



MAV State Council

Resolutions

Friday 14 October 2022

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Consolidated motions

Under the MAV Rules 2013, matters submitted by Members for consideration at a meeting of the State Council which relate to the same subject may be consolidated into a single matter (Rule 21.1.4).

C1: Environmentally Sustainable Design and Climate Change in the planning system

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Support the work undertaken by 24 councils to elevate Environmentally Sustainable Design outcomes and facilitate zero carbon development through their planning schemes and;
2. Actively work with all stakeholders to implement explicit, mandatory, and enforceable climate change commitments into the planning system to enable the delivery of a safe climate and resilient communities.

Consolidated motions:

- Planning for a safer climate - City of Yarra (Motion 17)
- Improving environmentally sustainable design and zero carbon built environment outcomes – Maribyrnong City Council (Motion 25)

C2: Best Start Best Life Kindergarten Reform

Resolution

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to:

1. Lead urgent discussions regarding the recent announcement of 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten to provide councils with an opportunity to seek further clarity and information regarding the resourcing requirements including infrastructure funding, additional land requirements, staffing support and training, and the supports and funding that will be available to the sector through the transition.
2. Provide for additional funding, place-based solutions, and career assistance for kindergarten educators to ensure the successful implementation of the increased 3-year-old kindergarten hours.
3. Adopt a child and family centric model and prioritise collocation of new and existing kindergartens on primary School or P-12 sites.
4. Fund Councils full cost recovery to undertake the coordination and centralisation registration process for kindergartens. The funding model must reflect increases in population and all legislated requirements.

Consolidated motions:

- Increased of kindergarten hours – Mitchell Shire Council (Motion 1)
- Co-location of kindergartens – Bass Coast Shire Council (Motion 2)

Motions

Increase of kindergarten hours

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to C2: Best Start Best Life Kindergarten Reform.

Co-location of kindergartens

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Consolidated

Refer to C2: Best Start Best Life Kindergarten Reform.

Affordable housing

Submitting Council: City of Melbourne

Resolution

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Commit to a sustainable ongoing affordable housing funding stream beyond the \$5.3b Big Housing Build (2021-24) and quantify this commitment prior to the election.
2. Overcome any legal barriers to requiring mandatory affordable housing contributions through the planning scheme, including tailored zones.
3. Make any necessary changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs) to enable planning authorities whether Council, the Victorian Planning Authority or the Minister, to implement mandatory affordable housing requirements.

Local Government Culture Taskforce

Submitting Council: Moonee Valley City Council

Resolution

That the MAV:

1. Notes that the Local Government Culture Project Insights Report concludes that, to address cultural challenges and Councillor conduct, and bring about long-term systemic cultural change, sector-wide ownership of next steps is required.
2. Notes that the Local Government Culture Project Insights Report identified an opportunity for improving diversity and representation in local government, therefore greater advocacy and prioritisation sector wide of gender equality will contribute to long term cultural change.
3. As a key component of cultural change, endorses the view that we, as Councillors, are accountable and responsible for creating a safe and healthy working environment, in the same way as all local government employees,
4. Establishes a Local Government Culture Taskforce to achieve sector-wide ownership and agreement of the issues with respect to local government culture, and actions to address these issues; and that:

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- a. the Taskforce comprise representatives of the MAV, VLGA, ALGWA, LGPro, LGV, Gender Equality Advisory Committee (GEAC), Rural Councils Victoria (RCV), LGV and other relevant local government stakeholders, including Councillors from the sector;
 - b. the Taskforce identify short-term recommendations to address issues of councillor conduct by early-2023 and circulate these to the sector for feedback.
 - c. the Taskforce develop medium to long-term recommendations for change ahead of the 2024 Victorian local government elections, and that these be circulated to the sector for feedback;
5. Writes to the Minister for Local Government to request that the Minister and Local Government Victoria work proactively in partnership with the MAV and the sector to respond to recommendations and continually improve the legislation and regulations governing Councils and Councillors to ensure:
- i. effective and timely dispute resolution processes, including standardised paths for breaches of a Council's Code of Conduct and;
 - ii. a sector-wide culture of creating safe and healthy workplaces for Councillors and Council staff.
6. Seek funding from the State Government to support the sector to implement the arrangements.

Utilising existing housing stock to address homelessness

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Resolution

The MAV asks the State Government to repair, renovate or refurbish vacant houses that they own, so more housing stock is available to address the issues of homelessness and housing affordability while the new houses being built through the Big Build come online.

Flood inundation and coastal erosion

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV request the Victorian Government to urgently integrate environment and climate change policy into Victorian planning schemes and develop a State-Wide Flood Mapping system and Flood Management Overlay. This system and overlay are to regularly be reviewed and updated to reflect our changing environment and the impacts of climate change.

Community batteries

Submitting Council: City of Melbourne

Resolution

That MAV State Council calls on:

1. The Australian Government to:
 - 1.1. Locate at least 150 of the 400 community batteries provided under the 'Power to the People' initiative in Victoria.
 - 1.2. Prioritise Rewiring Australia and invest in the transmission network to allow greater penetration of localised and distributed renewable energy generation close to demand and storage.
2. The Victorian Government to:
 - 2.1. Increase funding to the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative grant program to support feasibility, demonstration and scale-up of community battery projects.
 - 2.2. Engage and incentivise electricity distribution businesses to make network constraint, solar generation, and energy consumption data publicly available to councils and community battery proponents.

Local Government workforce planning

Submitting Council: City of Melbourne

Resolution

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

1. Create a Victorian Skills Plan for Victorian Local Government in alignment with the recent release of the Victorian Skills Plan for 2022 into 2023.
2. Conduct a review of the current Victorian Local Government Workforce and identify any key skills and resource gaps necessary to deliver on local government commitments and initiatives through 2023-24.

Extension of public library funding for programs, reduction of poker machine hours

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Resolution

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-social 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.

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3. calls on the next State Government to commit to increased public library funding to facilitate an extension of programs such as Libraries After Dark.
 4. calls on the State Government to reduce pokies operating hours to no more than 18 hours a day with a mandatory shutdown from 2am until 8am each day.

Standard advocacy approach for public transport

Submitting Council: Merri-bek City Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the State bringing together its aspirations for 20-minute neighbourhoods in Plan Melbourne with the intention for Local Routes in Victoria's Bus Plan, so that people living in areas poorly served by public transport, especially those with mobility challenges, are able to access the benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods. A much more significant rollout of Demand Responsive Transport services would bring Melbourne in line with thriving capital cities.

Commonwealth Home Support Program

Submitting Council: Merri-bek City Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the Federal Government to guarantee the future of local council-run home support services for older people by continuing permanent and further expanded recurrent block funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program.

Municipal Rates Concession

Submitting Council: Merri-bek City Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the State Government to increase the yearly maximum deduction on the municipal rates concession to help older Victorians with the rising costs of living.

Accessible public transport

Submitting Council: Merri-bek City Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the State Government to set a clear goal on making the 2026 Commonwealth Games accessible to everyone by setting a target for making public transport accessible in Melbourne and regional areas by the time of the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Accessible public transport encompasses wheelchair accessibility but much more.

Economic Growth and Recovery

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Resolution

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to partner with local government take a broader view in respect of economic recovery and growth to reduce the reliance on infrastructure and construction to drive job creation and economic recovery post COVID to deliver on the 20-minute neighbourhood.

We seek to work in partnership to introduce a range of measures to further stimulate the economy and to improve employment growth:

1. Incentivise visitation and attraction
2. Develop local Job Prospectuses to improve and attract employment diversification
3. Improve access to technology to encourage business relocation.

Mental Health, Jobs, and Employment Pathways for Youth

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Increase funding for mental health support services including early intervention, local learning and job preparation programs and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment, particularly among young people.
2. Invest in and grow local jobs.
3. Continue to support and fund cultural ambassadors to assist in community led recovery activities.

Planning for a safer climate

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Consolidated

Refer to C1: Environmentally Sustainable Design and Climate Change in the planning system.

Advocacy for the introduction of legislation to reduce the uptake of e-cigarettes

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to introduce legislation for the banning of the sale of e-cigarettes without a prescription.

Advocacy for the introduction of legislation to reduce the uptake of e-cigarettes

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to introduce legislation to restrict the promotion and consumption of e-cigarettes, to mirror the restrictions placed on the promotion and consumption of traditional tobacco products.

Building Reform - Regulatory Impact / Sector Engagement

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Resolution

That the MAV urgently request the Victorian Government to:

1. Release the Building Reform Expert Panel Report.
2. Release any regulatory impact / risk assessment(s) completed to support any changes envisaged to the Building Act and Building Regulations that would be likely to have an impact on the Local Government sector.
3. Outline the Governments planned engagement strategy with the Local Government sector which provides for robust consideration and effective resolution of the following:
 - a. Implications with respect to the availability of securing sufficient qualified Building Surveyors and Building Inspectors to undertake any transferred functions across all Victorian Councils.
 - b. Ability of Councils to provide the additional technical and administrative functions within the constraints already imposed by the rate cap.
 - c. Availability of insurance cover to complete any regulatory functions that have been largely privatised since the deregulation of the Building Sector; and
 - d. The implications of any changes that would bring about a highly dispersed service model across the diverse Victorian Councils to effectively meet the servicing demands of the construction sector and its consumers.

State-wide short term accommodation register

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV advocate to Department of Justice and Community Safety to make an amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997, to:

1. update or expand the purpose of the Act to provide for the establishment of a short stay accommodation or short stay rental register
2. expand and further define a residential rental agreement to include short stay accommodation.

Disaster recovery support for councils

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Resolution

That the Victorian Government commit to partnering in the support of Councils through a staged 5-year framework for recovery from major disasters, in accordance with known recovery timeframes, to account for extended mental health impacts and support short- and long-term recovery, resilience and community connectedness.

Expanded scope of DRFA infrastructure works

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV advocate for State and Federal funding agencies administering the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to update the DRFA definitions and processes to allow for drainage to be reinstated to a standard that is resilient and able to withstand the modelled future impacts of climate change.

Establish a state-wide program for invasive species control, especially in periods of regrowth following natural disasters.

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to establish a state-wide ongoing program that funds and supports Local Governments to combat invasive species.

Flammable cladding rectification

Submitting Council: City of Monash

Resolution

That the MAV:

1. Urgently seek an update from State Government of the rectification status where the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) is Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS).
2. Seek an explanation as to why rectification has not been completed on buildings over the past 5 years.
3. Seek a commitment from the State Government that all buildings that are deemed extreme and high risk where the VBA is the MBS remain under their jurisdiction, and that none are transferred to Councils'. Understanding that:
 - a. The VBA has been the MBS for many of these building for 5 years, has inspected, issued notices and has intimate knowledge of issues beyond that of Councils, who have had little to no involvement in the management of these buildings during this time.
 - b. It would create confusion and angst amongst the owners and occupiers of these buildings, as a Council would need to reinspect, issue its own notices, and take action for rectification of the buildings which seems unnecessary and duplicitous given the actions of the VBA as MBS.

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- c. The issues associated with these buildings is greater than just cladding, and includes issues such as water ingress, standard of construction and modification to performance measures where VBA is not only MBS, but a regulatory authority.
 - d. It would create a significant cost burden on Councils and their ratepayers, (VBA and CSV were funded for this), risk, lack of access to technical expertise and lack of available resourcing given the shortage in qualified building professionals.

Improving environmentally sustainable design and zero carbon built environment outcomes

Submitting Council: City of Yarra

Consolidated

Refer to C1: Environmentally Sustainable Design and Climate Change in the planning system.

Incentivising and facilitating take-up of electric vehicles

Submitting Council: City of Yarra

Resolution

That MAV State Council resolves to call on the Victorian Government to:

1. Work constructively with the Commonwealth and other State Governments to deliver greater national leadership on the take-up of electric vehicles (EV) and EV market development across Australia.
2. Agree and support a nationally consistent approach to EV taxes, levies and charges that provide long-term confidence for industry and consumers.
3. Support best-practice national vehicle emissions standards.
4. Provide incentives to businesses and private owners to purchase electric vehicles; and
5. Significantly increase investment in the installation of electric vehicle charging stations across Victoria.

Victorian Government's Winter Retention Surge Payment for Healthcare Workers

Submitting Council: Moorabool Shire Council

Resolution

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Expand the definition of public sector health workers within the eligibility criteria for the Winter Retention Surge Payment for Healthcare Workers to include Maternal & Child Health Nurses and direct service support staff.
2. Offer the Winter Retention Surge Payment for Healthcare Workers to all Maternal and Child Health Nurses and service support staff in recognition of the challenges for health services and staff during the pandemic.

Extension of pre commitment laws to all gaming venues across the state

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Resolution

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to consider, informed by appropriate stakeholder consultation, extending the introduction of the new pre-commitment laws arising out of the 2021 Royal Commission into the Casino Operator and Licence to all gaming venues across the state. Pre-commitment is a harm-reduction measure requiring gamblers to set a limit on the time / money they intend to spend playing the pokies.

Suburban parks program continuation

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Resolution

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to commit to the continuation of the highly successful Suburban Parks Program, noting:

1. councils across Victoria have benefited from the program and have used the funding to construct new public open spaces such as dog parks and pocket parks
2. it is essential for councils to have continued access to State Government funding to improve and develop new public open spaces that meet the diverse needs of our communities; and
3. continuing to fund new green space and tree canopy in municipalities across Victoria will reduce the urban heat effect, improve biodiversity, reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Stronger cooperation between Councils and Parks Victoria

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Resolution

That the MAV State Council:

1. notes with concern the lack of investment and appropriate maintenance of many key assets managed by Parks Victoria including at a range of State Parks and various water-facing facilities such as piers and wharves in Port Phillip Bay and its tributary rivers and along the Victorian coast.
2. calls on the Victorian Government to greatly increase the operational funding to Parks Victoria to ensure that staffing levels are adequate to maintain its 4 million hectares of land and marine parks
3. authorises the MAV Board to seek the establishment of a formal MAV-Parks Victoria working group or consultative committee to provide a stronger local government voice as the next State Government develops the future annual Parks Victoria budgets and work plans.

Protection of native forests

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Resolution

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to work collaboratively with industry to bring forward the date to phase out logging of native forests.

Air BnB Rating Category

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Resolution

The MAV asks the State Government to allow properties that are listed on accommodation sites like Air BnB to be rated as commercial properties rather than residential properties and supports Councils to easily identify these.

Motions received after the circulation of the Business Paper

Funding of kindergarten infrastructure to support changes to 3 and 4 year old kindergarten reform

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Resolution

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to fully fund all infrastructure requirements at Local Government owned kindergarten venues to support changes to 3 and 4 year old kindergarten as part of its recently announced reform.

Increased Government Funding to Rural Councils required for Essential Sealed and Unsealed Road Maintenance

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire Council

Resolution

This motion calls for MAV to work in partnership with the State Government to:

1. Urgently request the Victorian Government to release road repair funding due to La Nina and climate change to rural Councils.
2. Call on the State Government to recognise that current levels of rural and local roads funding is not sustainable in a rate capped environment.