# Strengthening Transparent Governance: Community Consultation and Engagement

That the MAV review the different approaches, policy frameworks and strategies to consultation and community engagement across the Victorian local government sector with a view to highlighting leading examples of innovation and best practice.

# Local Laws Penalty Provisions

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

1. Review the penalty provisions set out in the Local Government Act, 1989 (the Act) for local laws.
2. To increase the maximum penalties set out in the Act for contravention of local laws.

# MAV Advocacy

That the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council adopt a protocol to escalate its representations to Government to the level of a sector wide campaign when legitimate concerns/issues impacting the Local Government sector constantly fail to gain any recognition at Government level.

# Review of Council reporting for Local Government Act Review

That the MAV request that the State Government hold a review and report on the current level of reporting, regulation and monitoring that councils are expected to meet and that the report be ran in parallel with the review process of the Local Government Act.

# Land contamination management costs to Councils

That the MAV advocate to the State Minister for Environment seeking financial assistance for Councils dealing with the significant burden placed on their community resulting from legacy contaminated sites.

# Recognising the differing needs of rural, regional and urban councils when finalising the rate capping framework

That the MAV call on the Minister for Local Government and the Essential Services Commission to recognise the differing needs of individual councils including rural, regional and urban councils and make allowance for these needs when finalising the rate capping framework.

# Public Library Funding

That the Municipal Association of Victoria further continue to press and lobby the State Government for improved recurrent and capital library funding, including an urgent review of the current funding mechanisms to return to an equitable funding model between local and state government.

# Maternal and Child Health Funding and Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Services

That the MAV State Council:

1. advocates that the State Government complete a review of the
2. actual unit cost of providing Universal Maternal Child Health Services; and
3. the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health service
4. request that the MAV negotiate
5. a unit cost with the Victorian Government that reflects the actual and full cost to local government in providing the service and Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Service.
6. an appropriate annual indexation levels to eliminate local government’s increasing subsidy to this service.

# ICE epidemic and the socio-economic costs to council and communities

That the MAV calls on the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to:

1. Provide increased resources to support the drug and alcohol sector to address the ice epidemic in local communities
2. Establish new initiatives to support and strengthen local communities at risk and in building and enhancing community health and resilience
3. Coordinate a targeted and effective approach to education, health, rehabilitation and law enforcement to minimise the harmful effects of this growing community issue.

# Social Housing

That the Municipal Association of Victoria state council calls on the State Government to allocate a portion of stamp duty revenue to social housing.

# Gender inequity of sporting facilities

That the MAV State Council:

* 1. acknowledges and congratulates the Victorian State Government’s recent efforts to increase women’s participation in sport with the announcement of the Female Friendly Facilities Fund; and
  2. requests the State Government to raise this matter at the next COAG meeting calling for the establishment of a National Framework and Fund to address the gender inequity of sporting facilities.

# Federal Kindergarten Funding

That the MAV write to the Prime Minister and Minister for Education and Training seeking review of the decision of the Federal Government to only extend funding of 15 hours kindergarten for 2 years. Such a review should have regard to the recommendations of the Productivity Commission, international research showing the benefits of such education and the cost shifting implications of the government’s current position.

# Funding for School Focussed Youth Service Program

That the MAV State Council write to the State Minister for Education advocating for a further three year program funding to enable the State-wide School Focused Youth Service program (SFYS) to continue to be implemented across schools and communities beyond December 2015.

# Proposed amendment to Domestic Animals Act 1994

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to amend the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to provide for the following:

1. Making an offence for the non-compliance with court orders banning a person from conducting or working in a domestic animal business.
2. Inclusion of a requirement for councils to notify the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources of all banning orders.
3. To provide for an infringement offence in the following circumstances:
4. individuals who fail to comply with the action set out in a notice to comply
5. Pet shop businesses which fail record keeping requirements
6. Inclusion of a requirement for councils to be notified if a dog is no longer guarding non-residential premises and for behavioural rehabilitation of such dogs.

# Review of planning fees

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the State Government to index planning fees to better meet the costs of processing as a matter of urgency and complete the review into planning fees in a timely manner, ensuring an appropriate level of cost recovery is established in consultation with Local Government.

# Unfair conduct by private parking operators

That the MAV State Council:

1. congratulates the Victorian Government for legislating to stop private car park operators from clogging our courts by applying for court orders to access Vic Roads’ car registration and ownership information in order to issue their unenforceable ‘fake parking fines’;
2. requests that the Victorian Government instruct Consumer Affairs Victoria to take action in the public interest to stop private car park operators from issuing ‘Payment Notices’ which are designed to mislead people into believing that these notices are enforceable parking fines backed by Victorian law; and
3. expresses its concern that private car park operators continue to demand the payment of debts which VCAT found last year are unenforceable.

# Protecting the health and welfare of council authorised enforcement officers

MAV state Council advocate to the State government that for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of Council authorised enforcement officers, the need to amend and insert in the Local Government Act 1989 (currently being reviewed) the following:

1. A specific offence provision(s) within the Act that applies to causing serious injury or the death of a council appointed authorised officer. Specifically, the offence(s):
2. To reflect the current offences to which section 10AA of the Sentencing Act applies, such as:
3. Intentionally causing serious injury or the death of an authorised officer performing their duties, in circumstances of gross violence;
4. Recklessly causing serious injury or the death of an authorised officer performing their duties, in circumstances of gross violence;
5. Intentionally causing serious injury or the death of an authorised officer performing their duties; and
6. Recklessly causing serious injury or the death of an authorised officer performing their duties.
7. The penalty for the offence(s) to be a significant fine or imprisonment, or both.
8. The offence provision to include a subsection that makes it clear that it has effect in addition to, and not in derogation from, any Act or law relating to civil or criminal liability. This will ensure that the offence provision will not limit other criminal and civil proceedings that may be brought; and
9. Including a definition of ‘serious injury’ that refers to the definition currently contained within section 15 the Crimes Act.
10. That upon conviction, Local Governments have a capacity to recover all costs associated with the incident including additional work cover premiums from the defendant.

# Improved transparency at MAV State Council meetings

That the MAV State Council:

1. Resolves to open this State Council and all future State Council meetings to registered members of the media and, to the extent practicable, interested members of the public.

# Improved transparency at MAV State Council meetings

That the MAV State Council:

1. Authorises management to record all future State Council meetings in full and make the audio publicly available on the MAV website.
2. Requests the MAV Board to distribute draft State Council motions to delegates without consolidation or amendment at least five weeks before State Council, thereby allowing member councils an opportunity to directly seek amendment before the final distribution of papers at least two weeks before State Council. Submitting Councils are entitled to amend existing motions up to three weeks before State Council.
3. Resolves to publish the names of councils which attend State Council in the minutes of the meeting.

# Bill Posting

That the MAV State Council request the State Government to investigate potential opportunities to remedy the growing issue of unsolicited advertising posters being attached to Council property and to amend the Summary Offences Act 1966 to ensure that responsibility for unauthorised posting of bills be extended to the organisation responsible for the posting of the bill.

# Planning application fees

That the MAV calls on the State Government to increase town planning application fees for commercial projects to full cost recovery.

# Metropolitan Planning Levy and Planning Fees

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to:

1. Exempt councils from paying the Metropolitan Planning Levy for projects which require a planning permit and have a value in excess of $1 million;
2. Redirect at least 50% of the levy fees to the municipality where it is generated to assist with planning process improvement and local planning; and
3. Call for a review of planning fees to deliver a higher amount of cost recovery.

# Motion of no confidence in the Victorian Building Authority

That the MAV urge the State Government to:

1. take prompt and decisive action to ensure that ongoing failings of the Victorian Building Authority are addressed to ensure that Private Building Surveyors are properly monitored and regulated to ensure that consumers are protected from defective building work and unsafe practices; and
2. if the State Government decides it is necessary for Local Government to step in to monitor and regulate the Private Building Permit System within their municipalities, that an appropriate portion of the Building Permit Levy is redirected to Local Government to allow for the necessary resourcing and expense of fulfilling this important and onerous function.

# Regional Rail Link

That the Municipal Association of Victoria call upon the State Government to increase the allocation of funding to upgrade the regional rail network in Victoria so that regional businesses, importers and exporters can get greater access to the Port of Melbourne.

# Traffic noise

That the MAV State Council make a submission to VicRoads in relation to the Traffic Noise Reduction Policy, to:

1. Strengthen the policy to ensure clear guidelines are developed to assist in decision-making processes with respect to land use planning and road planning.
2. Ensure that the policy does not exceed 63dB (A) L10
3. noise measurements are undertaken from the first floor and ground floor levels
4. Take into consideration that any new noise reduction policy must give full consideration to governance arrangements for ensuring that set criteria are met, monitored and enforced.
5. Seek that the policy, once adopted by State Government, be considered in the broader context of polices for land use planning and not exist in isolation.

# Street furniture to facilitate public transport use

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian State Government to review its current funding directed to the provision of shelters, seats and concrete floors at all major public transport tram and bus stops.

# Congestion Levy

That this State Council call on the state government to return a portion of the revenue collected from the Congestion Levy in inner Melbourne municipalities to those councils to spend on measures which will actually assist in reducing congestion by investing in sustainable transport projects such as cycling and walking.

# Dandenong Line

That the MAV calls on the State Government, which has committed to rebuilding the Dandenong rail line, to ensure as part of this upgrade, to design new bridges, overpasses and rail stations to accommodate 4 rail tracks to future proof the line.

# Expansion of Melbourne bike share

That the Municipal Association of Victoria call on the State Government to provide funding to enable the expansion Melbourne Bike Share throughout the Cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra and Maribyrnong (IMAP municipalities) as a first stage of expansion through areas of high cycling potential, and its extension to Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat within 5 years.

# Improvement to rail freight

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. call on the State Government to progress rail freight enhancements to improve rail freight mode share and to ensure the efficient movement of goods on the rail system through the following measures:
2. establish a specialist unit within the Transport Portfolio, reporting directly to a Minister, tasked to manage regional rail freight with an independent board, regional representation and the capacity to promote rail freight services to customers;
3. support the Mode Shift Incentive Scheme to maintain and grow rail freight, particularly container freight, and to support a target of 20% mode share for rail freight by 2025;
4. support asset management, maintenance of rail track, and standardisation of key freight routes to support reaching the above mode share;
5. encourage stevedores in the Port of Melbourne and the Melbourne Ports Corporation to facilitate rail port access and increase efficient throughput;
6. make the significant development of metropolitan and regional rail services for import/export freight a mandatory requirement for all bids for the long term lease of the port and assess proposals submitted on this basis;
7. support development of the Melbourne Intermodal System comprising terminals at Lyndhurst, Somerton and Altona linked by rail freight lines and a network of regional intermodal terminals such as Donald, Dooen, Maryvale, Merbein, Tocumwal, Shepparton, Mangalore Airport, Warrnambool and Wodonga; and
8. support the development of a Melbourne Brisbane Inland Railway to enable better access by Victorian producers to northern markets, reduce truck numbers on regional and other roads and improve freight efficiency.
9. include consideration of the above in its strategic planning and make representations on the above matters in writing and in meetings with State Ministers including the Premier, Ministers with responsibility for Transport, the Special Minister for State and Parliamentary Secretaries with responsibilities including transport.
10. make representations to ALGA, including pursuit at ALGA Executive and planning meetings, to include the expansion of rail freight transport including to and from regional cites, intermodal freight hubs supported by rail, and the Melbourne Brisbane Inland Railway as key items on the Agenda for ALGA Communiques and ALGA’s National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

# Melbourne Metro

That the MAV:

1. make representations to Federal Ministers, Senators and MPs urging federal funding for urban rail infrastructure and specifically the funding of the critical Melbourne Metro Rail Project which is of national significance.
2. make further representations to ALGA, including pursuit at ALGA Executive and planning meetings, to pursue federal funding of urban rail transport for cities including regional cites, as key items on the Agenda for ALGA Communiques and ALGA’s National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

# Railway Station Amenity

That the MAV calls on the Minister for Public Transport as part of rail station development to consider the amenity of rail passengers by:

1. ensuring all rail stations have accessible toilets and that all locked toilets on rail stations are re-opened for passengers; and
2. providing for escalators as well as for stairs/ramps and lifts.

# Port of Melbourne

That the MAV lobby state Government, for Rural Victoria to receive a far greater share, than the $200 million promised, from the planned privatization of the Port of Melbourne.

# Funding for infrastructure Renewal

That the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council calls on State and Federal Governments to provide a more equitable and reliable source of revenue which will provide a consistent source of income for local government and enable it to reduce the infrastructure backlog as well as enhance current infrastructure and expenditure programs to keep pace with depreciation and community need.

# Low Impact Bridges

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian State Government to consider prioritising a targeted program to reduce the dangerous incidence of truck impacts with low bridges on the arterial road network.

# Fire plug operation and maintenance legislative changes

That the MAV advocate on behalf of its members for changes to the Water Act 1989 and the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, to remove the requirement for councils to facilitate and fund the installation and maintenance of fire hydrants.

# Restoration of Federal Government Infrastructure Funding to Victoria

That the MAV calls on the Federal Government to restore infrastructure funding to Victoria, to levels before funding was cut in the May 2015 federal budget.

# Modelling for Coastal Protection – Port Phillip Bay

That MAV advocate to the Victorian Government and the Office of the Minister for Environment Climate Change and Water for them to take a leading role to assist Councils, through the Association of Bayside Municipalities, to map and model integrated catchment flooding, sea level rise and storm surge such that a Coastal Hazards Vulnerability Assessment for Port Phillip Bay can be completed and appropriate measures to mitigate and adapt to future climate risk can be planned.

# Implementation of United Nations sustainable development goals

That MAV supports the Workshop Statement on Implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Australia, as agreed at the National Workshop on Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Australia held in May 2015.

That the MAV writes to the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Peter Varghese AO, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to call for the initiation of a national non-partisan dialogue to develop a Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Plan.

# Support for State Government’s renewable energy target.

That the MAV and the Local Government Sector formalise support for State Government’s renewable energy target.

# Landfill levy revenue distribution

That the MAV:

* Seek information from the Minister detailing the amount of Landfill Levy revenue that has been collected by the Victorian Government across Victoria since its inception and the amount of that revenue that has been returned to Local Government.
* Write to the Premier and Minister requesting that revenue derived from the Land Fill Levy, currently held in the Sustainability Fund, be used to fund future infrastructure and programs, identified by local government, in the proposed new metro and six regional waste and resource recovery infrastructure plans currently being developed.
* Seek information from the Minister detailing the proposed plans and timelines to disburse these funds and the projects that are likely to be funded.
* Ask government to explain the detail of the revenue collected by local governments from the landfill levy, the lack of return to local government and the real and projected increase of this revenue which is above CPI.

# Reduction of Carbon Emissions

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government on the need to develop and vigorously pursue integrated policy frameworks aiming for serious reduction of carbon emissions globally to try to avoid or reduce the risks as outlined in the report commissioned by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office titled Climate Change: A Risk Assessment.

# Victoria’s Consumer Protection Framework for Building Construction

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. Endorse the recommendations outlined in the Victorian Auditor General’s report ‘*Victoria’s* *Consumer Protection Framework for Building Construction’.*
2. Advocate the State Government, through the Victorian Building Authority, to implement the recommendations in the Victorian Auditor General’s report.

# Illegal Mini (Monkey) Bike

That the MAV advocate for a review of existing legislation and / or the introduction of new rules to enhance the powers of law enforcement agencies to eliminate illegal mini-bike / motor-bike use on public land.

# Business Owners right to vote

That the MAV write to Minister for local Government requesting the minister give full franchise to all business owners in all munipalities in the 2016 local government elections.

# Traffic Management for RSL

That MAV join with the RSL to jointly lobby State Government to cover the cost of traffic management and insurance of events on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

# Improving Compliance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015 – Insulating Battens

That MAV calls on the state government to require electricity distribution businesses (DBs) to install insulating battens on low voltage electric lines to protect trees when requested by local government.

# Management of Unoccupied Dilapidated Buildings

That the MAV lobby the State Government to incorporate added powers and functions for Councils to be able to better manage unoccupied dilapidated buildings within their municipalities.

# Meat Industry Act

That MAV State Council advocate to all political parties within State Government for the review of the Meat Industry Act and other relevant legislation.

# Review of the Tobacco Act 1987

That MAV State Council resolve to advocate to the Victorian State Government for a review of the role of council officers in investigating activities associated with the selling of illicit tobacco products.