MAV
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

The Future is Local

2025 MAV Annual Conference

THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2025
PARK HYATT MELBOURNE
1 PARLIAMENT SQUARE
OFF, PARLIAMENT PL, MELBOURNE
8:30AM - 5:00PM

Acknowledgment of Country

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

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

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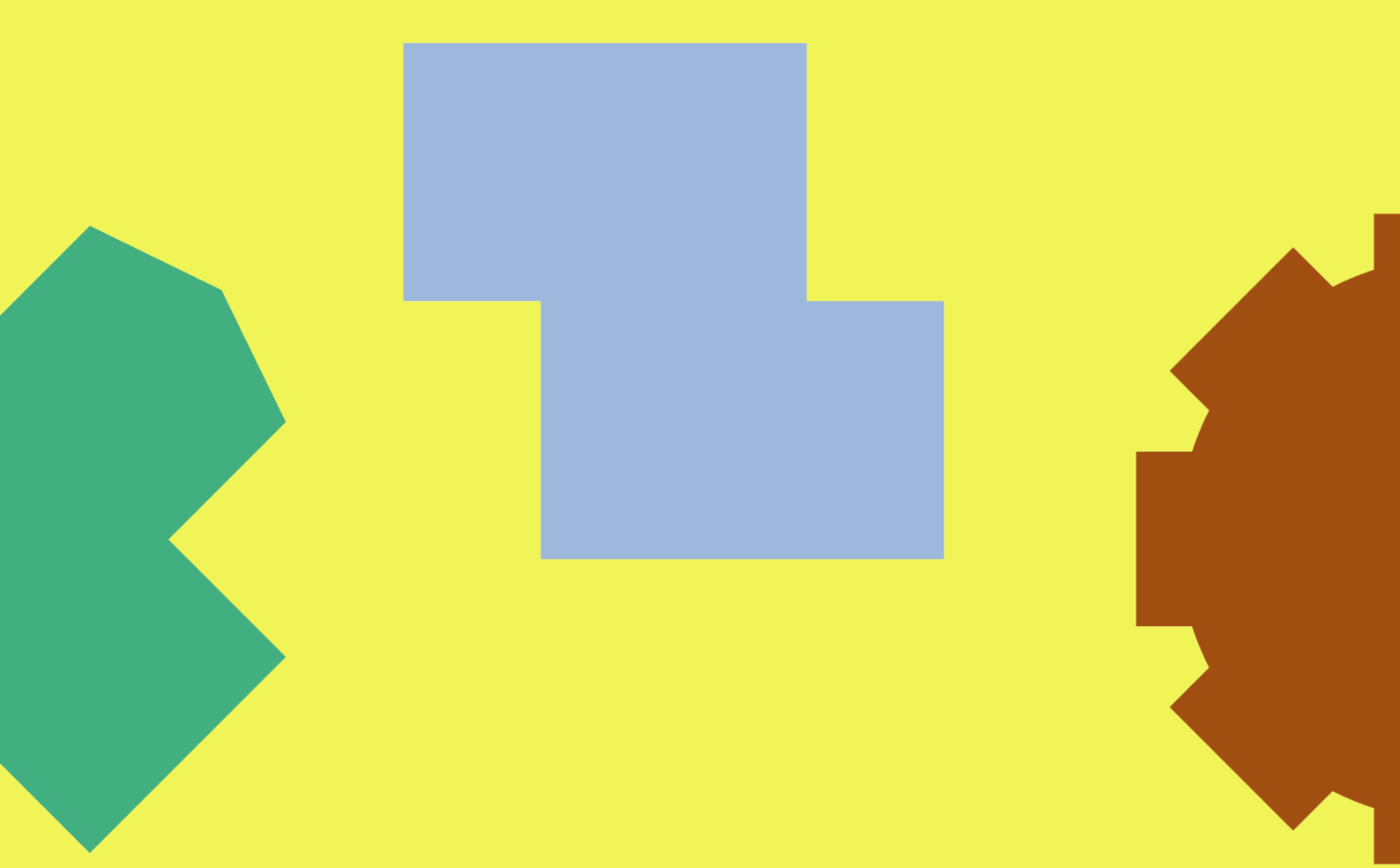# Welcome to the 2025 MAV Annual Conference

The 2025 MAV Annual Conference is an event you'll remember.

Together we'll connect, learn, and be inspired through a dynamic program of keynotes, panels, workshops, and conversations designed to spark collaboration and courage.

This year's theme, "The Future is Local," is a powerful reminder of the vital role local government plays in shaping communities and tackling challenges like climate resilience, housing, and service innovation.

In 2025 we've created a "choose your own adventure" experience — blending leadership insights, practical learning, and space for reflection and renewal. Beyond the sessions, shared meals and networking opportunities will strengthen relationships and spark new partnerships.

Local government is uniquely placed to lead communities through change. This conference is our chance to celebrate achievements, harness collective wisdom, and step forward with optimism — ready to shape a bold and resilient future.

Our Partners

Our sector partners play a vital role in local government. They help strategise, design, evolve, and maintain solutions and services that support the work of Victorian local government.

Whether it's supporting the adoption of emerging technologies, rethinking systems or tackling complex challenges without a clear starting point - our partners are right there with us. They bring insights, ideas, infrastructure and practical expertise to the table, helping us turn possibility into progress.

Learn about our valued Partners below, who are looking forward to meeting you at the 2025 MAV Annual Conference.

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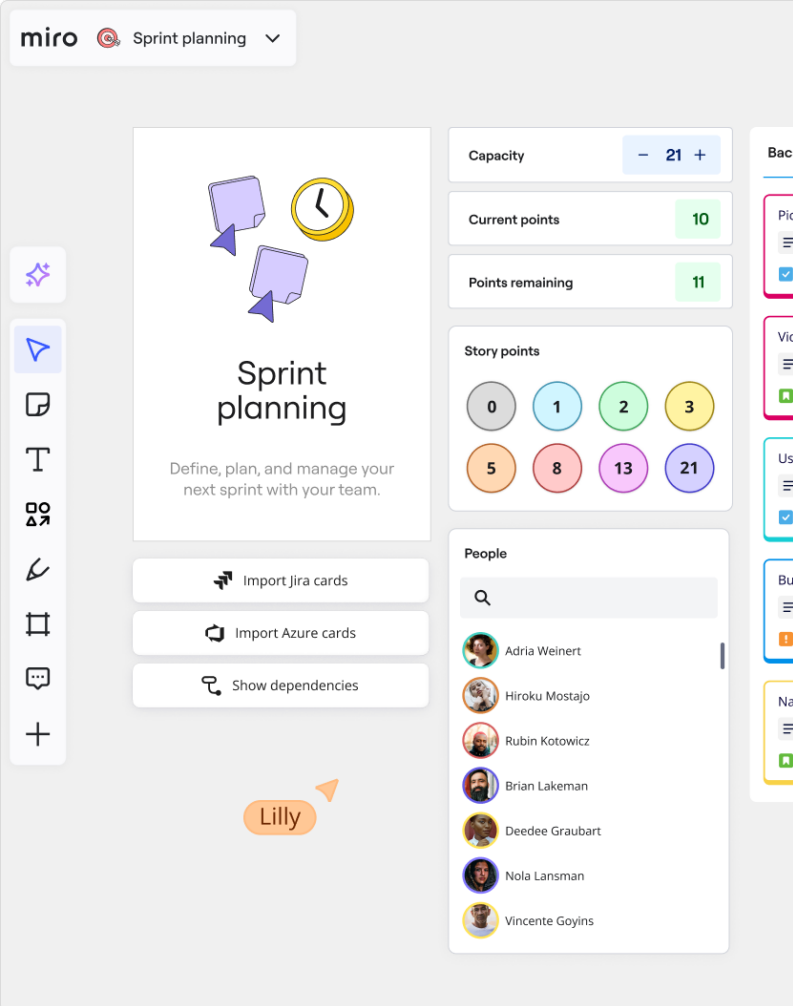
JLT Public Sector

Ballroom Partner

JLT Public Sector is delighted to continue our support of the MAV. As a long term partner of the peak body for Local Government in Victoria, we recognise the importance of delivering innovative and sustainable services to local governments and community-based organisations. Local Government plays a crucial role in providing essential services to communities, and at JLT Public Sector, we are committed to helping our clients identify and manage their risk to protect their communities. With a rich history of providing solutions to Local Government since 1972, we are proud to partner councils across the state with our innovative risk solutions.

We draw on the experience and expertise of over 330 local government specialists nationally who are dedicated to delivering positive outcomes through their extensive knowledge and strong relationships within the Local Government sector.

www.jltpublicsector.com

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Miro
Lunch Partner

Miro's "Innovation Workspace" is an AI-powered platform designed to accelerate the innovation lifecycle. It leverages an "Intelligent Canvas" to transform unstructured ideas into structured outputs like prototypes, documents, and project plans using AI. For Victorian local government, this means a more efficient and collaborative way to tackle complex public service challenges.

Join Miro in the Action Lab at 12.25pm today for a lunch and learn: Getting from idea to outcome, faster. It will be a hands-on, interactive workshop focusing on how to supercharge collaboration in hybrid environments with Miro.
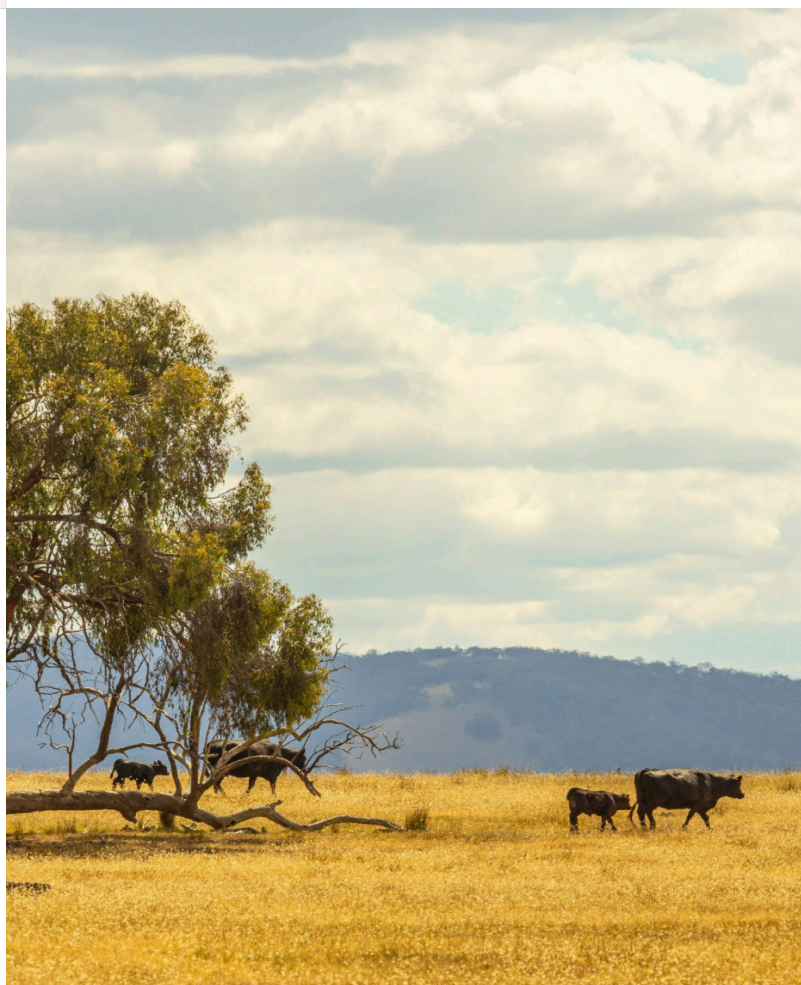
www.miro.com

nbn Local
Program Partner

nbn Local is a dedicated engagement team within nbn's Regional Development & Engagement branch. Our purpose is to build digital capability in regional communities, improve customer experience, and create meaningful social and economic benefits for rural and regional Australians.

Operating across 22 regions nationwide, we work alongside local communities to connect people and businesses with opportunities that digital connectivity enables. Our engagement teams are made up of Regional Development and Engagement Managers and Community Engagement Specialists who are on the ground, helping Australians make the most of the nbn network.

www.nbnco.com.au

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Keynote speaker

Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM
Chief Executive Officer Australian Red Cross

Andrew Colvin AO APM brings to Australian Red Cross a deep understanding of crisis management and leadership capabilities that will play a critical role as the organisation responds to the evolving needs of communities across Australia and beyond.

With a career dedicated to public service, Andrew has played leadership roles during some of Australia's most high-profile incidents and events. This includes leading the National Bushfire Recovery Agency in coordinating recovery efforts following the 2019-2020 Black Summer, as a Partner at Deloitte Australia's financial advisory area where he led multi-disciplinary teams to deliver advisory and support services, and his role as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police where he drove a significant cultural and structural reform agenda with a specific interest in workforce health and wellbeing.

In his new role as Australian Red Cross CEO, Andrew is looking forward to working with the organisation's dedicated members, volunteers, and staff alongside corporate and government partners to further enhance Australian Red Cross' response to emergencies, in building resilient communities and supporting those in need.

CLICK BELOW TO LEARN MORE

VIEW SPEAKERS

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Conference Agenda

TIME	SESSION
08:15 — 09:00	Registrations with coffee supported by ASI Solutions
09:00 — 10:15	Welcome and Keynote Address in the JLT Ballroom
10:15 — 10:45	Morning Tea supported by Endpoint Focus
	Break-out rooms open
10:45 — 11:30	Round One Breakout: Choose your own adventure
11:30 — 12:25	Round Two Breakout: Choose your own adventure
12:25 — 01:15	Lunch supported by Miro
01:15 — 02:00	Round Three Breakout: Choose your own adventure
02:00 — 02:45	Round Four Breakout: Choose your own adventure
	Break-out rooms close
02:45 — 03:15	Afternoon Tea supported by Vision Super
03:15 — 04:50	The Future is Local in the JLT Ballroom
05:00	**Conference close**
05:30 — 07:30	Optional Networking at The Imperial Rooftop
06:00 — 07:00	Councillor Service Awards Dinner Networking (Dinner ticket-holders only)
07:00 — 10:30	Councillor Service Awards Dinner

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THE DISCOVERY LOBBY

08:30   Arrival and registration with coffee supported by ASI Solutions

Start your day in the lobby - a vibrant, energising space designed to break you out of the everyday and into a world of inspiration, innovation, and connection. Before the formal programming begins, grab a coffee, engage with interactive exhibits and connect with fellow attendees.

JLT BALLROOM

09:00   Welcome and opening address: Jennifer Anderson, MAV President and The Hon Nick Staikos, Minister for Local Government

We open the 2025 MAV Annual Conference by coming together—leaders, communities, and the sector—united in our commitment to a stronger, more resilient future. This opening session is a moment to connect, reflect, and refocus on our shared purpose. MAV President Jennifer Anderson will launch the day and welcome The Hon Nick Staikos, Minister for Local Government, to deliver the opening address.

**09:30   Keynote: Courageous Public Sector Leadership for a Hopeful Future
Andrew Colvin AO APM**

In a time of rapid change and uncertainty, what does it take to lead with clarity, compassion, and courage? Join Andrew Colvin, CEO of Australian Red Cross and former AFP Commissioner, for a keynote presentation, later joined by Kelly Grigsby, CEO of MAV, for a powerful conversation on leadership that strengthens communities. Drawing on experiences from national crises to local government, they'll explore the mindsets and skills future-ready leaders need — not just to respond to disruption, but to build connection, resilience, and lasting impact.

THE DISCOVERY LOBBY

10:15   Morning Tea supported by Endpoint Focus

Recharge with snacks, explore the Discovery Lobby or enjoy a quiet reset in the Library as you explore the Resource Library and boost your toolkit.

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JLT BALLROOM

10:45   **Treaty and Local Government: Building Understanding and Readiness with Uncle Charles, Jidah Clark and Aunty Tracey Evans**

Join First Peoples leaders for an insightful discussion designed to deepen understanding and strengthen council capacity around the Victorian Treaty process. This session will discuss both the Statewide and Traditional Owner Treaties; and will highlight how these agreements aim to reflect the priorities and aspirations of Traditional Owner communities. There will be an opportunity for audience Q&A.

ACTION LAB

10:45   **MAVlab AI Taskforce Workshop: Help Shape the AI Future of Victorian Local Government**

Join the MAVlab team for in interactive session that will introduce the MAVlab AI Taskforce and the work being undertaken to co-design a roadmap for AI usage in Victorian Councils. The session will feature an overview the AI program of work, a case study from Eliza McDonald on the Melbourne Knowledge Bank - where they using machine learning to understand community feedback - and input from the MAVlab AI Taskforce members and Victorian State Government.

HOUSING INNOVATION SUMMIT

10:45   **Spotlight on how councils are stepping up to support the development of new, well-located homes, with Mayor Damian Gallagher of Murrindindi Shire Mayor Karen Forster of Moyne Shire, and Mayor or Deputy Mayor of Surf Coast Shire. Moderated by Libby Porter - Director, Centre for Urban Research**

Professor Libby Porter, a member of the MAV Housing Taskforce will provide a 15 minute overview of the MAV Housing Taskforce Submission evidence base and then facilitate a 30 minute panel discussion with three Mayors to showcase the innovative housing solutions that they have enabled in their communities.

JLT BALLROOM

11:30 **Risk, infrastructure & trust panel with Toby Kent, Gary Okely, Brett Ellis, Sara Bice and Jo Wilson**

Join a timely panel discussion examining how risk, infrastructure, and trust shape community resilience—and how councils can strengthen the systems that keep communities connected and secure.

12:15 **Mini-Keynote: 21st Century Skills by Professor Dan Hill, University of Melbourne**

Discover new research from the Melbourne Centre for Cities on the capabilities councils need to tackle today's challenges with Dan Hill, Director of the Melbourne School of Design.

ACTION LAB

11:30 **Innovation Myth Busting with Tavis Vallance**

See innovation in a new light as we bust the biggest and most destructive myths about innovation.

12:15 **Innovation for a Changing Climate – Northcote Aquatic Centre, a story of resilience and renewal, with Santiago Perrotto**

Community infrastructure is more than bricks — it's the backbone of daily life. NARC is more than a pool; it's a fully electric, future-ready hub supporting health, connection, and climate resilience. Learn more in this session.

HOUSING INNOVATION SUMMIT

11:30 **Advancing AI Innovation in Local Government with Sahar Farzanfar, Sarah Kaur, Marjan Hajjari and Claire Daniel**

This session explores how AI can strengthen decision-making in statutory planning, drawing on MAVlab's Advancing AI Innovation in Local Government project. The panel will share key insights and discuss what's next as councils adapt to AI-driven processes.

12:10 **Address by Minister Shing**

The Hon. Harriet Shing, Minister for Housing and Building, brings a state government perspective to the Housing Innovation Summit.

LIBRARY

11:30 **Are You Ready for Treaty? In conversation with Uncle Charles, Gavin Wilson, Vicky Grosser, Liz O'Loughlin and Katherine Wright**

Join a deep dive conversation to hear insights about councils' journey in understanding Victorian Treaty and MAV's Strengthening Councils Treaty Awareness and Information Pilot Project.

THE DISCOVERY LOBBY

12:25 **Connect over lunch**

Take a break — but not from the buzz. This lively lunchtime session is your opportunity to enjoy delicious food, spark new relationships, and connect with the partners, innovators, and collaborators shaping the future of local government. With creative conversation prompts and inspiring stories from those working alongside councils in bold new ways, this is more than a meal — it's a feast of ideas, connections, and possibility.

ACTION LAB

12:25 **Lunch and Learn: Getting from idea to outcome, faster with Kelly Burke and Bryce Prinse**

Join a hands-on, interactive workshop focusing on how to supercharge collaboration in hybrid environments with Miro. Explore how councils and organisations are using visual collaboration tools to co-design, brainstorm, and make better decisions, faster — no matter where their teams are.

LIBRARY

12:25 **Meet our Youth Councillors - Finn Stirling, Levity Camilleri, Aaya Abulughod, Emily Tricarico, Kaynat Virk, Bailey Dolan and Tahlia Schneider**

In the Library, Youth Councillors from across the state are in attendance to discuss improving youth engagement across the local government sector; and whilst you're there – check out our Resource Marketplace - collect tools, resources and "knowledge souvenirs."

HOUSING INNOVATION SUMMIT

12:25 **Meet the Rainbow Collective**

Launching here in Victoria in 2025, the Australian Rainbow Councillors Collective looks to connect, share, discuss and explore opportunities to support elected officials to provide outcomes for the LGBTQIA+ communities we represent and wider landscape.

Choose Your Own Adventure: Round Three Breakout Sessions

JLT BALLROOM

01:15 **AI and Automation, with Sarah Kaur, Lisa Ippolito, Justin Daly, Lisa Sarago and Amir Aryani**

Connect with industry experts and local government leaders for a dynamic discussion on the opportunities, challenges, and emerging applications of AI and automation in the local government sector.

ACTION LAB

01:15 **Engagement from within: strengthening councils through communities of practice, a conversation with council practitioners**

Discover how internal communities of practice are reshaping engagement from the inside out. This session dives into how councils like Casey, Banyule, and Yarra Ranges are building stronger internal networks that boost staff capability, confidence, and collaboration. Learn how these practices are helping embed engagement as a strategic priority—and walk away with practical ideas to spark connection and culture change in your own teams.

LIBRARY

01:15 **21st Century municipality capabilities (and how you acquire them): building individual and organisational skills for impact and progression**

This interactive session is your chance to shape the future skills needed in local government. Help inform new, tailored training programs while exploring how to grow your career, leadership potential, and impact. Connect with peers, share approaches, and walk away with practical insights to support your development in a changing sector.

HOUSING INNOVATION SUMMIT

01:15 **Exploring Underutilised Public Land for Housing: discover approaches and policy insights to help councils identify and activate overlooked public land for urgently needed housing solution**

The MAV's Housing Innovation Program has provided practical case studies, and documented local and international opportunities to redevelop council-owned under-utilised precincts and land into connected communities. The MAV engaged a team of academics and design consultants to build an evidence base that local government can, and already does, lead in the housing challenge.

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Choose Your Own Adventure: Round Four Breakout Sessions

JLT BALLROOM

02:00 **The Future is Young People with Tahlia Azaria, Aaya Abulughod, Levity Camilleri and Kaynat Virk**

Be inspired by Youth Councillors from across the state sharing their insights and initiative, their connection with and contribution to local government.

ACTION LAB

02:00 **The Adaptation Game (TAG)**

Step into the future with The Adaptation Game — a fast-paced, interactive workshop that simulates how your community might respond to the next decade of climate change. Through playful strategy, tough choices, and collaborative problem-solving, you'll explore the real-world dynamics of risk, resilience, and adaptation planning. It's a hands-on way to test your thinking, spark new ideas, and build the skills needed to navigate uncertainty and lead through change.

HOUSING INNOVATION SUMMIT

02:00 **Expanding Knowledge for Adaptive Reuse: learn how the transformation of underused council buildings can deliver unique, place-responsive housing**

Hear from MAV's industry-leading design team who developed innovative prototypes for transforming constrained council-owned buildings into much-needed housing. This session will showcase practical approaches, as well as the challenges, to adaptive re-use which unlock housing opportunities in a way that is sustainable, and contextual.

THE DISCOVERY LOBBY

02:45 **Afternoon tea supported by Vision Super**

Take a well-earned pause as we hit the afternoon stretch — grab a treat, recharge your energy, and reconnect with fellow attendees. Still curious? Wander through The Discovery Lobby and the Library to pick up practical tools, bold ideas, and knowledge souvenirs to take back to your council.

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JLT BALLROOM

03:15 **Welcome back with Matt Burnett**

After a day of learning and connection, we return re-energised and ready for what's next. The Australian Local Government Association President will open the afternoon, helping us realign around our shared purpose and rally for the final sessions — because the future is local, and we're building it together.

03:30 **The Future is Local with Chris Carroll, Chris Kotur, Dr Marcus Spiller, moderated by Kat Panjari**

As the complexity and pressures on local government grow, the sector is emerging as a bold force for change. In this high-impact panel, sector leaders explore the biggest challenges facing the sector — and the courageous innovations reshaping how councils lead, deliver, and build trust. Discover how local leadership is not just responding to change, but driving it.

04:10 **Last Word, Lasting Impact with Sally Capp, Terry Moran, Niki Vincent and Rueben Berg, moderated by Kelly Grigsby**

This isn't your typical leadership panel. Join seasoned public sector leaders for a candid, high-energy conversation on what it really means to lead for legacy. With honesty, humour, and hard-won wisdom, they'll share untold stories and bold advice — offering a powerful reminder that lasting impact comes from leading bravely and speaking freely.

04:50 **Conference Close**

To close the 2025 MAV Annual Conference, join us for a reflective, future-focused session. Together, we'll take a moment to acknowledge the ideas, connections, and challenges shared over the past two days — and look ahead to where they might take us next.

05:30 **Optional Networking Session**

Join us for an informal networking session at The Imperial Rooftop following the MAV Annual Conference to continue the conversations, between 5:30pm and 7:30pm.

06:00 **Councillor Service Awards Dinner Networking (Dinner ticket-holders only)**

07:00 **Councillor Service Awards Dinner**

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