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MAKE GOOD HAPPEN

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**A unified voice
for Victorian councils**

MAV FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN



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MAKE
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As the peak body for local government in Victoria, the MAV is giving voice to the needs and aspirations of communities across Victoria, and supporting Victorian councils to create cities, regions, towns and growing suburbs that are thriving, resilient and sustainable.

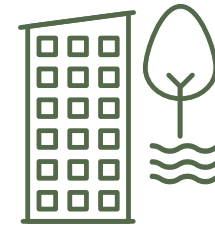
Local councils are equipped with intimate knowledge of the needs and capabilities of their local communities – and the MAV is uniquely placed to unite this knowledge to identify both common priorities and stand-out best practice programs across Victoria.

There has never been a more important time to advocate on behalf of our communities for policies, initiatives and investments that will help build a resilient and sustainable Victoria.

– Kelly Grigsby
CEO Municipal Association of Victoria

FIVE priorities for Victorian councils this federal election.

Together with Victoria's 79 local councils we have identified five themes representing the most pressing priorities for Victorian communities.



MAKE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE HAPPEN

Delivering the infrastructure growing communities need



MAKE SAFER ROADS HAPPEN

Connecting communities and supporting a safer and more productive Victoria



MAKE FAIRER ENERGY HAPPEN

Engaging communities in Victoria's energy transition



MAKE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES HAPPEN

Future-proofing communities to withstand natural disaster



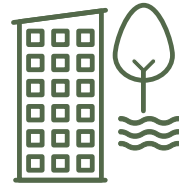
MAKE LOCAL DEMOCRACY HAPPEN

Supporting stronger, safer communities and countering disinformation

Building connected communities

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Delivering the infrastructure growing communities need to thrive.



MAKE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE HAPPEN



THE NEED

- The Federal Government's Housing Accord target is to build 1.2M new, well-located homes nationally by 2029.
- Building these new homes is about building communities too – with public spaces and shared facilities.
- Current funding won't deliver all the infrastructure new and growing communities need to thrive.

THE INVESTMENT

A dedicated 'Building Connected Communities' Fund to enable councils across Victoria to partner in realising the full community benefit of current record-level commitments to housing provision.

In some parts of the state, like Melbourne's west, housing supply is moving at pace while community infrastructure lags, leaving residents stranded.

[CASE STUDY]

MAKING GOOD HAPPEN IN MELTON

Melton is the 4th fastest growing municipality in Australia. A lack of fit-for-purpose, co-located accommodation in its centre was standing in the way of health and community service provision.

State and Federal Government funding is making the Cobblebank Community Services Hub possible – an 8,000 sqm community and commercial services space in a five-storey, Five-Star Green Rating building.

Due to open in 2026, the Hub will deliver services including education, employment, health, family violence prevention.



Community roads repair blitz

Connecting communities and supporting a safer and more productive Victoria.



MAKE SAFER ROADS HAPPEN



THE NEED

- Funding road maintenance is essential to the overall financial sustainability of councils.
- Victorian councils have relied on the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure fund (LRCI) to fund maintenance of the Victorian local road network – this has now expired.
- Increased traffic and growing truck numbers are increasing road maintenance and funding needs – and delayed repairs are compromising safety and productivity through last mile impact.

Councils maintain 87% of Victoria’s road network. Victorians tell us they want a smoother, safer ride.

The local government sector is making our roads safer in the most efficient way possible, creating the MAV Procurement Statewide Roads Contract, designed to give councils bang-for-buck on their works. However, Victorian councils remain concerned about road safety, asset deterioration, road smoothness, network disruptions and economic impacts.

THE INVESTMENT

- We need a repair and renewal blitz to ensure the safety and efficiency of local roads.
- A dedicated ‘Community Roads Repair Blitz’ Fund would allow councils to address priority road repairs across Victoria to boost economic activity and productivity of the nation.

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Many councils do not have a realistic way of raising the money they need to keep their roads in good condition, especially rural and remote councils.
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Potholes and pitfalls: How to fix local roads, Grattan Institute, 2023



Powering communities

Engaging communities in Victoria's energy transition.



MAKE FAIRER ENERGY HAPPEN

THE NEED

- Victoria is targeting net zero emissions by 2045 – five years earlier than the current national target, requiring real acceleration in renewable energy generation, particularly wind and solar.
- Communities and local governments are in a unique position to deliver locally supported outcomes but lack resources to facilitate participation in the process.
- A lack of standardisation in community benefit sharing arrangements is contributing to confusion, consultation fatigue and tension within and between communities, risking loss of social license for projects.

A CLEAR MESSAGE FROM VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES HOSTING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

- The need to protect biodiversity and natural environment and agriculture land use
- Concern about the impact on regions to service city energy demands
- Natural hazard vulnerability
- Concerns related to the nature and accessibility of engagement feedback
- The extent of regional opportunity

Draft Victorian Transmission Guidelines Final Engagement Report, VicGrid, 2024

THE INVESTMENT

- MAV is seeking \$5 million in funding to develop its 'Powering Communities' initiative to distribute knowledge and tools needed to bring innovative community benefit-sharing arrangements to life as the energy transition is expedited.
- Powering Communities will provide a coordinated and consistent approach to support host councils and communities to realise benefit-sharing alongside energy transition projects over the coming decade.

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It's about making sure planning is robust enough to ensure promised community benefits can be delivered not just now but ten to fifteen years down the track. This is more than just energy company logos on local footy jumpers, it's about delivering future community benefits.

*South Gippsland Shire Mayor
Cr John Schelling*

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Building to withstand

Future-proofing communities to withstand natural disaster.



THE NEED

- Governments across the nation have come to terms with the need to fund 'building back better' as extreme weather events wreak havoc on community infrastructure with increasing regularity.
- It's time to think further ahead to fund resilient infrastructure that can withstand storms, bushfires and floods, and avoid the need for costly and repeated rebuilding.
- Weather damage already costs Victoria about \$2.7 billion a year. Without action to better protect infrastructure, reconstruction costs and insurance premiums will grow.

[CASE STUDY]

DRFA FUNDING WASHES AWAY IN HUME

The Hume region is highly susceptible to natural disasters. Since 2019 there have been significant bushfires and two major floods in October 2022 and January 2024.

In the wake of the 2022 floods, DRFA funding allowed damage to be repaired and infrastructure restored to its previous condition. A lack of betterment funding, however, meant that this work did not include improved resilience measures and was damaged by floods again only fifteen months later.

THE INVESTMENT

A dedicated 'Build to Withstand' Fund would allow Victorian Councils to conduct priority pre-disaster investigation work to identify and address the highest priority infrastructure for resilience upgrades across the state.

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Nicholls is ranked number one most at-risk electorate in the Climate Council's 'Uninsurable Nation: Australia's Most Climate Vulnerable Places Report.'

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Safe and cohesive communities

Supporting stronger, safer communities and countering disinformation.



MAKE LOCAL DEMOCRACY HAPPEN

THE NEED

- When disinformation influences public opinion and fuels division it erodes trust in institutions and discourages community members from participating in local forums and events.
- Democratic processes like local government elections also suffer when candidates are discouraged from participating.
- Leaders in local governments across Victoria want to support safer, more connected communities by countering disinformation – but need the tools to do it.

THE INVESTMENT

- A \$4.5 million ‘Local Issues, Local Solutions’ Active Local Democracy Fund will allow Victorian councils to design and pilot programs that promote active democracy and combat disinformation at the community and neighbourhood level.
- The pilot program will allow the MAV to develop a scalable toolkit that can be rolled out to Councils across the state and nationally to tackle disinformation and protect the foundations of our democracy.

[CASE STUDY]

DISRUPTION TO LOCAL DEMOCRACY ON THE RISE

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of Council meetings that have been disrupted by groups opposing liberal democracy.

In 2023 alone 15 councils reported disruptions to their proceedings from one such group.

In a particularly disruptive incident in the City of Monash angry protesters besieged council chambers, confronting council representatives and resulting in police being called.



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As community leaders we have a responsibility to ensure the words that we speak are uniting not dividing ones.

Monash Mayor, Cr Paul Klisaris

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