. The Windfall Gains Tax (WGT) has exacerbated this issue, acting as a further disincentive to rezoning and development.

The application of the Windfall Gains Tax in rural areas will disengage commercial developers from rural markets and will lead to substantial market failure and the deterioration of life in rural communities.

Motion 12. Call to revoke Windfall Gains Tax in rural Victoria [\(C5\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Ararat Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian State Government to revoke application of the Windfall Gains Tax in rural communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

The tax serves as a significant disincentive for rural Councils to implement appropriate strategic planning measures to ensure provision of adequate residential, commercial, and industrial land for future development and further disengages commercial developers from rural markets leading to substantial market failure.

The intention of the motion is to call on the MAV to lobby the Victorian State Government to revoke the Windfall Gain Tax (WGT) in rural municipalities. The WGT has significant unintended consequences on the viability and future growth of rural communities. The two critical impacts are: acting as a disincentive around land development and; negatively impacting Councils' capacities to undertake appropriate strategic land use planning to ensure long term access to residential, industrial, and commercial land supply.

This is most evident when seeking to make provision for residential, industrial, or commercial growth. This growth will most likely to take place through rezoning farmland resulting in significant economic uplift and a subsequent levying of WGT. This will result in two key impacts:

- It will provide an additional disincentive for developers to engage in rural communities. Already faced with smaller margins on development, thin markets and partial market failure, the imposition of a WGT will create an environment stifling investment.
- It will act as a significant disincentive for Councils to undertake strategic planning scheme review and rezoning to make provision for future growth and development. This will create a current impost on affected rural landowners for future, potential uplift in land value. This will lead to short-term thinking about rezoning and land availability.

There was a Motion at the previous MAV State Council meeting in relation to the WGT. That motion related to how levied funds would be distributed rather than revocation in rural municipalities. The two motions are significantly different in content and intent.

Motion 13. Addressing Windfall Gains Tax in rural areas [\(C5\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Towong Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to:

1. Exempt properties within rural municipalities from incurring Windfall Gains Tax should the properties be rezoned from Rural Activity Zone to Rural Living Zone to ensure development and growth in rural municipalities is not stifled because the Windfall Gains Tax makes development cost prohibitive;
2. Exempt townships in rural municipalities where there is limited availability of developable land from Windfall Gains Tax, to ensure development in rural townships is not cost prohibitive; and
3. Should exemptions for rural municipalities not be granted, redirect any Windfall Gains Tax collected within rural municipalities to the communities from where the tax was collected.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

The WGT applies to specific zones with many exemptions for residential and growth areas of Melbourne. The equivalent exemptions do not apply for rural areas where the most significant proportion of land surrounding townships is zoned Rural Activity Zone.

WGT is likely to impact residents in rural municipalities in the following ways:

- Much of the developable land that is fit for housing and generally poorer-quality agricultural land is currently zoned Rural Activity Zone and located immediately surrounding or near to townships. Rezoning to Rural Living Zone from Rural Activity Zone will trigger the WGT;
- There is a lack of distinction between the potential for a large-scale development and a small-scale development within the existing design of the WGT;
- The additional cost to developers may make the prospect of developing in rural areas cost prohibitive. This will undermine our ability to make our towns more sustainable through small-scale growth;
- The WGT doesn't consider the level of previous rezoning in a municipality and its relationship to the resources available for strategic planning;

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- Most residents cannot afford the Tax and may be forced to sell their land. This may inadvertently destroy long-standing family connections with the community and the land; and
- There is no requirement for the collected WGT to be spent in the community where it is levied. This undermines the ability of communities to have critical infrastructure built to shore up their future, particularly for essential services such as potable water and sewer.

Motion 14. Improved Community Access to Underutilised Land and Broader Community Open Space Needs [\(C6\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: [Glen Eira City Council](#)

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to support councils and communities to improve community access to underutilised land, and meet broader community open space needs by:

1. mandating higher minimum public open space requirements as part of any state-approved planning proposal;
2. reforming joint-use agreements to provide greater public access to public school grounds to meet broader community open space needs; and
3. ensuring greater local government involvement in Victorian Government planning decisions to identify new opportunities for open space, particularly as part of large infrastructure projects.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Planning for projected population growth in municipalities across Victoria and the increasing open space requirements for their communities is a major challenge for most councils. Acknowledging the varying degrees of open space availability is important to ensure equitable access to open space for all residents. For example, Glen Eira's population is expected to grow to more than 180,600 by 2036 but Glen Eira has the lowest amount of open space per capita in metropolitan Melbourne.

Open space is highly valued by communities across Victoria, and our parks are places where communities meet, build relationships, and strengthen their ties to the neighbourhood. We need the Victorian Government's support to unlock and create more open space to accommodate the evolving needs and expectations of our vibrant and growing community. This involves developing and creating spaces with a mix of passive and active areas that are inclusive, fit-for-purpose, and flexible. More open space will foster healthy, happy and engaged neighbourhoods across our state, where people want to live now and into the future.

Open space can play a role in mitigating the effects of climate change, build resilience and overall well-being of communities. These spaces serve as a natural buffer against extreme weather events, absorbing excess rainfall and reducing the risk of flooding. Moreover, well-designed open

spaces can act as green corridors, fostering biodiversity and providing habitats for wildlife that support ecosystem health and adaptation.

It's increasingly difficult for local government alone to increase open space provision. This is because:

- the cost of creating new open spaces is increasing, with inflation, increasing property values and ballooning cost of materials and labour;
- some state transport projects reduce open space, such as the Northeast Link Project, which will result in the loss of seven hectares of open space;
- the funding we receive through the Subdivision Act isn't going as far to purchase land for open space;
- 'build to rent' projects often aren't subdivided — creating more demand with fewer returns; and
- housing prices are a barrier to increasing contributions over new development targeted toward open space.

A lack of available space is also presenting significant challenges for sporting clubs and their ability to expand their activities and accommodate new members or teams. As open space reaches its capacity, it limits the opportunities for individuals who want to engage in sport and recreation.

Many councils in Victoria face financial constraints in acquiring and developing new open spaces, so they need to partner with the Victorian Government to create parks and open space infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing populations. The Victorian Government needs to commit to adopting a whole-of-government approach to address the open space needs of all councils in Victoria. Given the financial constraints of the Victorian Government, this needs to be through policy reform, not just funding streams.

Mandating higher minimum public open space requirements as part of any state-approved planning proposal will:

- provide a proactive approach to creating healthier, more sustainable and enjoyable communities;
- support Council with policy that reflects a commitment to the well-being of residents and the environment;
- play a crucial role in preserving natural habitats and biodiversity; and
- help provide equitable access to green space, regardless of economic status.

Reforming joint-use agreements to provide greater public access to public school grounds to meet broader community open space needs will:

- offer a viable solution to this problem, particularly since many school sites and facilities are situated in areas that lack open space;
- motivate schools to allow community access, particularly for after-hours access, when there is potentially less interruption for schools; and

- secure community access to open space using a collaborative approach.

Ensuring greater local government involvement in Victorian Government planning decisions to identify new opportunities for open space, particularly as part of large infrastructure projects will:

- ensure that those directly affected by projects have a say in identifying open space needs for the area. Local governments are the closest to the communities they represent. By involving them in planning decisions, it fosters a more participatory decision-making process and leads to solutions that better reflect the needs of the people;
- enhance liveability, as large infrastructure projects often have a significant impact on local landscapes. Open space is crucial to include in planning for these projects to enhance liveability. This can include urban green corridors with shared trails, recreational facilities or pocket parks;
- guide future development and preservation efforts, as including councils in open space planning improves the likelihood of incorporating sustainable principles into the decision-making process, which factors in local council infrastructure and available service offerings. This can include considerations for green infrastructure, water management, and energy-efficient designs; and
- ensure that a 'value add' is considered and committed to at the early stages of planning.

Motion 15. Open Space within metropolitan Melbourne [\(C6\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes ongoing concerns regarding the provision of open space in developing areas and that established open space frameworks, like Fishermans Bend, be honoured in any future State Government planning changes; and
2. Notes that open space remains a critical consideration in developing our State to ensure liveability and to promote good health of residents.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Open Space ensures communities are liveable for residents. Properly planned open space can offer economic benefits for traders, social benefits for dog walkers and families, health and wellbeing benefits for sports players and runners and environmental benefits for our municipality and our State.

As areas of our state further develop and our population within Metropolitan Melbourne continues to grow, the availability of and commitment to further open space must remain a key consideration for State Government and stakeholders.

Motion 16. Proposed planning reforms [\(C7\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That State Council call on the State Government to:

1. Ensure that any proposed changes to planning powers should be done in direct consultation with the local government sector.
2. Ensure planning powers for local planning decisions remain in the hands of local governments to guarantee the best planning decisions for their communities, present and future.
3. Provide a commitment that, if a reform package is pursued, it will not cost shift to the local government sector.
4. Ensure that any reforms protect the voice of community who deserve to have a say in what directly affects their homes and shapes their municipality.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Yarra City Council is concerned over reports that a reform package to streamline and fast track developments may be reconsidered by the State Government to address the housing crisis. Council wants to ensure that any considerations to reduce or diminish council planning powers is avoided and extensive consultation with the sector is conducted before reform decisions are made. Taking planning powers away from councils removes the voice of community who deserve to have a say in what directly affects their homes and shapes their municipality.

According to data collected by the Department of Transport and Planning, local governments have approved more than 85% of planning applications in the current financial year with refusals only making up about 3% of total applications. Specifically, Yarra City Council refusals only make up 2% of all planning applications received.

Council would like to reaffirm that local governments are best placed to make planning decisions for their communities due to their extensive and nuanced knowledge of local areas and will act in the best interests of current and future residents. Any proposed changes to planning powers should be done in direct consultation with the local government sector.

Motion 17. Keep Local Democracy on Planning Decisions [\(C7\)](#)

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Mansfield Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to not implement IBAC Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Operation Sandon Report due to fact that this would take away the ability of local communities to exercise their democratic rights on local planning matters that may impact on them.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 5: Sector capability and good governance
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

The Minister currently has the power to call in planning items and there is an established Planning Panel process.

Replacing permit application decisions being decided in the Council chamber, with an independent panel process that is removed from the local context would:

- Remove council's accountability to the community on planning matters.
- Leave communities thinking they can influence through council, when they cannot.
- Would damage local democratic processes, whereby the community can have an influence through their council's consideration of contentious matters.

Motion 18. Public Library Grants - Erosion of Library Services to Community [\(C8\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes the State Government Grants for public libraries are frozen at 2022/23 levels;
 - a) that this means funding for public libraries is effectively being further cost-shifted onto Local Government;
 - b) that Local Government now bears 80% of the cost of this invaluable community service because of cost shifting; and,
2. Calls on the Victorian Government to commit to:
 - a) not place additional responsibilities on local government without a sustainable revenue stream to support them;
 - b) revisit this recent decision that has resulted in further cost-shifting onto local government; and
 - c) restore the level of public library funding by increasing the 2023/24 public library grant to the original partnership arrangements of equal 50/50%.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils
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

The sector's understanding is that in the 1970's State Government and Local Government funding contributions to Council-run Library services was on a 50/50 shared basis.

Over time the State Government share of operating grant contribution has been decimated with an overall decline in State Government funding of 11% from the 1970's to 1986/86 and a further 19% between 1985/86 to 2023/24 financial years.

#Funding Contribution %	1970's	^1985/96	*2008/09	^2023/24
State Government	50	39	23	20
Local Government	50	61	77	80

#Includes State Government grant and Council funded contribution, not including operating income

* All Victorian Public Libraries Source: pp 22, Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries, State Library of Victoria (March 2011)

^Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation/Your Library Limited

In recent years, the State Government has driven the move from Regional Library Corporations to Beneficial Enterprises using the Local Government Act 2020. The Eastern Regional Libraries has instigated and is the second in the State to achieve that State Government direction, however as outlined in continual MAV motions over the past number of decades, the most recent outlined below, the State Government grant contributions have and do not support this State Government Policy direction and legislative requirements:

13 May 2016 - Public Library Funding

That the Municipal Association of Victoria continue to press and lobby the Victorian Government for improved recurrent and capital library funding, including the urgent review of the current funding mechanisms to return to an equitable funding model between local and State Government.

19 May 2023 - Regional Library Corporation Transition

That the MAV:

1. Notes that regional library corporations are largely funded by their member Councils.
2. Notes that the Local Government Act 2020 requires existing regional library corporations to be wound up by 30 June 2031, which is 10 years after the commencement of section 110 of the Act.
3. Notes that the cost to transition to an alternate management model may be significant and will be borne by the regional library corporations and their member Councils.
4. Supports regional library corporations and their member Councils to advocate to the Victorian Government for resources, both financial and other support, to transition to alternative model.

14 October 2022 - Extension of public library funding for programs, reduction of poker machine hours

That the MAV State Council:

1. notes with concerns that Victoria has approximately 500 poker machine venues which collectively are expected to drain more than \$3.2 billion from gamblers in 2022 with many of these losses occurring at un-sociable hours because more than 100 of these venues operate the legally maximum 140 hours a week or 20 hours a day.
2. contrasts this with the 291 public libraries in Victoria, many of which are open less than 40 hours a week, partly because State Government funding of council-owned libraries has steadily fallen to below 20% of the cost, despite the constraints imposed on councils by rate-capping over the past 6 years.

At a recent Your Library Board meeting the Member Council Directors agreed to instigate advocacy actions to ensure the State Government is aware that the current funding is inadequate.

Motion 19. Victorian Government Funding of Public Libraries [\(C8\)](#)

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Knox City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to reverse its decision to freeze the level of grants for public libraries in 2023/24 and commit to restoring its funding contribution to 50% of the service cost.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes	
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils	
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	

Significance to local government

The motion aligns with the MAV strategic priority of 'economically sound councils' and is of significance to local government because of the role councils across the State play in operating library services, either directly or through library corporations / beneficial enterprises.

Rationale

The Victorian Government has advised that its funding for library services in 2023/24 will be held at 2022/23 levels, with no indexation to reflect the increasing costs of service provision. This follows an increase in funding of just 2% in the 2022/23 year. Across these two years, the Victorian Government's funding increase of 2% compares with an estimated increase in CPI of around 10%.

This reduction in the Victorian Government's share of library funding continues a downward trend that has existed over many years. Historically, the Victorian Government and local governments shared the cost of providing library services on a 50/50 basis. Cost shifting over time has now resulted in the Victorian Government's share of funding reducing to around 20%, and local government's share increasing to around 80%. With local governments increasingly subject to constrained finances in a rate-capped environment, it will simply not be possible to maintain service levels in this critical community service.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY MOTIONS (NOT CONSOLIDATED)

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

Motion 20. Candidate resources for 2024 Local Government elections

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 5: Sector capability and good governance
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

It was clear in the 2020 Local Government Elections that candidates were insufficiently equipped to campaign effectively and were insufficiently prepared to take on the role of Councillor once elected. Data relating to complaints made during the election period and the number of Councillor resignations (44 to date) throughout the current term. Adequate resources will better prepare Councillors for campaigning and to take on the role of Councillor if elected.

Motion 21. Increasing amount and diversity of housing stock in Victoria

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for the State to conduct an in-depth examination of a range of strategies to streamline the existing planning processes and explore alternative approaches to increase and diversify the housing stock across Victoria.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

The current housing crisis is highlighting the serious state-wide lack of affordable housing. A detailed examination of the current Victorian Planning Framework could identify ways in which the availability and diversity of housing stock could be increased.

Rationale

Victoria is currently dealing with a housing crisis which is impacting communities state-wide. Coupled with increased cost of living due to the ongoing impact of inflation, many families across the state are struggling to find appropriate, affordable accommodation.

The Victorian Government has a responsibility to review the existing planning processes to consider opportunities to alleviate any impediments in the process. This review should focus on the twin principles of increasing both supply and diversity. This would support better outcomes with regards to the issue of both affordable and appropriate housing.

One opportunity may be for the development of a single unified planning framework. A single unified planning framework would set a standardized approach towards establishing a more diverse and acceptable housing typology based on the key criteria of being social, sustainable, and affordable. Without such a framework, the current system between state and local government is disjointed, and confusing for a range of key stakeholders including developers, landowners and community housing providers.

Motion 22. Targeted approaches to delivering Maternal Child Health services

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

The State Upper House will soon be undertaking an Inquiry into Local Government Finances.

A key component of the inquiry will be to examine councils' capacity to undertake statutory obligations, including Maternal Child Health (MCH) services.

There are persistent challenges facing MCH services, including chronic workforce shortages and unsustainable funding models that have increasingly shifted costs onto Councils, alongside increased obligations.

While the sector has advocated on these issues, in line with recent MAV State Council resolutions, the Victorian Government has not effectively addressed them.

For instance, the sector has advocated for an increase to Key Age and Stage (KAS) consultation times to accommodate the substantial volume of additional requirements introduced over the past decade, as well as restoration of the universal 50:50 funding agreement. While the Victorian Government confirmed an increase to consultation hours from 6.75 to 8 in the 2023-24 Budget, it has not increased the MCH unit cost. As such, there remains a growing cost gap for councils and strain on an already stretched workforce.

Given these challenges, it is critical that the inquiry considers:

- The changing policy context for MCH services,
- Developing a policy or framework that provides:
 - flexibility, and enables Councils to implement targeted service approaches that prioritise access to families likely to gain the greatest benefit, and
 - direction and support to maintain services through other innovative means, such as reallocating some KAS responsibilities to kindergarten services with the expansion of three-year-old kinder.

STATE COUNCIL

It is our recommendation that the MAV elevate these critical services challenges and innovation opportunities through the process of the inquiry, so that councils can continue to deliver quality services that are sustainable into the future.

STANDARD PRIORITY MOTIONS

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 23. Alternate approval pathway for pedestrian works

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

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

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

In February 2023, Transport for NSW issued a temporary delegation of its powers under the Roads Act 1993, and an authorisation under the Road Transport Act 2013, to give councils an alternative approval pathway for certain types of pedestrian works.

Subject to conditions, councils are able to design and implement the following:

1. works to enable alfresco dining on a road (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes)
2. continuous footpaths
3. converting existing zebra crossings to raised wombat crossings
4. mid-block treatments to manage vehicle speed including road humps, road cushions, chicanes and slow points
5. pedestrian crossings
6. pedestrian refuges
7. 'No Stopping' controls at intersections
8. kerb buildouts to reduce intersection crossing distance or manage vehicle speed (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes)
9. kerb modifications for footpath improvements or tree planting (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes)
10. associated changes to kerbside parking necessary to implement the proposal and to offset any parking impacts.

In Victoria, the Department of Planning and Transport requires councils to obtain sign off on many pedestrian works, including those listed in this notice of motion. This causes significant delays in the implementation of much needed pedestrian infrastructure, including on projects that have already been through rigorous design and consultation at the council level, and that are funded by local residents and ratepayers through the council budget.

Projects in the City of Yarra, and other councils, have been delayed by months, and are often delayed by up to a year. The current approval process prevents councils from taking timely action to make their streets safer and more walkable.

Motion 24. Bus Network Reforms

Submitting Council: **Manningham City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Melbourne’s bus network carries around 135 million passenger per year on more than 400 bus routes. Buses are the closest public transport mode for Melbournians, with over 80% of homes being within 400 metres of a local bus route.

The State Government acknowledges the important role of buses in the public transport system. On 13 June 2021 Transport Minister Ben Carroll MP launched the Victorian Bus Plan (“Plan”). The Plan identifies actions to deliver a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network that increases the number of passengers.

To help inform the bus network reform, the Department of Transport and Planning undertook consultations in late 2022 for pilot projects in Melbourne’s northern suburbs, Melbourne’s north-eastern suburbs and Mildura. The findings were released in May 2023, via the Victorian Bus Reform consultation summary report. Common themes included a need for more frequent bus services, improved reliability and better connectivity to other suburbs, trains, and activity centres. Manningham, the only Melbourne municipality not served by trains or trams, was among the first areas to have their bus service reviewed.

Motion 25. Changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions in relation to the use of car stackers

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Kingston City Council is concerned in relation the useability, functionality and design of car stackers within new developments. In February 2023 Council wrote to all metropolitan Councils seeking feedback in relation their experiences in relation the use of car stackers.

Overwhelmingly the feedback provided by other Councils has indicated a range of common issues relating their use, functionality and operation. This includes a lack of DDA compliance, no ability to provide for EV charging, reliability and maintenance concerns and low usage once installed.

The Victoria Planning Provisions should be amended, or new Planning Practice Note prepared to provide clear direction addressing these issues and to ensure that the provision of car stackers is not seen simply as a means of achieving an arbitrary car parking rate within a new development at the expense of future residents.

Motion 26. Golf Course Land Planning Guidelines

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Kingston City Council has concerns regarding the useability of the Golf Course Guidelines and consider they are not an efficient or adequate tool for assessing golf course rezoning proposals. The Guidelines provide additional steps to the consideration of planning scheme changes, with no demonstrable benefit. Council has identified several issues which require further consideration:

- The Guidelines do not provide sufficient weight or consideration of the role that Golf Course land can play in contributing to open space networks, projects that assist in addressing the State Government renewable energy targets and opportunities to counteract the urban heat island effect.
- The Guidelines are unable to properly guide decision making for proposals that can have significant impacts on environmental values associated with golf course land.
- The Guidelines do not provide sufficient direction on how proponents properly demonstrate a need for conversion of the land, including that the land is surplus to golfing in a range of the contemporary forms in which it is increasingly being presented.
- The Guidelines require community consultation to be undertaken when its likely that the proponent has already predetermined the optimal development outcome that they are likely to pursue.

Motion 27. Maintenance of Freeway and Arterial Roads

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Kingston City Council is concerned about the condition of Freeways and Arterial Roads. Since mid-2022, the condition of many Freeways and Arterial Roads have dramatically deteriorated. Many serious surface defects are left untreated which can lead to vehicle damage and/or accidents caused by motorist attempting to navigate around these defective areas.

Motion 28. Strengthening the RRV Roads Management Plan

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

The State Government has a responsibility to provide safe and resilient roads, State-wide. The current RRV Roads Management Plan fails to meet community standards and should be strengthened.

Rationale

The 2022 Victorian Flood event was a devastating event which highlighted vulnerabilities across numerous domains. High amongst the flaws exposed was the weakness and condition of the State's Road network.

The RRV Roads Management Plan is a key driver for the management and maintenance of roads across Victoria. Despite its importance, the current plan fails to meet community expectations. Communities highlight the proliferation of potholes and other deterioration on State owned and managed roads.

The RRV Roads Management Plan needs to be strengthened to improve the maintenance and management outcomes for the state's road network. Any changes to the Management Plan should include an increased focus on drainage.

A strengthened Management Plan would provide Victoria with safer, more resilient roads. This will provide ongoing benefits for communities, and help to ensure that our roads are more prepared for future emergency events.

Motion 29. Council Compliance Framework uniformity in Victoria

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Lead a coordinated approach to development of a regulatory and compliance framework and technology to support Victorian councils to effectively respond to their extensive and diverse legislative compliance requirements in an efficient manner.
2. Consider previous examples such as Queensland in the development of such a framework.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	Strategy Priority 5: Sector capability and good governance
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

Every year, Victorian councils are required to comply with many legislative requirements alongside changes to various regulations, government policies and guidelines and internal standards.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit & Risk Committee have a responsibility to monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with the overarching governance principles, the Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions and any other relevant laws and regulations.

Currently, there is no Victorian State guidance from the MAV for Councils on setting up a Local Government Compliance Framework. An agreed legislative compliance approach would enable all Victorian Councils to promptly identify issues, manage risk and assure accountability. Effective legislative compliance supports good decision-making and is driven by a compliance culture with controls across key compliance focus areas. In Queensland, the Local Government Association of Queensland have provided guidance for all Councils through a Legislation Compliance Service.

Motion 30. Maggolee partnership and advocacy for local government’s involvement in Treaty implementation

Submitting Council: Moonee Valley City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or ‘Other – Of significance to Local Government’	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Significance to local government

Maggolee partnership will help produce model policies and best practice guidelines on Local Government changes relating to issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with statewide relevance.

MAV's establishment of a relationship with the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria will keep the membership informed of the progress of Treaty negotiations.

Call for MAV's advocacy to the State Government to involve the local government sector in designing a Treaty implementation program aimed at supporting positive local outcomes in the sector.

Rationale

Promotion of the Maggolee website and resources will assist local government sector in the journey of reconciliation and making positive changes relating to issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with statewide relevance.

The motion also calls up MAV as the peak body of the sector to establish a relationship with the First People Assembly of Victoria and advocate to the Victorian Government for local government sector's involvement in designing a Treaty implementation program aimed at supporting positive local outcomes in the sector.

Motion 31. Maintenance of state-managed roads

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

(Wodonga City Council has confirmed that a rationale will not be provided for this motion.)

Motion 32. Regional health services

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

(Wodonga City Council has confirmed that a rationale will not be provided for this motion.)

Motion 33. Surplus state-owned land

Submitting Council: **Wodonga City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to undertake rezoning where required and progress the immediate sale of all unused VicTrack and other state-owned land within town and city centres to:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils
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

(Wodonga City Council has confirmed that a rationale will not be provided for this motion.)

Motion 34. Funding advocacy for critical roads and bridges

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment.
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

Council identified motion as repetitive, and while there have been similar previous motions, MAV have identified none as the same.

This motion calls for the MAV to meet with the Premier and Minister for Local Government to urgently request a redirection of a significant portion of the funding previously allocated to the 2026 Commonwealth Games to critical roads and infrastructure projects in small rural and regional shires.

Rural shires like Strathbogie Shire have been devastated by the effect of ongoing wet weather and major flooding in October 2022. Not only have our roads been significantly impacted, but so too have the Victorian Governments Road network.

Strathbogie Shire now has road surfaces across the region which have deteriorated to a point they are impossible to navigate without significant reductions in speed. This is not just frustrating for the community; it is a safety concern.

Roads and infrastructure projects in rural and regional areas are not 'nice to have'.

Strathbogie Shire welcomes the Victorian Governments commitment to deliver a comprehensive \$2 billion package to regional Victoria and applauds the commitment of \$1 billion to social and affordable housing. While Council understands and wholeheartedly supports the significant benefits of sport in Strathbogie Shire and throughout Victoria, rural and regional communities need safe roads and bridges to get people there.

This motion calls for MAV to advocate to the Minister for Local Government and other relevant Ministers for a reallocation of funding earmarked for sporting upgrades, to critical roads and bridge projects in small rural and regional shires. Please make safe roads and bridges the lasting legacy for all Victorians.

Over the past three years the Strathbogie Shire Council has seen a substantial increase in extreme weather such as localised hurricanes, increased wind, increased rain events and a flood in October 2022.

The increase of rain due to three years of La Nina and the October 2022 flood event has seen the unsealed and sealed road network deteriorate at a higher rate than previously experienced.

Strathbogie Shire has 2,210km of roads – 1,465km unsealed and 748km sealed. Council also maintain and renew 521 bridges and major culverts. Maintenance and renewal of this extensive road network including culverts is a significant ask on a small rural Council, even when conditions are good.

Before the floods we had 227.68km of road that had been affected by ongoing wet weather requiring a re-sheet, equating to \$14,799,070 to restore it back to the condition it was three years ago.

Post flooding, we estimate the damage bill could be three times this amount – reaching as high as \$50 million.

Council officers are working around the clock, yet we are not keeping up.

We've been forced to enact the force majeure clauses in our Road Management and Tree Management plans. We simply cannot provide the service levels outlined in these plans.

The flood event also forced the closure of the historic Kirwans Bridge.

An engineers' report completed post flood has found the bridge is structurally compromised and not safe for use by vehicles.

The news has been devastating for the Kirwans Bridge community and users of the bridge. We know how important access across the bridge is to residents and visitors.

We're grateful that we've been working with a passionate group of residents, the Kirwans Bridge Community Panel, to identify the best long-term solution for the bridge.

Through this work, we have now identified, designed, and costed the preferred option that will ensure a long-term sustainable future for this essential bridge.

However, we need funding from government to make this community driven solution a reality.

Roads and infrastructure projects in small rural and regional areas are not 'nice to have'.

Roads and infrastructure projects in small rural shires like Strathbogie Shire are critical.

We need funding to ensure our roads are safe, our bridges are useable and we are more resilient in the future.

Motion 35. Accessibility of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Merri-bek City Council

Motion:

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

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is a relatively new and rapidly developing area. To meet our carbon targets, in addition to encouraging more walking, cycling and public transport, Australia will require a dramatic increase in the number of public electric vehicle chargers. We must ensure that such infrastructure is fully accessible to people with a range of disabilities, and that poor practice is not locked in and deployed at scale.

This is a big issue which doesn't appear to have been thought about. Some EV charging stations are on slopes. Some have a bad set-up at the rear of a car. Many people with disability drive themselves without having anyone else in the car to assist them.

Public charging bays in Australia are guided by electrical and road layout Australian Standards, but these do not currently address accessibility issues. Such issues might include the space required around charging bays, the height at which the charging cable is stored, and ease of movement between the bay and the charger (a UK standard does exist which covers such issues, and this could provide useful guidance).

We note that the National Electric Vehicle Strategy, released in April 2023, states that:

“The (Federal) Government will collaborate with state and territory governments to ensure a national approach on:

National standards – to encourage national consistency around standards which impact the effective uptake and use of EVs, like ... accessibility

The role for governments includes ensuring consistent national standards, like accessibility standards for people living with disability, and interoperability standards for charging infrastructure.”

We encourage the Victorian State Government to work with Federal Government in actioning this quickly, to provide accessible charging for all and to make sure no one gets left behind in the transition to zero-carbon transport.

In the interim, local government can commit to sharing knowledge and developing best practice in this space through existing groups and to relevant industry partners (e.g., charging operators and installers). This process has already begun through the inter-council Electric Vehicle working group, which brings together officers from Victorian LGAs.

Motion 36. Mental Health

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV requests that the Victorian Government:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Mental health is a significant issue in the state of Victoria. The ABS Census 2021 reported 570,000 Victorians with mental health conditions, which represents 22.8% of the state’s population. 23.4% of adults in Victoria also had high levels of physiological distress (Victorian Public Health Survey 2020) an increase from 18.1% in 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to mental health issues for Victorians. 82% of young people had experienced mental health issues during COVID-19, including anxiety (75%), depression (62%), and eating disorder symptoms such as binge eating (36%) (VicHealth 2021). Cost of living impacts is also contributing to mental stress for residents across the state. Local food agencies have also seen a significant increase in demand with 312 tonnes of food provided by Foodbank in the last 12 months (Foodbank Australia 2023).

This motion aligns with the MAV Strategy 2021-25, Theme 2 – Healthy, Diverse and Thriving Community. Strengthening the ability of councils to undertake community well-being planning, implementation and partnership development through key strategic activities particularly in the emerging area of mental health and wellbeing. This motion also aligns with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023 which includes mental health wellbeing as one of its 10 key priorities.

Motion 37. Support for the Small Business Community

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

The MAV requests the Victorian Government to provide financial support, including grant programs, to members of the business community experiencing financial stress.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Businesses, particularly locally owned small business are currently facing increasing cost of living pressures, particularly due to inflation. This has a flow on effect in other areas, including those affected by mortgage stress, where discretionary spending will likely decrease dramatically. In addition to this, businesses will still be impacted by increasing costs of utilities and supply chain issues.

Motion 38. Construction of Melbourne Airport Rail

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

The idea of an airport rail for Melbourne was first raised in 1958. There is also increasing support for the airport rail to be built, with a recent Victorian government survey indicating 80% support for its delivery.

Airport accessibility and connectivity are common hallmarks of a thriving global city. Whilst the majority of the world's busiest airports have mass transit connections, Melbourne Airport is one of only 17 major international airports with no rail connection. Critically, the road network servicing Melbourne Airport is insufficient to sustain its long-term growth, which is forecast to double to more than 76 million by 2042.

The timely delivery of Melbourne Airport Rail is key to ensuring efficient, reliable, equitable and sustainable access to and from Melbourne Airport for Victorians and visitors to Victoria. The Tullamarine Freeway already experiences high levels of congestion in peak periods and is set to reach 90% capacity in 2036. Whereas in peak periods, the Melbourne Airport Rail is expected to deliver a faster journey of only 30 minutes between Melbourne Airport and the CBD.

Importantly, the Melbourne Airport Rail will form part of an integrated transport network that will further reduce road congestion and pollution through the metropolitan and regional rail connections and will contribute toward Australia becoming a net zero economy.

A delay or withdrawal of government funding for the Melbourne Airport Rail will require substantial investment to increase road capacity to cater for the forecast growth of Melbourne Airport, with negative flow on impacts on the Victorian visitor economy.

Motion 39. Upgrading the Calder Freeway

Submitting Council: **Brimbank City Council**

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to release the business case for future improvements to the Calder Freeway transport corridor and to commit funding to:

- a) Upgrade the Calder Freeway between Western Ring Road (M80) and the Melton Highway to bring it up to freeway standard by adding lanes from Keilor Park Drive to Melton Highway and widening the Maribyrnong River Bridge
- b) Construct a full diamond interchange at the intersection of the Calder Freeway and Calder Park Drive
- c) Duplicate Calder Park Drive between the Calder Freeway and the Melton Highway

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

The Calder Freeway provides the primary road connection between Melbourne and Bendigo, and the agricultural Loddon Mallee region of Victoria. Despite its strategic economic importance to Victoria and its significance as a major arterial servicing Melbourne's west, the Calder Freeway is one of Victoria's most dangerous roads. Between 2015 and 2023, the stretch of the Calder Freeway between the Western Ring Road and Gap Road in Sunbury experienced 198 Crashes, of which 82 were classed as serious and five lives were lost. Contributing factors include:

- Inconsistent speed limits
- Absence of emergency lanes
- Absence of a freeway standard interchange at Calder Park Drive
- Uneven road surfaces throughout the Brimbank section of the Freeway

In addition, Infrastructure Australia's 2019 Report found that the Calder Freeway was the 7th most congested road in Australia during the morning peak, and the 9th most congested in the afternoon peak, costing the economy over \$100 million per year.

In recent years, a total of \$100 million was jointly committed by the Federal and State Governments towards upgrading the Calder Freeway, including the development of a business to examine a potential future interchange at Calder Park Drive as well as other road upgrades. Given that the business case has been completed, Council is urging the State Government to no longer stall this very important project.

Motion 40. Addressing planning barriers for regional workers accommodation

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or ‘Other – Of significance to Local Government’	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

A lack of worker accommodation has created significant problems for industries across Victoria, particularly for agricultural businesses that have struggled to attract both permanent and seasonal workers.

The Victorian Government’s recent announcement of an additional \$150 million for regional workers accommodation will go some way to addressing this problem.

However, accommodation shortages will remain, particularly in regional parts of peri-urban areas where rural worker accommodation is subject to a planning permit process in the Green Wedge zones.

The Commonwealth’s Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme (PALM scheme) – which is critical to facilitating the agricultural industry’s seasonal workforce – requires that host farmers and labour hire companies comply with any regulations required by the state, territory or local government/council (for example fire safety, overcrowding).

Furthermore, in 2022, the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2020 definition of prescribed accommodation was expanded to include accommodation provided as part of a labour agreement. This means that all farmers that provide accommodation to seasonal workers as part of their working agreement must be registered under the Act and comply with the minimum standards for prescribed accommodation outlined in the Public Health and Wellbeing (Prescribed Accommodation) Regulations 2020.

These requirements make it clear what is expected of farmers and labour hire providers. Combined with the Victorian Government’s investment, there is an opportunity to significantly increase supply of compliant accommodation for seasonal workers.

However, if barriers embedded in the planning system remain, it can reasonably be expected that:

- Key businesses and industries will be unable to benefit the Victorian Government's investment in workers' accommodation,
- Accommodation supply will continue to fall short of need, meaning businesses may be unable to participate in Commonwealth programs such as the PALM Scheme, and
- Agricultural industries of local, statewide and national significance will struggle to meet demand for their products.

Motion 41. Strategic review into the School Crossing Supervisor Program

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

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

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils
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

The safety of children walking safely to and from school is a priority for us all. That's why it is imperative that we have a school crossing system that works.

However, a survey of 40 Victorian Councils revealed 97% of municipalities have school crossings that are unsupervised due to operational challenges. At these locations, children are crossing roads without assistance and often crossing roads where poor driver behaviour impacts safety.

Additionally:

- 82% regularly face crossing supervisor staff shortages, and
- 87% of Councils surveyed consider the system no longer fit for purpose.

In 2016, the Labor Government committed to a review of the school crossing program. This review was welcomed by Local Government who were eager to work with the government on addressing the shortcomings in the program, including the current funding arrangements.

Unfortunately, this review has not progressed, and remains urgently needed. A broad strategic review should address the key outcomes the program intends on achieving and an updated model that:

- Considers other models of services used in other jurisdictions, and their potential application in Victoria,
- Strengthens State Government funding contribution towards the School Crossing Service to ensure it remains sustainable and cost effective,

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- Supports addressing challenges in recruiting and retaining crossing supervisors,
- Delivers safety improvements and increased use of technology in and around crossings,
- Funds safety improvement initiatives, including infrastructure treatments, and
- Promotes safety around schools to the broader community and road users.

Motion 42. Victorian Government Responsibility for Education Related Infrastructure

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Council acknowledges that education facilities, and schools in particular, are a crucial part of the social fabric of communities and fulfill an important function. This motion is not designed to restrict the development of new schools or expansion of schools, but rather to place the financial burden of providing the support infrastructure such as parking and playing fields with the Victorian government.

At present State schools do not require local planning approval for their facilities (unlike private schools). Therefore, there are numerous examples of schools being developed without sufficient parking, school drop-off areas, playing fields and other support infrastructure. This often leads to pedestrian safety issues, parking congestion and the need to use off-site facilities without the prior planning for such use. This leads to expectations in the school family and broader community that councils will 'fix' the problem, often at an extensive cost to the relevant council.

Requiring planning approval for these developments would bring the approvals in line with the expectations placed on private education providers. It would also allow for the development of agreed approaches to parking, sharing off-site (council) facilities, and an assurance the design of parking and traffic circulation meet road safety requirements.

A collaborative approach during the design phase and the requirement for a planning permit application which is subject to the normal development requirements, would ensure that issues of congestion or undersupply of support infrastructure are identified and addressed in the planning phase, rather than through costly interventions once built.

Motion 43. Resources for Freedom of Information requests

Submitting Council: Towong Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or ‘Other – Of significance to Local Government’	MAV Strategy Priority 5: Sector capability and good governance
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

Victorian councils have been the target of an increasing number of FOI requests from Council Watch, an association previously known as Ratepayers Victoria. The stated purpose of this campaign by Council Watch was to increase transparency and reporting of information by councils in a way that allows comparison of councils’ performance, following the removal of the website ‘Know Your Council’ earlier this year. Council Watch now publish an Investigations page on their website, with different themes of investigation, supported predominantly by the information obtained through the FOI requests lodged with councils, for which they have requested the application fee be waived on the grounds of hardship. The cost of sourcing this information is now falling squarely on the shoulders of the ratepayers, as councils are bearing the cost of the resource to comply with these requests with no contribution from the organisation seeking this information.

This trend in activity has placed an overwhelming strain on councils attempting to remain compliant with the Act, whilst also balancing their time to ensure ratepayers are still receiving the best quality outcomes in their respective municipalities. Smaller councils with officers who solely look after numerous council functions, such as Towong Shire Council, are finding it difficult to remain compliant with the Act without expending ratepayer funds for external legal assistance to assist with the increasing volumes and complexity of the FOI requests being received.

It is in the best interests of the sector that smaller rural councils who lack resources and expertise are provided with assistance, to ensure they can remain compliant with the FOI Act whilst not jeopardising existing services to their respective communities. This could be achieved through a ‘flying squad’ approach, where the State Government provides resources or support on a case-by-case basis to rural councils when it can be identified that inadequate resources are available to process the volume of information requests being received, impacting and risking non-compliance with the FOI Act.

Motion 44. Review of Victorian Grants Commission Funds Allocation Methodology

Submitting Council: Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for the formulae used by the Victorian Grants Commission in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants be reviewed to place greater emphasis on:

- a) the impacts of natural disasters and climate change,
- b) the limited alternate revenue options for rural Councils, and
- c) the increased demands of heavy transport and tourism impacting local roads.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils
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

It is well established that rural areas are disproportionately impacted by the worsening effects of climate change.

Rural economies are dependent on the health and values of the natural environment, which support agricultural production and nature-based tourism. Both sectors are highly sensitive to a changing and increasingly volatile climate.

Rural areas also bear the brunt of devastation associated with more frequent and intense climate-driven disasters, including recent catastrophic bushfires, severe floods and prolonged droughts.

Aging infrastructure in rural areas, particularly local roads, are ill-equipped to handle the impact of these sudden and extreme climatic events, with increasing deterioration due to prolonged periods of heavy rain or damage from intense heat and fires.

Climate change vulnerability, combined with increasing demands of heavy transport and tourism, creates extra burdens on rural Council services and road infrastructure that are becoming increasingly difficult to fund.

Many floods, storms and fires do not meet the minimum threshold for being declared natural disasters eligible for government funding, leaving councils out of pocket. Again, Rural councils are more susceptible to these more frequent costly emergencies.

Combined with rate capping, these additional challenges are exacerbated by the limitation on rural councils to raise 'alternative' own source revenue, unlike their metropolitan and regional counterparts.

A recent study by Rural Councils Victoria (2022) into alternative revenue streams concluded:

“While rural councils have the opportunity to pursue a range of new or ‘boutique’ revenue sources, none of these are likely to generate income flows of sufficient magnitude to materially improve local government finances. The solution to the long-term financial sustainability of councils is likely to require improved access to national tax revenues.”

Average rates and charges per capita are approximately 40-45% higher for small rural councils compared with the State average, reflecting the higher impost on rural ratepayers to fund council services, making rate cap exemptions inequitable and unpalatable for these communities.

We call for a review of the formulae used by the VGC in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to recognise the increased financial pressures and lack of alternative income streams for rural councils.

Motion 45. Redistribution mechanism of the Community Benefits Statements

Submitting Council: Hume City Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities
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

Hume City Council Officers undertook a review and analysed five financial years (2017 to 2022) of Community Benefit Statements (CBS) submitted by Clubs in Hume City, obtained through the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC).

The analysis highlighted that community benefits claimed by Clubs in Hume City were predominantly made against the Class B category, (\$23,011,244 in total over the 5-year period), most of which were claimed against sub-Class B (e), namely operating costs.

No Club in Hume City claimed under the Class C (a) category for “the provision of responsible gambling measures and activities but excluding those required by law” over the analysed period. The total amount claimed against Class C over the last five financial years was \$25,823.

Examples of the “benefits” claimed by Clubs over the same period, as indicated in Classes A (\$4,462,855) and B (\$23,011,244) in CBS’s submitted to the VGCCC, include waste and removal costs, Foxtel subscriptions, staff wages and expenses, leasing costs and free entertainment for members.

Following this review, Hume City Council wrote to the Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, expressing significant concerns regarding the misrepresentation of the claimed community benefits and the urgent need to evaluate the redistribution provisions that apply to the Community Benefit Statements.

ATTACHMENT - LATE MOTIONS RECEIVED AFTER DUE DATE (14 AUGUST 2023)

NOTE:

Member Councils were advised prior to the meeting and during the call for motions that late motions, defined as those received after Monday 14 August, would not be put to State Council unless exceptional and urgent circumstances arise.

It was also advised that all late motions would be circulated in the Business Paper to MAV delegates on Wednesday 13 September as a separate attachment but will not be admitted for consideration unless otherwise resolved by the State Council.

Accordingly, the following late motions, though circulated, do not appear on the agenda.

It is open to State Council to make a procedural resolution under rule 19.6 of the MAV Rules 2022: "19.6 Business which is not included in the agenda of a meeting of any State Council may not be dealt with unless at least half of the delegates eligible to attend are in attendance and agree to deal with it."

Late Motion 1. Betterment of public assets

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

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

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes	
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils	
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	

This motion follows on to the MAV's resolution of 19 May 2023 with respect to 'Disaster Recovery and Resilience Support for Local Government'. This MAV resolution called on the Victorian and Australian Governments to financially support local government with post-disaster betterment funding to improve damaged assets beyond their 'previous condition' and by providing an ongoing betterment program to upgrade existing public infrastructure.

Betterment funding would enable infrastructure damaged by natural disaster to be repaired to current standards which would improve its capacity to withstand flood events into the future. Betterment funding will also reduce councils' risk liability. For example, if a council rehabilitates flood-damaged roads and these do not align with its Road Management Plan.

In early August 2023, Council also lodged a submission to the Australian Government's Independent Review into Commonwealth Disaster Funding.

In the submission, Council again highlighted the need for betterment funding for damaged public assets. Following the October 2022 floods, Council identified a number of assets which were also damaged in the 2011 floods. Ideally, Council would assess an asset, determine if there are mitigation or betterment works which could improve the performance of the asset, and then do those works when replacing the asset. However, as betterment is not currently part of the DRFA arrangements, Council has only been able to assess like-for-like replacement or repair of these damaged assets.

The significant role that climate change will continue to play in changing the frequency and impacts of natural disasters also needs to be considered. Investing in the betterment of

damaged assets following a natural disaster is one way of mitigating against the severity of these impacts into the future.

Council has strongly advocated for betterment funding and discussed with officers the need to submit to the October 2023 MAV State Council. Whilst the motion was submitted to the Municipal Association Victoria by the due date of Monday 14 August 2023, amendments to the motion can be submitted 5pm on Wednesday 30 August 2023.

Late Motion 2. Establishment of Renewable Energy Development Guidelines

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

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

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

Moyne Shire Council strongly recommends that the State Government pause the issuing of all wind farm planning permits in the Shire until strategic land use planning in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SWREZ) is completed in consultation with Moyne Shire and other affected Councils and communities.

This is supported by ensuring that strategic planning must provide for:

- Increased wind farm turbine buffers to 5 km from towns and settlements, 2 km from houses and 1 km from neighbouring property boundaries;
- A methodology developed to consider cumulative impacts of wind farm development and used to assess all future planning permit applications. Assessment should include flora, fauna, vegetation communities, agriculture, emergency management, visual amenity, noise, traffic, road condition and housing availability;
- An agreed cap on development for Moyne Shire that considers the number, location and density of turbines; distance between individual wind farms; development constraints; and cumulative impacts on residents and the environment;

- Significant long term economic and social benefits, provided by companies and the State government for local communities and residents, incorporating local decision making. Economic development through the use of local businesses, employment and training during construction and operation of wind farms;
- Undergrounding of high voltage power lines where technically feasible and where there are no significant environmental or heritage impacts. Where not feasible, high voltage powerlines and infrastructure should be shared between wind farm developments;
- A decommissioning policy that includes statewide decommissioning guidelines, a strategic plan for reuse and recycling components within the State (preferably in SWREZ) and a standardised system for financial security deposit from companies before construction commences;
- Assessment to ensure prime agricultural land and food & fibre production in the Shire is not adversely impacted;
- Processes that ensure significant flora, fauna and vegetation communities are protected from the impacts of development;
- Wind farm development buffers placed around airstrips and airports, and height thresholds on turbines which will retain current Minimum Safe Altitude (MSA) levels, and not impede on current Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS).

Rationale

On 6 September 2022 Council set a revised position on wind farm development. This change was informed by an extensive consultation process that collated views from a telephone survey of 400 residents and over 100 community and industry submissions.

Late Motion 3. Ongoing maintenance and additional replacement and renewal of the local road network

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 1: Economically sound councils
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

Significance to local government

Improving the condition of local and regional roads throughout Moyne will benefit not only the dairying industry and associated supply chains; but also other major users of the South West Roads network, including the forestry, tourism, livestock transport, wind farm construction, and aluminium sectors.

Rationale

The Barwon South West Dairy Supply Chain Study outlines the case for a \$317.5 million investment over ten years into the road network in South West Victoria, which supports Australia's largest dairy production region, responsible for 24 percent of Australia's milk production.

The report notes, "the freight task needed to transport production inputs, milk and final goods to market is significant and costs industry around \$345 million per annum, around 29 per cent of total expenditure. The road network across the region, as well as the entry and exit points to the region, are critical to the competitiveness of the industry"[1].

As indicated in the Study, the proposed investment is a long-term proposition over ten years. However, it is important that works commence as a matter of urgency, as any delays will result in further deterioration of the roads, and increase the cost of upgrades, improvements and repairs.

Moyne has identified several local roads for immediate remedial works, at an estimated cost of \$5 million. This will address immediate safety issues, as well as facilitate the growing freight task over the long-term. Details of these road projects are contained in the Dairy Supply Chain Study

Late Motion 4. Streamlining the planning amendment and planning permit processes.

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV represent rural Councils in any review of the Planning System by state government, including but not limited to streamlining the amendment and planning permit processes.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Significance to local government

Rural and regional Victoria is vital to the state's economic, social, and cultural fabric, but it faces unique challenges in the planning and regulatory domain.

Rationale

Moyne experiences growing demand for regional living and tourism, resulting in exacerbated housing shortages and limited rental options. This alongside the lack of workforce availability and the complexities of navigating the planning environment act as deterrents to industry growth. Amidst these challenges lies a significant opportunity for sustainable growth and development, which can be realised by making targeted adjustments to the current planning environment.

Late Motion 5. Review Maternal and Child Health Key Age and Stages framework and rectify funding shortfall

Strategic Priority motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

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

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes	
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 2: Healthy, diverse and thriving communities	
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	

Rationale

It has been many years since there was a review of the MCH Key Ages and Stages. There has been an increase in complexity and needs for families receiving MCH, including but not limited to increase in mental health concerns and family Violence. In addition to this, MCH services are being asked to provide more and more health promotion activities, without the increase in funding/time allotment.

MCH over the recent years has not been a 50:50 funding model (for which the MOU defines should be), with council continuing to provide more resources and support for the increase in needs and complexities of families. For this to be rectified, there is a requirement for consultation between local government and state government as to what the actual costs are that are incurred in the delivery of the MCH service.

Late Motion 6. Assess existing and future transport needs of the western suburbs

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

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

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 3: Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment
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

Rationale

That while the SRL Airport Rail, Geelong Fast Rail and Western Rail Plan projects are being put on hold, that the State Government ensures that communities in metropolitan Melbourne like Hobsons Bay are not missing out and will also benefit from these upgrades with improved rail connections, more services and better rail infrastructure including re-opening Paisley Station (Altona North) and new stations to meet the needs of growing communities in our City.

Late Motion 7. Recognise the Ramsar-protected Cheetham Wetlands and support local initiatives highlighting the significance of inner western coastal wetlands to First Nations people, promoting education on the impact of climate change upon coastal wetlands, and supporting eco-tourism and nature-based recreation in metropolitan Melbourne

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian and Australian governments to recognise the internationally significant Ramsar-protected Cheetham Wetlands, visited by thousands of migratory birds annually, and that both governments support local and regional initiatives that:

1. 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 in metropolitan Melbourne

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	Yes
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 4: Changing climate and a circular economy
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

Rationale

Cheetham Wetlands is a unique internationally recognised natural asset in the heart of metropolitan Melbourne. We are calling on the Victorian and Australian governments to invest in protecting the wetlands and provide educational and nature-based experiences for the community to learn about the importance of wetlands. The proposed Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre will provide an educational and nature-based recreational experience for everyone to learn about the importance of wetlands which will be an urban oasis in Melbourne’s inner-west..

Late Motion 8. MAV Public Facing Name Change

Standard Priority motion

Submitting Council: Whitehorse City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) considers adopting 'Councils Victoria' as its public facing name to enable fresh associated branding and increase the public understanding of the MAV and what it represents.

Council Resolution	Yes	
MAV Strategy 2021-2025 Priority or 'Other – Of significance to Local Government'	MAV Strategy Priority 6: Effective and responsive MAV	
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	

Rationale

At a workshop at the MAV State Council in early 2023, one of the themes from some attending was the low public understanding of the MAV and what it represents. In particular the term Municipal does not have a universal understanding in the wider community. The name Councils Victoria is simpler and self-explanatory and would enable a fresh associated branding and identity.