



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA



Message from the President

State Council is the primary opportunity for the MAV's membership to come together and debate issues that are critical to the local government sector.

Each of our member councils is represented. We usually meet twice a year, and councils can both submit motions and vote to determine our strategic direction.

For me, State Council is the parliament of Victorian councils. This year we debated and resolved 90 motions that had a relevance to our strategic objectives as detailed in our [2021-25 MAV Strategy](#).

We believe it is timely to provide the Victorian Government, and other parliamentarians, with an update on the opportunities for the State to better support councils and their communities. This directions paper is an easy-to-read presentation of the priority actions contained in each resolution from the MAV's June State Council. The full text of each resolution is also available on the MAV's website.

It provides a clear indication of what is important to the sector, the challenges, and where local, state, and federal governments can collaborate. These are important, relevant and timely matters that affect not just our own municipalities, but indeed our sector as a whole.

Through this directions paper you can see first-hand the issues facing the elected representatives closest to their communities and most importantly, their proposed solutions.

It also serves as a reminder that councils are an effective and efficient delivery partner of services and programs, as well as a driver of economic activity across many industry sectors including construction, public administration, community services and public infrastructure.

I'd welcome meeting with you to provide further details on these or any other issues. Feel free to email me via MAVPresident@mav.asn.au to set up a meeting.

Kind regards,

Cr David Clark
MAV President

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Advocating for local government interests

Victoria's 79 councils are leading their communities through the most dynamic and challenging circumstances. In recent years, we've been confronted by state-wide emergencies involving bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent storm events, as well as significant state policy reform. All of these events have had a significant impact on the local government sector.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) provides strategic policy advice to achieve meaningful long-term improvements to strengthen councils, communities and local businesses in every region of Victoria.

The MAV is the peak representative and advocacy body for Victoria's councils. The MAV was formed in 1879, with the Municipal Association Act 1907 appointing the MAV as the official voice of local government in Victoria.

Today, the MAV is a driving and influential force behind a strong and strategically positioned local government sector. All 79 Victorian councils are MAV members.

MAV State Council - June 2022



A selection of photos from the State Council meeting held in June 2022. Thanks to our members councils for their continued involvement.

Economically sound councils

On behalf of our member councils, the MAV is asking:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

1. fund councils to continue the success of the COVID-19 outdoor dining program to pay for infrastructure and to be able to continue to subsidise costs to businesses for another three years and to transition the temporary arrangements into more permanent structures where this is appropriate.
2. provide ongoing investment in programs that promote increased visitation and economic growth in activity centres.
3. establish a dedicated and ongoing Community Resilience and Fairness Response Package to ensure our most vulnerable community members, particularly youth, are protected from the worst of the impacts of a prolonged pandemic, including reinvigorating, invest in and growing local manufacturing.
4. fund local learning and job preparation programs and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment following the pandemic.
5. implement a Council Price Index that reflects the cost pressures faced by local government (including infrastructure, materials costs, service contracts and wage costs) to inform the annual rate cap decision by the Minister for Local Government.
6. establish a dedicated and ongoing COVID-19 economic response package for business that involves further payroll tax relief and additional business grants and development programs that support business recovery and growth.
7. develop local job prospectuses to improve and attract employment diversification, improve access to technology, encourage business relocation and promote 20-minute city thinking.
8. facilitate economic growth by reviewing and unlocking underutilised government land parcels for development for a range of economic and community processes.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

9. commit to sustainability of councils through the restoration of the total quantum of Federal Assistance Grants Program at 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Healthy, diverse and thriving communities

On behalf of our member councils, the MAV is asking:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

10. restore the 50-50 funding agreement for Maternal Child Health (MCH) Service between councils and the Victorian Government.
11. review Key Age and Stage Framework including appointment times (increase appointment time) to cater for the cumulative increases in responsibilities added over the past decade by the end of 2023.
12. update a MCH workforce strategy to maintain ongoing delivery of the MCH service.
13. fund a new IT infrastructure system, to replace the outdated not fit for purpose Child Development Information System (CDIS) database by the end of 2024.
14. formally engage with local government in the design and implementation of "Community Collectives" (Social Inclusion Action Groups) as part of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.
15. develop the Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan with particular focus on services and opportunities for young people including employment pathways.
16. deliver services drawing on councils' knowledge of local community needs and service gaps and opportu-

nities through community and sporting groups.

17. explore partnership opportunities to ensure young people in isolated and public transport deprived areas and overseas students residing in Victoria have access to appropriate and relevant mental health services.

18. ensure that the 3-year-old kindergarten reform agenda is successfully implemented, including the increased demand for infrastructure provision to meet community needs.

19. undertake genuine collaboration with Local Government to implement the objectives and clarify compliance roles in the Sex Work Decriminalisation Act and fund Councils in the implementation of the planning and regulatory framework, including appropriate training for staff.

20. change the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to allow for faster, tailored funding support for medium and largescale disaster events, that allows for quicker tailored responses to local disaster impacts.

21. allow for early establishment of disaster event recovery needs for impacted councils and their communities, in order to support a resilient and enhanced recovery effort.

22. adopt a more streamlined and pragmatic approach to DRFA claims assessment and approval to allow funds to flow more quickly back to councils to reimburse response, relief, and recovery activities.

23. fully fund school crossing supervision and not impose costs on ratepayers and residents for a service that is unrelated to core Local Government functions. Failing this, call on State Government to provide fair share funding for the provision of the school crossing supervisor service.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

24. review the proposed future funding model of the new Support at Home Program to support the delivery of aged care in Victoria.

25. ensure dementia training is deemed mandatory as an appropriate regulatory lever to build capability for both New and Existing Aged Care Workers.

26. fund mandatory training for new and existing aged care workers which may include provision of 'Support to People Living with Dementia' module as a core part of the course for new aged care workers, provision of opportunities for dementia training for existing aged care workers similar to the module 'Provide Support to People Living with Dementia' and include regular refresher training as part of organisational compliance.

27. increase Australia's capacity and speed to evacuate as many people at risk within Afghanistan. This includes those who have worked for, or assisted, the Australian Government and Australian organisations, as well as human rights defenders and women and girls who are now threatened.

28. increase Australia's resettlement places for Afghan refugees by 20,000 additional places per year for the next four years.

29. immediately increase Australian aid to the region to support organisations within Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries assisting those who have fled.

30. ensure that people whose asylum claims in Australia have been previously rejected be supported to submit new claims in the light of the changed circumstances in Afghanistan.

31. provide much needed certainty to 4,300 Afghans currently on temporary protection visas by granting them permanent protections.

32. assist Afghan Australians, including people with temporary and permanent visas, with urgent family reunion applications for relatives who are at particular risk. There is considerable national interest and support for Australia to take a leading role in responding to the crisis.



Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment

On behalf of our member councils, the MAV is asking:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

33. strongly advocate on the expansion of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program, and fair and equitable access to the NBN across regional Victoria.
34. work together with all relevant bodies to establish an effective system of backup telecommunications that can function during and after an emergency or ongoing natural disaster situation.
35. abandon the transfer of responsibility of the combustible cladding audits, oversight of the Essential Safety Measures maintenance regime, and orphaned building permits from the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to local government and, in relation to orphaned building permits, the VBA use its powers under existing legislation to appoint a Manager for any Private Building Surveyor (PBS) business, if the PBS's registration has been suspended or cancelled.
36. prioritise the timely planning and consistent delivery of infrastructure and services that are the responsibility of state government and agencies during the early phases of any new development.
37. address the lack of investment in state infrastructure to support increased urban development (including renewables, power, water, sewer).
38. develop planning controls to manage the cumulative impacts of fast paced development to improve the livability of the public realm and the sustainability of the community.
39. increase funding for the Department of Transport and VicTrack to facilitate appropriate ongoing maintenance of their assets (including weed and vegetation management, litter pickup and graffiti removal) along arterial roads and freeways and rail and tram corridors.
40. Provide an option for DoT asset maintenance work to be undertaken by councils, should they choose to do so on behalf of DoT, under an indexed full cost recovery model.
41. improve public transport, including provision of better bus routes, cleaner and more frequent trains and trams, better integrated transport hubs, and improving connections to areas that are underserved.
42. provide the option for people to travel on buses with bikes.
43. investigate activating river transport as an option where it might be viable to do so.
44. provide funding to councils to fund and deliver pedestrian and cycling improvement projects throughout all of Victoria.
45. provide funding to support a safer and accessible active transport network.
46. improve the connectivity of active transport routes on State Government land with local transport networks to create and extend active transport networks, include separated cycle ways and increase bicycle storage at train stations and activity centres to encourage sustainable and integrated transport options.
47. ensure that active transport is included in Victoria's integrated transport plan as recommended by Infrastructure Victoria in the 'Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021 - 2051'.
48. deliver \$20 million annually for a local road blackspot treatment and prevention program.
49. expand the current Rural Roads Support package.
50. deliver \$11 million over two years for a black hole funding program.
51. re-instate the Fixing Country Roads program to assist councils to improve the current state of their local roads to enhance the connectivity, reliability, and efficiency of regional communities.
52. provide social, public, and affordable housing for low-income workers such as creative industries and hospitality.
53. promote the development of social, public, and affordable housing growth along transport corridors.

54. use State Government owned land for new social, public, and affordable housing projects.
55. ensure responsive maintenance and management for state owned and/or managed assets on Crown land (such as reserves, halls, boat ramps, etc.), so that they are suitably maintained for the community's use.
56. introduce state-wide mandatory inclusionary zoning provisions into planning schemes, where appropriate.
57. ensure that funding made available through Windfall Gains Tax is distributed to LGAs where the tax has been generated to assist councils with funding local community infrastructure projects.
58. address the critical shortage of affordable housing in Victoria through regulatory reform that incentivises provision of affordable homes within new developments at all scales.
59. change the Victorian Planning Provisions to prohibit the use of land for a supermarket under the Commercial 2 Zone in situations it is seeking to establish in close proximity to an established gaming premises.
60. amend the Environment Protection Act 2017 to allow Council Authorised Officers to have extended powers to instigate proceedings against offenders under s286 & s287 of the Act, in particular, for non-compliance with improvement and prohibition notices issued for unreasonable noise from residential construction sites, and potential impact to human health and the environment from onsite wastewater systems.
61. fully implement the recommendations of the Victorian Auditor-General's report on Integrated Transport Planning (4 August 2021).
62. ensure the Department of Transport meet their obligations under the Transport Integration Act 2010 to ensure the integrated planning and management of the State's transport system.
63. ensure the Department of Transport improves the transparency of current and future transport plans including better engagement with councils and community.
64. ensure individual state transport projects are fully integrated into the local transport network, environment, and place to optimise and capture community benefits.
65. provide an update on how the new Department of Transport structure will ensure a regional view and approach to transport planning.
66. provide greater support for councils in their planning and forward budgeting of critical social infrastructure projects (including libraries and aquatic centres) through an ongoing social infrastructure funding stream and establishment of funding agreements that enable councils to plan and deliver a pipeline of critical social infrastructure projects their community needs, when they need it; and deliver long-term funding certainty and provide flexible funding arrangements for councils.
67. re-establish the Hoarding and Squalor Taskforce previously coordinated by the Department of Health, to ensure professional guidance in the effective treatment and risk reduction of hoarding.
68. ban motorised bikes like (illegal) monkey bikes and dirt bikes in public open spaces and reserves, except where such bikes are specifically allowed, and effectively enforce any such ban and undertake an education campaign to remind that only lawfully registered motorised bikes may be ridden on public roads.
69. implement the recommendations of the "Air Pollution in Melbourne's Inner West; taking direct action to reduce our community's exposure" Report by the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group.
70. reinstate the full \$1.3 million funding to the Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA), continue to fully fund the role of the OVGA to provide independent expert architectural advice and make publicly available the advice of the OVGA where they have reviewed State Government and State Significant projects.
71. make an amendment to Clause 63.06 Expiration of Existing Use Rights of the Victorian Planning Provisions that exempts businesses from the current expiry timeframe to exclude the period where the State of Emergency for the coronavirus pandemic was in place from the calculated 15-year period.
72. ensure that Victoria has the government schools that families will need to meet their educational needs as our state continues to grow, by committing to a sustained program of building of new schools and upgrades to existing schools beyond 2026 and a target for new schools to be built by 2031.
73. provide adequate open space for government schools, or work with councils to ensure an agreement is in

place regarding the use of council-managed public open space prior to the delivery of government schools.

74. impose a moratorium on the issuing of infringement notices to councils for failing to maintain the minimum clearance distances between vegetation and powerlines as prescribed by the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.

75. Include mandatory aerial bundled cabling as an industry standard for powerline network upgrade works in Victoria within the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice as required under the Essential Services Commission Act 2021.

76. deliver better, more sustainable outcomes for the transition to renewable energy by introducing a policy that all future high-voltage transmission projects will be required to investigate the lowest social, environmental, and economic impact technologies and design options available.

77. deliver better, more sustainable outcomes for the environment and local communities being affected by the delivery of new renewable energy infrastructure, by developing a state policy for conducting and integrating community engagement findings when planning for and delivering renewable energy high voltage transmission infrastructure projects.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

78. address the critical shortage of affordable housing in Victoria through regulatory reform that incentivises provision of affordable homes within new developments at all scales.

79. fully fund and remove decommissioned and redundant overhead Hybrid Fibre Coaxial (HFC) cabling located on residential, business and industrial precinct streets following the successful rollout of the national broadband network.

Changing climate and a circular economy

On behalf of our member councils, the MAV is asking:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

80. increase investment in the circular economy through dedicated funding streams to industry and local government to support local processing solutions, sector innovation and market development in the waste and recycling sectors.

81. provide stronger guidelines around the installation of new wood heaters in built-up metropolitan areas through the planning process including the ability to not allow them.

82. expand the EPA Ambient Air Network (including sensors to provide more localised data for each local government area) which will enable greater, fine-grained coverage of the impact of wood heaters on public health.

83. provide support for households with no other main form of heating than wood heaters, to promptly switch to electric heating options through the introduction of a bulk-buy, subsidy or other incentive scheme.

84. address the significant weed infestations on Crown land and land under the control of various government agencies and departments.

85. increase funding support for enforcement of declared noxious weeds by Agriculture Victoria and for the delivery of pest and weed mitigation and management programs, including strategic research and programs that help farmers manage weeds and pests on their properties.

86. increase funding support to local government for the introduction and implementation of kerbside waste collection reforms.

87. review the (Victorian) Wildlife Act 1975, to address the increasing issue of Noisy Miners and their negative impact on other native birds.

88. work closely with the new Federal Government to establish a National Renewable Energy Target of 100% for 2030, declare a price on carbon pollution, preferably the Australian Carbon Dividend Plan, as soon as possible, and replicate the success of the 20 Million Trees program to re-establish green corridors, urban forests and

threatened ecological communities.

89. implement reforms to make the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process fairer and less costly for local government and the community whilst continuing to maintain the ability to fully participate.
90. support the management of natural resources in coastal and mountain areas across the state through developing and implementing a multi-disciplinary approach for natural resource management policy.
91. increase resourcing for compliance and education to ensure that visitors take their rubbish home and dispose of it lawfully when visiting national and state parks.
92. establish a funding stream for local governments to improve the climate resilience of ageing infrastructure that will be impacted by future extreme weather events due to climate change.
93. fund the appointment of an Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) to each local council in Victoria to ensure a consistent coordinated approach to education and enforcement of state and local government environment protection matters.
94. recognise the harmful impacts of second-generation rodenticides and prohibit their use in Victoria and establish a taskforce to investigate and promote alternative methods of rodent management.
95. develop an integrated Bin Day App, integrated into the Service Victoria app, that allows all residents of Victoria equal access to accurate information about bin collection days and standardised kerbside bin contents, eliminating confusion and ensuring quality product to recyclers.

Sector capability and good governance

On behalf of our member councils, the MAV is asking:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

96. provide councils with the financial funding support required to continue providing the services to the community that the state government has cost-shifted, in part or full, to local government including where local government collects levies for the state government.
97. consider the volatility in CPI when setting rates and seek engagement with the sector prior to the next setting of the Victorian Council Rate Cap.

Effective and responsive MAV

On behalf of our member councils, the MAV is asking:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

98. replace the local government candidate certification program used for the 2020 general election with a mandatory comprehensive candidate training program for the 2024 general election cycle to ensure all prospective candidates have a deep and clear understanding of the role of a councillor and council to drive sector capability and good governance.
99. develop and deliver a state-wide councillor induction program for the 2024 general election cycle that is driven by Local Government Victoria, delivered on a regional basis and funded by the State to ensure all councillors receive the same induction training in a way that is efficient and helps build relationships and support networks across the state.

MAV Member Councils 2021-22

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