

**STATE COUNCIL**

**16 May 2013**

**RESOLUTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP**

# Changes to natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements

**Resolution**

That the MAV seek:

* The suspension of recent changes made to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery funding arrangements in respect to the definition of what constitutes Essential Public Infrastructure; and
* Reinstatement of full disaster relief and recovery funding for damaged local government sporting, recreation and community assets until a review of the disaster relief and recovery funding arrangements, involving local government, has been satisfactorily completed.

# Victorian Emergency Management Reforms - Role of Local Government

**Resolution**

That the MAV work with the Victorian Government to ensure that Emergency Management Reforms proposed in Victoria:

* Result in Local Government participation and contribution being appropriately integrated with the emergency incident management process;
* Ensure that recovery requirements are recognised early during an incident and that there is a process for a smooth transition to and coordination of recovery activities following an incident; and

Recognise that community recovery is an important role for Local Government in working with communities to increase their resilience over time.

# Community Alert Sirens

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate in relation to the management of community alert sirens, for the State Government to ensure that:

* Installation and implementation of sirens should not just be a community decision, but should be made by the state government, in consultation with the community and local government, and be based on risk and funded accordingly;
* Existing Community Alert Siren guidelines should be amended accordingly.

# Fire Services Levy Funding

**Resolution**

That the MAV strongly advocate to the Victorian State Government to ensure that councils receive full and fair compensation for all costs incurred through the implementation and ongoing collection of the State Government Fire Services Property Levy.

# Fire Services Levy

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council seeks assurances that the State Government will undertake a comprehensive state wide communication campaign advising property owners of the Fire Services Levy and that Local Government is the collection agency on behalf of the state.

# Bushfire Management Overlay Review

**Resolution**

that the MAV requests the Minister for Planning:

* Urgently convene a meeting between affected Councils, CFA, DSE and DPCD to resolve conflicts and unforeseen implications of the BMO.
* Review the Bushfire Management Overlay control and scope, given its extensive and unforeseen negative implications on existing settlements and communities.

# Defined Benefit Superannuation

**Resolution**

That the MAV State Council calls for:

1. Continued advocacy for the Commonwealth to waive or rebate the 15% contribution tax payable on the current $453m (plus contribution tax) and any possible future calls.
2. Return local government to be on an equal footing with other levels of government through legislative change withdrawing local government from the requirements of the SIS Act to fully fund any shortfalls.
3. The Vision Superannuation Board provide bi-annual (6 monthly) updates to member Councils on the investment performance of the LASB Defined Benefits Superannuation Fund

# Nationally consistent superannuation for public servants

**Resolution**

that the MAV request the Commonwealth Government to develop a consistent superannuation policy covering all Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Government public servants for consideration at a future meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2014

# Differential Rates

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Local Government:

To permit the levying of differential rates for Electronic Gaming Machine land that provides funding to allow Councils to develop and implement strategies to reduce the impact of problem gambling.

# General valuation frequency

**Resolution**

That the MAV lobby the State Government to change the general valuation frequency from two to four years.

# State Government Municipal Rates Concession

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian State Government to substantially increase the State Government’s maximum annual pensioner rate rebate concession, in addition to annual indexation, to better reflect the increasing costs of living being experienced by eligible pensioners.

# Increase in eligible pensioner concession rebate

**Resolution**

That the MAV State Council:

1. Write to the Victorian State Government Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Community Services and local members of Parliament advocating for an increase in the eligible Pensioner Concession rebate from its current $198 to at least $250 for 2013/14.
2. Request that the indexation method be changed from 2014/15 to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Local Government Cost Index to more appropriately support eligible pensioners.

# Federal and State Governments Funding

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate to the State and Federal Governments:

For greater equity in the distribution of Commonwealth grant funding to Councils by consideration of factors such as diversity of language and culture, the cost of servicing communities with high number of migrants, indigenous population and aged pensioners and lower socio-economic factors.

Although about 40 per cent of the Darebin’s residents earned under $600 per week, the Victoria Grants Commission formulae has declined from $41 per capita in 20013 to $27 per capita in 2013. This decline is the direct result of a reduction in Federal funding and inadequacies in the formulae used by the State Government to allocate federal funding.

# Improving the impact of financial assistance grants on Local Government financial sustainability

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria seeks a commitment from the Australian Government to:

* ensuring ongoing practical support for rural, regional and remote areas by providing a level of funding that is sustainable over the long term which in turn, will improve their effectiveness and ability to provide services to their communities; and
* securing this outcome through an improved allocation methodology for distributing Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) that incorporates a greater needs-based allocation, improved grant equalisation outcomes and removal or at least reduction of the minimum grant entitlement.

# Name one standard kindergarten registration procedure

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate to and work with State Government to implement a single standard Kindergarten Central Enrolment process across the state by 2015.

# Support for regional carer support networks

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria seeks a commitment from the Australian Government to:

Increase assistance to Carers, in particular to Fund 44 Regional Carers Support and Advocacy Networks Nationwide to ensure that caring Families obtain grassroot support in their irreplaceable role as unpaid carers.

# Funding for Children with additional needs

**Resolution**

That whilst welcoming the allocation of $34.6M in the 2013-14 Victorian State Budget, that the MAV make representations to the Victorian Government for it to continue to provide adequate resources and funding to support appropriate levels of specialist multi-disciplinary assessment, diagnosis and therapy services for all Victorian children with additional needs in the year prior to them first attending school.

# HACC Funding

**Resolution**

That the MAV:

1. Prioritise their current work in relation to Home and Community Care (HACC) in order to address local government’s current concerns regarding the sustainability of these services:

* Income needs to meet cost of providing the service
* Opportunities for operating efficiency and productivity gains
* Better service models for the future

1. Advocate to both the State and Federal Government to:

* increase existing local government HACC funding/income to more closely reflect service costs and to minimise the growing cost burden for Councils
* increase funding indexation rates to reflect the increasing costs associated with service provision (ie funding indexation rates are well below CPI and ongoing service cost increases)

# School Focused Youth Services

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian State Government to:

* Reinstate School Focussed Youth Services (SFYS) funding for at least an interim period until the new arrangements for supporting young people are established
* Share the approach regarding the youth service linking education and community support that supports vulnerable young people; and
* Ensure any new approach will improve outcomes for vulnerable young people and take into consideration the strengths of the school focused youth service model.

# Uniform occupational health and saftey regimes

**Resolution**

That the MAV State Council:

Advocate to State Governments about the importance of uniform Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regimes across Australia, particularly in municipalities bordering other states and that the local government sector urges state governments that have not already done so to adopt the uniform national OHS legislation.

# Libraries funding arrangements

**Resolution**

The MAV continue to lobby for improved recurrent and capital library funding, including a review of the current funding mechanisms and the distribution formula weighting factors, establishment of a long term Living Libraries capital fund, and analysis of the potential impact of the Ministerial Advisory Council (MAC) report outcomes on future funding models.

# Planning Scheme - Environmentally Efficient Design

**Resolution**

That the MAV write to the Minister for Planning and the Premier to voice its support for a state-wide approach to the implementation of Environmentally Efficient Design provisions in planning schemes across Victoria as being pursued by the Cities of Banyule, Moreland, Port Phillip and Whitehorse.”

# Permit Application Fees - Planning & Environment Act (1987)

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council calls on the State Government to introduce as a matter of urgency a system where planning application fees are:

1. Indexed to inflation as a minimum; and
2. Ultimately set by councils themselves.

# Commonweath Land

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate for the Victorian State Government to advocate along with Local Government to the Commonwealth Government to improve the level of scrutiny and ensure parity of decision making processes associated with land which is under the control of the Commonwealth Government.

# Equity for Victoria's growth corridors: Preventing vulnerability

**Resolution**

That the MAV requests that the State Government develop policies that support social equity for children, young people and families in rural, regional and urban fringe areas of Victoria.

# Mobile telecommunications in Rural and Regional Victoria

**Resolution**

The Municipal Association of Victoria recognise that the coverage and data speeds currently available from all mobile telecommunications providers across large tracts of

rural and regional Victoria are inadequate.

-That the Municipal Association of Victoria write to the Federal Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy to lobby for an intervention from the Federal

Government to rectify this situation.

# Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Model for NBN

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria adopts a position of favouring a Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) rather than a Fibre to the Node (FTTN) model for a National Broadband Network.

* That the Municipal Association of Victoria write to the Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the Federal Opposition Shadow Minister for Communications and Broadband to express this view.

# Infrastructure Australia

**Resolution**

That the MAV support the continuation of Infrastructure Australia as a national expert body at arms-length from government, with a brief to financially support nation building infrastructure development across a broad range of infrastructure classes, based on sound business cases with transparent business case assumptions.

# Demolition of Buildings

**Resolution**

That the MAV State Council:

1. Write and advocate to the State Minister for Planning requesting that a change to the Victoria Planning Provisions be explored to stipulate that the demolition of residential dwellings in designated areas requires planning permission;
2. Request the Minister for appropriate State funding to be provided to all municipalities to adequately resource the processing of such permit applications; and
3. Request the Minister to urgently review the penalties for the unauthorised removal of trees and other vegetation under the Planning and Environment Act and the Local Government Act having regard to other penalty systems which exist outside Victoria.

# Victorian Taxi Inquiry

**Resolution**

That the MAV strongly encourage the Victorian State Government to endorse the findings of the recently completed Victorian Taxi Inquiry and adopt the recommendations of the final report.

# Arterial Roads Funding

**Resolution**

That the MAV strongly advocate to the State Government Minister for Roads and Public Transport for the expansion of existing and/or the introduction of an additional new funding program to address the backlog of poor quality urban arterial roads, which are currently not programmed for construction.

# East West Link - Western part

**Resolution**

That the MAV support the western part of the West East Link as an urgent and vital contributor to the resilience of Victoria's transport system, to allow for a second major river crossing of the Yarra/Maribyrnong Rivers to the port and central Melbourne for those living in the western part of Victoria, and as a vital road link in freight movements which play a critical role in the economic health of our state and country. Further the MAV calls for the public release of the business case assumptions for the entire project.

# Fund the Great Ocean Road

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria :

1. Lobby the Federal Government to include the Great Ocean Road (spanning 243 kilometres along the western Victorian coast from Torquay to just short of Warrnambool) within the National Land Transport Network to recognise its national significance for federal government funding purposes, and
2. Lobby the State and Federal governments to gain commitments for a minimum level of funding of $10 million-a-year for five years to ensure the road is upgraded and maintained to a suitable standard to meet current and future demand – total commitment being $50 million.

# Enhanced Proactive Vicroads Asset Maintenance Program

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the State Government to provide adequate funding to VicRoads to enable enhanced proactive maintenance programs for their assets to improve the amenity of local precincts.

# Commitment to Fund Stage 2 - Doncaster Rail Link

**Resolution**

That the MAV request the Minister for Public Transport to fund stage 2 of the feasibility study on a rail link to Doncaster Rail.

# Public Transport Victoria network development plan

**Resolution**

That the MAV welcomes the publication of the Public Transport Victoria network development plan for metropolitan rail, which recognizes the priority of the Metro 1 project for building capacity in the longer term, and has the support of Infrastructure Australia. That the MAV State Council:

1. calls for greater consultation in future with Councils on amendments to the plan, and a strong focus in the short to medium term is maintained on signalling improvements, procuring additional trains and grade separations.
2. support the Victorian Government in seeking Infrastructure Australia funding for the Melbourne Metro, identified as a lynchpin project to enable the Public Transport Victoria Plan the capability of increased capacity.

# Metropolitan bus service reviews

**Resolution**

That the MAV calls on the State Government to affirm its commitment to the benefits of public transport by allocating funding to implement actions in the Metropolitan Bus Service Reviews completed in 2009 and 2010.

# Myki

**Resolution**

that the MAV advocate to the Victorian State Government to review the MYKI card access and management systems by:

1. Immediately reviewing the MYKI card access and management systems, with a view to removing barriers and improving access to better service all users of the MYKI system;
2. Extending the validity of MYKI beyond one year;
3. Allowing card replacement and return, to occur at all railway station ticket offices;
4. Extending the network of both MYKI check and MYKI machines to include service points in a variety of locations such as supermarkets, local shopping centres and community hubs.

# School Crossing Funding

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council calls on the State Government to:-

1. urgently increase the funding for school crossing supervision to appropriate levels to local governments to at least a 50% : 50% split between State and Local Government”; and
2. reverse the decision to not fund light operated crossings.

# Cyclist Safety

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) seek the following commitments from the State Government as a matter of priority:

* To develop and implement a program for intersection improvements to improve safety and access for cyclists at high-risk intersections.
* Allocate funding to provide cyclists with improved infrastructure and safer vehicle speeds to reduce their risk and support the uptake of sustainable travel modes in line with the strategic direction in its Road Safety Strategy.

# Vic Roads Maintenance - Roadside Vegetation

**Resolution**

That the MAV:

* Ensure that minimum maintenance standards for Vicroads roadside vegetation and asset care is increased to meet community expectations.
* Facilitate a meeting with VicRoads and Council representatives in order to determine service levels in line with community expectations.

# Roadside pest plans and animal management

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate, in relation to management of roadside pest plants and animals, for the State Government to ensure that:

* Any increase in local government’s legislative responsibilities for pest plants and animals is matched by an ongoing and corresponding increase in State Government funding to councils;
* When implementing the Bailey Report on Roadside Weeds and Pests, the following recommendations contained in the report are implemented:
  + Costs to control regionally controlled weeds and rabbits on municipal roads be shared between the State Government and councils (Recommendation 6);
  + A Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan will be the mechanism for councils to meet their responsibilities in regards to managing regionally controlled weeds and rabbits on municipal roads (Recommendation 13); and
  + The development and implementation of Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plans by councils will be dependent on the amount of funds provided under cost sharing arrangements (Recommendation 14).

# Environmental upgrade agreements – suggested inclusion in Local Government Act 1989

**Resolution**

That the State Government amend the Local Government Act 1989 to enable all councils in Victoria, in partnership with Australian financial institutions, to enter into voluntary Environmental Upgrade Agreements with building owners to finance environmental upgrades for energy and water efficiency for non-residential buildings.

# Tree removal

**Resolution**

That MAV lobby the State Government to set minimum penalties that will act as an effective deterrent against the illegal removal of trees.

# Green waste facilities

**Resolution**

That MAV lobby the State government for the timely implementation of an effective network of green waste facilities located away from residential areas to meet the green waste recycling needs of Melbourne.

# EPA noise guidelines for motorcycle sport

**Resolution**

That the MAV request the EPA Victoria to develop Noise Restriction Guidelines for recreational activities including motorcycle facilities which cause noise nuisance.

# State funding for organics processing

**Resolution**

That the MAV acknowledges the State Government's programs and strategies to establish sustainable organics processing supported by strong markets, and advocates to the State Government to increase its allocation of funds raised from the landfill levy to develop new technologies and markets to support the treatment of both green and food waste from the municipal, commercial and industrial sector, in order to increase the diversion of waste from landfill.

# Funding Support For Melbourne's Green Wedges

**Resolution**

that the Victorian Government provide a dedicated pool of funding for green wedge council’s to manage on behalf of all Victorians for:

1. The high risk profile of green wedge areas in relation to natural disasters such as bushfires, landslip and floods.
2. Implementation funding for Green Wedge Management Plans for biodiversity mapping, being the priority implementation item. This would provide improved assessment, enhanced native vegetation protection and allow better targeting of private land management.
3. Tourism and recreational infrastructure projects in the green wedges

# Contract for Local Elections

**Submitting Council: Banyule City Council**

**Resolution**

that the MAV investigate increased competition for the provision of Council election services for the 2016 Council elections.

# Review of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 applying to municipal elections

**Resolution**

That the MAV strongly advocate to the Minister for Local Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 applying to municipal elections to:

1. strengthen the provisions relating to candidate eligibility and to empower the Returning Officer to remove an ineligible candidate;
2. provide greater clarity on the obligations placed on the Chief Executive Officer during the pre-election (caretaker) period;
3. address the advantage afforded to candidates by the system used for determining the order that candidates appear on the ballot paper; and
4. enhance the democratic process by increasing the electorate’s awareness of the qualifications/credentials of all candidates

# Capital city membership on the MAV Board

1. That the MAV develop a discussion paper on this proposal including its impacts on representation across the sector

2. That MAV consult with members prior to putting any recommendations for constitutional change to the next State Council.

# Shared services incentives

**Resolution**

That the MAV calls upon the Victorian Government, particularly the Minister for Local Government and the Deputy Premier, to provide financial incentives to Councils willing to collaborate on a regional scale to implement shared services either through IT systems or back office services.

# Website disclosure of council leasing arrangements

**Resolution**

That the State Council:

1. embraces the concept of open government through the systematic release of more data and information by member councils about their operations;
2. commends Manningham City Council for being the first Victorian council to comprehensively disclose on its website the terms on which third parties lease council land and buildings; and
3. encourages other Victorian councils to follow Manningham’s lead and publish a lease register online which allows the public and all stakeholders to understand who has access to ratepayer owned land and buildings, for how long and on what terms.

# Smoke free alfresco dinning - whole of Victoria Approach

**Resolution**

That the State Government implement a state wide approach that provides for smoke-free alfresco dining in Victoria.

# Special interest advisory group for VCAT appeals relating to the Domestic Animals Act

**Resolution**

That the MAV establish and facilitate a ‘Special Interest Advisory Group’ to discuss, collate data, evaluate program activity and evaluate VCAT appeal data with a view to advocating legislative reform which will remove ambiguity and enable Councils to effectively administer the Domestic Animals Act and meet the objectives of this Act, in particular with respect to dangerous dogs.

As an example, it is suggested that the MAV represent Council to collate the following information:

1. The total number of application appeals lodged with VCAT against Council’s (all Councils) original decision to declare a dog dangerous.
2. Of these appeals, how many were contested and how many were uncontested due to the non appearance of the applicant?
3. How many of these appeals were upheld in favour of the dog owner and what were the main reasons supporting the decision?
4. How many of these appeals have been in favour of Council’s original decision? (ie. VCAT ruled in Council’s favour).
5. This information (1-4) is to form the basis of local government lobbying the State Government to review and update legislation in response to the serious flaws existing with the current legislation/VCAT appeal processes. Expecting Councils to commit ratepayer money to fund expensive and on- going appeals in order to implement State enacted legislation is unsustainable and unwarranted in terms of community safety and effective use of resources.

# VCGLR and gaming expenditure Transfer

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate for the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) to carry out the necessary research to enable greater clarity and understanding of predicted expenditure and likely transferred expenditure arising from proposals involving the installation of additional electronic gaming machines.

# VCGLR Timelines

**Resolution**

That the MAV advocate for the State Government to amend the relevant section of the Gambling Regulation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2010 to ensure Councils have sufficient time to respond to planning permit applications for a new EGM venue, or for an existing venue to increase its number of EGMs.

The State Government should undertake further consultation with local governments about what the reasonable time period should be. It is neither reasonable nor good governance practice for submissions to be made without the formal consideration of the elected council acting on advice and information gathered by council staff. It is imperative that an appropriate limit is found that goes beyond the 60 day (44 working days) currently allowed by the Bill

# Reduction of gaming losses

**Resolution**

MAV advocate on behalf of Local Government and its citizens to State government of Victoria to introduce a $1 spin Limit of all poker machines to reduce the maximum hourly loss on each gaming machine to $120.

# Infrastructure and Service Funding

**Resolution**

That this State Council call for the State and Federal Governments:

1. to note:
2. successive MAV and in fact ALGA motions in previous years highlighting problems in funding urban and regional public transport infrastructure, social housing, education, and health services by the States and Local Government infrastructure and services to meet population growth; and
3. fiscal imbalances between Commonwealth, State and Local Governments in meeting their responsibilities for the above; and
4. to raise through all available avenues including the COAG Agenda, the need for re-alignment of federal funding arrangements so that levels of Government in Australia have a more efficient match between their responsibilities and their finances.

# Power Line Safety

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria writes to Energy Safe Victoria requesting that they work with Councils and the power distribution businesses to develop an agreed risk based management approach to electrical line clearance of trees.

# Youth Employment

**Resolution**

That all local governments in the State of Victoria commit to employing a minimum of one additional apprentice, or young person, in a bid to redress the employment situation in the State.

# Social Media

**Resolution**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria investigates opportunities, best practice strategies and potential risks of using social media by Victorian councils or individual Councillors.

# Retail & Consumer Fuel Measurement & Pricing Anomaly

**Resolution**

That the MAV requests that the Commonwealth Government introduce mandatory temperature correction compensators for all petrol and diesel fuel retail outlets to ensure that retailers and consumers are not disadvantaged by the distribution of high temperature petroleum products.

# Advocacy regarding funding for the University of the Third Age (u3a)

**Resolution**

That The MAV advocate to both the State and Federal Governments regarding the provision of operational and infrastructure funding for the University of the Third Age (U3A).