



THEME 6

Effective and responsive MAV

KEY ISSUES: STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

CURRENT SITUATION

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is calling on the next State Government to enhance and expand consultation with Victoria's 79 councils. Increasing the engagement with local government will ensure that local experiences and insight inform State decision making. This will result in improved outcomes for community and build confidence in government service delivery.

State Government consultation and engagement with local government is currently patchy. In some areas of government, there is a strong and well-established practice of seeking the local insight and operational experiences of councils. Examples include maternal and child health services and building regulation.

Disappointingly, there have been a number of high-profile State Government activities where local government's insight and experience has been ignored. Examples include planning system reform and the social and affordable housing program.

Victoria's have the right to expect their State and local governments to work side by side in the planning, coordination and delivery of services and infrastructure that meet their needs and represent value of money.

The foundation of this cooperation is a new Victorian State Local Government Agreement (VSLGA). A new agreement must foster positive and productive relations between state and local government by committing to improved and sustained levels of communication, consultation and cooperation.

As a whole of sector peak body that presents all councils, enshrined in legislation, the MAV brings a highly valued and inclusive perspective to a new VSLGA. A future VSLGA must have practical significance and provide an overall framework for managing the future relationship between the state and local governments.

WHAT WE NEED FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT

- Renegotiate the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement between the Premier of Victoria and the President of the MAV
- Establish an effective, respectful transparent program for consultation with Victorian councils on any government regulatory reform and change activity that impacts local government
- Institute a requirement for Cabinet decisions significantly impacting local government to require full consideration of the financial impact on local government.

BENEFITS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Greater confidence that services and infrastructure are relevant to local needs and cost effective
- Increasing influence of local insight and experience in State policies and reform activities.