

STATE COUNCIL

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024

9.30 AM – 3.30 PM

RYDGES MELBOURNE
186 EXHIBITION STREET
MELBOURNE



ORDER OF BUSINESS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9.30 AM | REGISTRATIONS OPEN
<i>Tea and coffee on arrival</i> |
| 10.00 AM | WELCOME TO COUNTRY |
| 10.05 AM | WELCOME
<i>Cr David Clark, MAV President</i> |
| 10.15 AM | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
<i>State Council 17 May 2024</i> |
| 10.20 AM | MAV PRESIDENT'S REPORT
<i>Cr David Clark, MAV President</i> |
| 10.35 AM | MAV CEO'S UPDATE
<i>Kelly Grigsby, MAV CEO</i> |
| 10.50 AM | MORNING TEA |
| 11.10 AM | MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP |
| 1.30 PM | CLOSE AND LUNCH |

Minutes MAV Meeting of the State Council

Friday 17 May 2024

Attendees

Alpine Shire Council	Maribyrnong City Council
Ararat Rural City Council	Maroondah City Council
Ballarat City Council	Melbourne City Council
Banyule City Council	Melton City Council
Bass Coast Shire Council	Merri-bek City Council
Baw Baw Shire Council	Mitchell Shire Council
Benalla Rural City Council	Moira Shire Council
Brimbank City Council	Monash City Council
Buloke Shire Council	Moonee Valley City Council
Campaspe Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council
Cardinia Shire Council	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Casey City Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Moyne Shire Council
Colac Otway Shire Council	Murrindindi Shire Council
Corangamite Shire Council	Northern Grampians Shire Council
Darebin City Council	Port Phillip City Council
East Gippsland Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council
Frankston City Council	Borough of Queenscliffe Council
Gannawarra Shire Council	South Gippsland Shire Council
Glen Eira City Council	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Golden Plains Shire Council	Stonnington City Council
Greater Bendigo City Council	Strathbogie Shire Council
Greater Geelong City Council	Surf Coast Shire Council
Greater Shepparton City Council	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Hepburn Shire Council	Towong Shire Council
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Wangaratta Rural City Council
Hobsons Bay City Council	Warrnambool City Council
Horsham Rural City Council	Wellington Shire Council
Hume City Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
Kingston City Council	Whitehorse City Council
Knox City Council	Whittlesea City Council
Latrobe City Council	Wodonga City Council
Loddon Shire Council	Wyndham City Council
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Yarra City Council
Manningham City Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Mansfield Shire Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council

Participating Member Councils not in attendance

Boroondara City Council, Greater Dandenong City Council, Glenelg City Council, Indigo Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, and Nillumbik Shire Council.

Item 1: Welcome and introduction from MAV President

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President, opened the meeting at 9.32 am welcoming members and staff, followed by a Welcome to Country from Wurundjeri Elder, Tony Garvey.

The Chair Cr Clark, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, thanked Board Members, and thanked Cr Staikos who recently resigned from the position of Director for the MAV Metropolitan South region).

Item 2: Welcome Address

The Chair, Cr Clark, welcomed the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp AO to address the meeting.

Item 3: Electronic Voting

That voting on matters before the meeting of State Council on 17 May 2024 be conducted by electronic voting.

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

CARRIED

Item 4: Confirmation of minutes

That State Council approve the unconfirmed minutes of State Council on 13 October 2023.

Moved: Cr Robert Vance, Pyrenees Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Jim Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council

CARRIED

Item 5: Procedural Motion: State Council Duration

That the State Council meeting finish no later than the scheduled time being 3:00pm.

Moved: Cr Alan Getley, Buloke Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council

CARRIED

Item 6: Financial Statements

That the State Council receive the financial statements for year ending 30 June 2023.

Moved: Cr Murray Emerson, Northern Grampians Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Denise Massoud, Whitehorse City Council

CARRIED

Item 7: MAV President's Report

That the State Council receive the President's report.

Moved: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Les McPhee, Swan Hill Rural City Council

CARRIED

Item 8: MAV CEO's Update

The Chair, Cr Clark, MAV President introduced Kelly Grigsby, MAV Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide her report.

State Council took a break at 10:54 am for morning tea resuming at 11:27 am

UNCONFIRMED

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

CONSOLIDATED MOTIONS

C1. Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges

Motion:

That the MAV, while recognising the benefits of a consistent approach to waste service charges across councils, calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Defer the commencement date of the Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges so that they do not apply until at least the 2025/26 financial year;
2. Undertake proper consultation with the local government sector on the content of the Guidelines, especially in relation to any services proposed to be excluded from a service charge, to help ensure that that Guidelines do not undermine local government's ability to continue to deliver services to the community; and
3. Ensure that any consultation period with local government enables councils to consult with residents so that their sentiments can be included in local government feedback.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 2: Financial Sustainability Impacts from Waste Service Charges – Moyne Shire Council
- Motion 3: Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges – Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Motion 4: To amend the 2024-25 Minister's Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges – Maroondah City Council
- Motion 5: Transition Arrangements for Good Practice Guidelines – Corangamite Shire Council

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

CARRIED

C2. Support for Victorian roads

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Increase funding provided to councils to enable urgent road maintenance and upgrades, including the maintenance of roadside reserves;
2. Explore legislative options for allowing a dedicated minimum percentage of the Department of Transport and Planning's infrastructure budget to go towards the maintenance, rehabilitation and renewal of the rural arterial road network; and
3. Increase funding to upgrade Victoria's major highways and work with councils to better understand the deficiencies of state-managed roads.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 6: Victorian Regional Roads Maintenance – Moyne Shire Council
- Motion 7: Upgrades to Major Highways – Brimbank City Council
- Motion 8: Financial Support for Roadside Maintenance – Nillumbik Shire Council
- Motion 9: Immediately increase funding available to Councils to enable road maintenance and upgrades – Mitchell Shire Council

Moved: Cr Ranka Rasic, Brimbank City Council

Seconded: Cr Robyn Gulline, Horsham Rural City Council

CARRIED

C3. Strengthening the planning system

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Recognise and respect the right of local government to influence local planning outcomes, and ensure the integrity of local planning schemes and quality of local development is upheld;
2. Provide clarity regarding councils' role in planning decisions transferred to the state government and establish a formal cost-sharing partnership agreement between state and local government for planning approvals to enable councils to meet their obligations;
3. Ensure where the Minister for Planning is the decision-maker for planning approvals and scheme amendments, public and transparent decision timeframes are provided and adhered to, to support timely and transparent outcomes for councils and communities;
4. Consult and partner with local government to improve housing choice, affordability, and sustainability;
5. Ensure that new homes are built to the highest possible environmentally sustainable design (ESD) standards; and
6. Provide adequate infrastructure and open space for resilient communities.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 11: Housing Statement Consultation – Stonnington City Council
- Motion 12: Impact of Housing Statement and associated planning reform on local government – Moonee Valley City Council

Moved: Cr Nicki Batagol, Stonnington City Council

Seconded: Cr Rose Iser, Moonee Valley City Council

CARRIED

C4. Improving Melbourne's Bus Network

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to implement all of the recommendations in Infrastructure Victoria's report 'Fast, frequent, fair: how buses can better connect Melbourne' in order to improve the capacity, regularity and reliability of Melbourne's bus network.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 13: Improving Victoria's Bus Network – Brimbank City Council
- Motion 14: Implementation of Infrastructure Victoria's 2023 Bus Reform Recommendations – Maribyrnong City Council
- Motion 15: Better Buses – Wyndham City Council

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Sahana Ramesh, Wyndham City Council

CARRIED

C5. Coastal and flood mitigation

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Commit to implementing a consistent state-wide planning approach to flood and coastal inundation, similar to the current bushfire arrangements, with the Minister for Planning made responsible for implementing best-available flood and inundation data into planning schemes
2. Develop a Flood Information Framework to support access to up-to-date, methodologically consistent data about where riverine and coastal inundation is likely to occur
3. Provide funding for adaptation action to mitigate coastal inundation and flood risk across Victoria
4. Support and work with the relevant councils to understand and act on the outputs from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment
5. Engage and consult with relevant communities to raise awareness of known coastal and flooding risk and to discuss potential adaptation responses

Consolidated motions

- Motion 16: Sea Level Rise in Hobsons Bay – Hobsons Bay City Council
- Motion 17: Flood Information Framework, data sharing and investment for flood mitigation – Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Moved: Cr Peter Hemphill, Hobsons Bay City Council

Seconded: Cr Jim Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Commit to implementing a consistent state-wide planning approach to flood and coastal inundation, similar to the current bushfire arrangements, with the Minister for Planning made responsible for implementing best-available flood and inundation data into planning schemes
2. Develop a Flood Information Framework to support access to up-to-date, methodologically consistent data about where riverine and coastal inundation is likely to occur
3. Provide funding for adaptation action to mitigate coastal inundation and flood risk across Victoria
4. Support and work with the relevant councils to understand and act on the outputs from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment
5. Engage and consult with relevant communities to raise awareness of known coastal and flooding risk to provide funding for potential adaptation responses
6. Fund and complete updated coastal hazard mapping across Victoria.

CARRIED

C6. Emergency management funding

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Review existing funding arrangements for emergency management practitioners under the Municipal Emergency Management Resourcing Program to ensure councils can adequately resource emergency management practitioners based on the risk to each council;
2. Develop a program to support community-led planning and initiatives for emergency management; and
3. Increase funding for emergency relief services to increase core staff and respond to growing community needs and the impact of climate change.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 18: Emergency Management Funding – Campaspe Shire Council
- Motion 19: Community-led Emergency Management Planning – Maribyrnong City Council
- Motion 20: Funding for Emergency Relief Services – Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Moved: Cr Colleen Gates, Campaspe Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

C7. Effectively targeting housing and homelessness responses

Motion:

The MAV calls on the state government to work with the local government sector to ensure an equitable supply of social and affordable housing and homelessness services across the state. This should include the introduction of mandatory inclusionary zoning to require social and affordable housing through the planning system, co-design of social and affordable housing targets for new developments, and development of more effective needs-based funding models for homelessness support and related services that takes into account the specific needs of rural, regional and metropolitan municipalities.

Consolidated motions

- Motion 21: Improved social and affordable housing for growth areas – Cardinia Shire Council
- Motion 22: Housing Affordability and Funding - East Gippsland Shire Council

Moved: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook, East Gippsland Shire Council

CARRIED

C8. Local government financial sustainability and rating review

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Notes:

- a) The context of the Victorian State Government's rate-capping policy and the need for local government financing to deliver positive outcomes for local communities
- b) That the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government funding and services provides a positive opportunity to explore a range of models, including those from other jurisdictions such as New South Wales and Queensland

2. Calls upon the Victorian Government to:

- c) Undertake a comprehensive, independent review of the workings of the rating system, specific to the rate cap provisions. with the objective of improving its effectiveness and supports long term sustainability for rural, regional and metropolitan municipalities.
- d) Provide an opportunity to revise the regulatory compliance, operational and revenue flexibility settings for Local Government such that councils have greater flexibility to fund the provision of critical services and infrastructure

Consolidated motions

- Motion 23: Review of the rating system – Hepburn Shire Council
- Motion 24: Calling on the Victorian Government to use its Inquiry into Local Government funding and services to consider alternative models for the regulatory compliance and revenue flexibility of Local Government – Stonnington City Council
- Motion 25: Financial Sustainability - East Gippsland Shire Council

Moved: Cr Lesley Hewitt, Hepburn Shire Council
Seconded: Cr Nicki Batagol, Stonnington City Council
CARRIED

C9. Rainbow Alliance

Motion:

That the MAV establish a Rainbow Alliance Network for local councils.

Which motions are being consolidated?

- Motion 26: Establishment of a Rainbow Alliance Network - Darebin City Council
- Motion 27: Rainbow Alliance for Local Government - Yarra City Council

Moved: Cr Susan Rennie, Darebin City Council
Seconded: Cr Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council

Amendments to the motion were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV hosts a series of forums open to all councils to discuss and share strategies for LGBTIQA+ inclusion. The forums would:

- Aid councils across Victoria to share learnings to enhance inclusivity and support for LGBTIQA+ community members
- Provide an opportunity for coordination and partnership between councils to address community safety matters and third party protections
- Allow for cross sharing of expertise and capacity building around risk management, and LGBTIQA+ and intersectional inclusion in the face of threats to safety

DIVISION CALLED

The result of the division was FOR 88% and AGAINST 12% as below:

Council	Motion C9
Ararat Rural City Council	FOR
Ballarat City Council	FOR
Banyule City Council	FOR
Bass Coast Shire Council	FOR
Baw Baw Shire Council	FOR
Benalla Rural City Council	FOR
Brimbank City Council	FOR
Buloke Shire Council	FOR
Campaspe Shire Council	FOR

STATE COUNCIL

Council	Motion C9
Cardinia Shire Council	FOR
Casey City Council	FOR
Central Goldfields Shire Council	FOR
Colac Otway Shire Council	FOR
Corangamite Shire Council	FOR
Darebin City Council	FOR
East Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Gannawarra Shire Council	FOR
Glen Eira City Council	FOR
Golden Plains Shire Council	FOR
Greater Bendigo City Council	FOR
Greater Geelong City Council	FOR
Greater Shepparton City Council	FOR
Hepburn Shire Council	FOR
Hindmarsh Shire Council	FOR
Hobsons Bay City Council	FOR
Horsham Rural City Council	FOR
Hume City Council	FOR
Kingston City Council	FOR
Knox City Council	FOR
Loddon Shire Council	AGAINST
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Manningham City Council	FOR
Maribyrnong City Council	FOR
Melbourne City Council	FOR
Merri-bek City Council	FOR
Mitchell Shire Council	FOR
Moira Shire Council	FOR
Monash City Council	FOR
Moonee Valley City Council	FOR
Moorabool Shire Council	AGAINST
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	FOR
Mount Alexander Shire Council	FOR
Moyne Shire Council	AGAINST
Murrindindi Shire Council	FOR
Northern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Port Phillip City Council	FOR
Pyrenees Shire Council	FOR
Borough of Queenscliffe	FOR
South Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Southern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Stonnington City Council	FOR
Strathbogie Shire Council	FOR
Surf Coast Shire Council	FOR

STATE COUNCIL

Council	Motion C9
Swan Hill Rural City Council	AGAINST
Towong Shire Council	FOR
Wangaratta Rural City Council	FOR
Warrnambool City Council	FOR
Wellington Shire Council	FOR
Whitehorse City Council	FOR
Whittlesea City Council	FOR
Wodonga City Council	FOR
Wyndham City Council	FOR
Yarra City Council	FOR
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	AGAINST
Yarriambiack Shire Council	AGAINST

Following the division the motion (C9: Rainbow Alliance) was confirmed as CARRIED.

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: CONSOLIDATED

1. Local Government Election Costs, Local Government Ward Boundary Review Costs, and Local Government service Rates and Charges

Submitting Council: Baw Baw Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV

1. Note the increased costs imposed on all councils by the Victorian Electoral Commission for the 2024 Local Government Elections and advocate to the Victorian Government to provide adequate support to councils by way of financial assistance.
2. Note the increased costs imposed on some councils by the Victorian Electoral Commission for the 2024 Ward Boundary Reviews and advocate to the Victorian Government to provide adequate support to councils by way of financial assistance.
3. Advocate to the Minister for Local Government requesting that the implementation of the 'Local Government service Rates and Charges: Minister's Good Practice Guidelines for their use December 2023' is delayed from 1 March 2024 until 1 July 2025 to allow Local Government Victoria to fully understand the impact of the changes on councils' financial sustainability, to conduct comprehensive consultation with the sector and to work with councils and the Essential Services Commission to ensure councils are not significantly impacted financially by these changes.

Moved: Cr Annemarie McCabe, Baw Baw Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion

That the MAV

1. Note the increased costs imposed on all councils by the Victorian Electoral Commission for the 2024 Local Government Elections and subsequent by-elections and advocate to the Victorian Government to provide adequate support to councils by way of financial assistance.
2. Note the increased costs imposed on some councils by the Victorian Electoral Commission for the 2024 Ward Boundary Reviews and advocate to the Victorian Government to provide adequate support to councils by way of financial assistance."
3. Advocate to the Minister for Local Government requesting that the implementation of the 'Local Government service Rates and Charges: Minister's Good Practice Guidelines for their use December 2023' is delayed from 1 March 2024 until 1 July 2025 to allow Local Government Victoria to fully understand the impact of the changes on councils' financial sustainability, to conduct comprehensive consultation with the sector and to work with councils and the Essential Services Commission to ensure councils are not significantly impacted financially by these changes.

CARRIED

2. Financial Sustainability Impacts from Waste Service Charges (C1)

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges.

3. Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges (C1)

Submitting Council: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges.

4. To amend the 2024-25 Minister's Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges.

5. Transition Arrangements for Good Practice Guidelines

Submitting Council: Corangamite Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 1: Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges.

6. Victorian Regional Roads Maintenance (C2)

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 2: Support for Victorian Roads.

7. Upgrades to Major Highways (C2)

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 2: Support for Victorian Roads.

8. Financial Support for Roadside Maintenance (C2)

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 2: Support for Victorian Roads.

9. Immediately increase funding available to Councils to enable road maintenance and upgrades (C2)

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 2: Support for Victorian Roads.

10. Strengthening the planning system (C3)

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. introduce a statutory clock, ideally three months, for the Minister to consider amendments for authorisation or approval;
2. prioritise environmentally sustainable design planning scheme amendments to take action on the climate emergency; and
3. audit planning system reforms since 2017 to ensure they have aligned with recommendations of the Victorian Auditor-General's (VAGO) report entitled Managing Victoria's planning system for land use and development and the Planning and Buildings Process Review discussion paper 2019.

Moved: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Seconded: Cr Rohan Leppert, Melbourne City Council

CARRIED

11. Housing Statement – consultation with Local Government, Key Performance Indicators for Ministerial clearance times, and proposal for cost-sharing arrangement with Local Governments (C3)

Submitting Council: Stonnington City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 3: Strengthening the planning system.

12. Impact of Housing Statement and associated Planning Reform on the local government sector (C3)

Submitting Council: Moonee Valley City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 3: Strengthening the planning system.

13. Improving Victoria's Bus Network (C4)

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 4: Improving Melbourne's Bus Network.

14. Implementation of Infrastructure Victoria's 2023 Bus Reform Recommendations (C4)

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 4: Improving Melbourne's Bus Network.

15. Better Buses (C4)

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 4: Improving Melbourne's Bus Network.

16. Sea Level Rise in Hobsons Bay (C5)

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 5: Coastal and flood mitigation.

17. Flood Information Framework, data sharing and investment for flood mitigation (C5)

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 5: Coastal and flood mitigation.

18. Emergency Management Funding (C6)

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 6: Emergency management funding.

19. Community-led Emergency Management Planning (C6)

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 6: Emergency management funding.

20. Funding for Emergency Relief Services (C6)

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Standard Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 6: Emergency management funding.

21. Improved Social and Affordable Housing funding for Growth Areas (C7)

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 7: Effectively targeting housing and homelessness responses.

22. Housing Affordability and Funding (C7)

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 7: Effectively targeting housing and homelessness responses.

23. Review of the Rating System (C8)

Submitting Council: Hepburn Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 8: Local government financial sustainability and rating review.

24. Calling on the Victorian Government to use its Inquiry into Local Government funding and services to consider alternative models for the regulatory compliance and revenue flexibility of Local Government (C8)

Submitting Council: Stonnington City Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 8: Local government financial sustainability and rating review.

25. Financial Sustainability (C8)

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Strategic Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 8: Local government financial sustainability and rating review.

26. Establishment of a Rainbow Alliance Network (C9)

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Standard Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 9: Rainbow Alliance.

27. Rainbow Alliance for Local Government (C9)

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Standard Priority motion

Consolidated

See Consolidated Motion 9: Rainbow Alliance.

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Motions considered to align with the MAV Strategy by advancing whole of sector policy positions and/or advocacy activities.

28. Affordable Housing

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to conduct an independent review into affordable housing. The review needs to provide a New Affordable Housing Planning Practice Note (PPN) and Building Practice Notes (BPN) to deal with the contemporary affordable housing crisis and fund strategic and statutory planning as well as building compliance guidelines for affordable housing.

Moved: Cr Peter Hemphill, Hobsons Bay City Council

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

29. Kindergartens and Childcare

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to conduct an independent review into kindergarten and childcare provision. The review should provide clear legal decision pathways on the role of councils and the extent of their involvement in kindergarten and childcare provision so that council rates are used equitably across the state.

Moved: Cr Peter Hemphill, Hobsons Bay City Council

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier, Gannawarra Shire Council

CARRIED

30. Resourcing and support for appointment and retention of Municipal Building Surveyors

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to develop a program to support councils in the recruitment and costs of retaining key building personnel, specifically Municipal Building Surveyors along with Building Surveyors and Inspectors required to enable councils to fulfill their statutory obligations under the *Building Act 1993*.

Moved: Cr Colleen Gates, Campaspe Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Ross Ebbels, Borough of Queenscliffe

CARRIED

31. Provide local government guidance and direction on the implementation and use of emerging Artificial Intelligence systems and applications.

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV establish an industry working group to explore and advise on the current and future use of and opportunities for Artificial Intelligence applications and systems to assist in the delivery and decision-making processes within Local Government.

Moved: Cr Colleen Gates, Campaspe Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

CARRIED

32. Presentation of State Government owned infrastructure assets

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to prioritise the inclusion of additional reoccurring annual funding towards the proactive improvement and maintenance of state government owned road, median strips, gateway, bridges, sound walls and railway stations.

Investment should aim to deliver the following types of initiatives:

- a) Graffiti prevention of road and rail sound walls such as public art and/or greening including upkeep of median strips.
- b) Proactive road surface maintenance and improvements as a means of reducing reactive maintenance needs
- c) Increased responsiveness to graffiti removal and roadside litter and illegal dumping
- d) Increased responsiveness to maintenance requests of roads, bridges and underpasses
- e) Investment in beautification improvements to intersections and underpasses/bridges, including public lighting, public art, path surface improvements and new planting

Furthermore, seeking the development of service level agreements between the Victorian Government and Local Government authorities that clarifies roles, responsibilities, intervention levels, procedures and timings. Any service level agreements should also take into consideration adequate and timely responses to customers, acknowledging their requests as well as providing timely resolutions informing customers of the outcome.

Moved: Cr Nathan Conroy, Frankston City Council

Seconded: Cr Joseph Haweil, Hume City Council

CARRIED

33. Improving Council safety

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to actively work with the local government sector and other relevant stakeholders to:

1. acknowledge the significant detrimental impact that the recent escalating disruptions at Council meetings is having on the good conduct of Council meetings and on the health, wellbeing and safety of councillors, council staff and community members;
2. recognise this may deter quality and diverse candidates from seeking office at the upcoming local government elections and existing councillors to continue in their roles or to seek re-election;
3. identify initiatives which strengthen understanding, inclusion, collaboration and respectful dialogue between the community and their elected representatives; and
4. direct relevant committees or working groups to explore and recommend strategies aimed at reducing the instance of civic incivility and assist and resource councils to implement safety measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of elected representatives.

Moved: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Seconded: Cr Dinny Adem, Greater Shepparton City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV State Council:

1. acknowledges the significant detrimental impact that the recent escalating disruptions at Council meetings is having on the good conduct of Council meetings and on the health, wellbeing and safety of councillors, council staff and community members;
2. recognise this may deter quality and diverse candidates from seeking office at the upcoming local government elections and existing councillors to continue in their roles or to seek re-election;
3. calls for new initiatives which strengthen understanding, inclusion, collaboration and respectful dialogue between the community and their elected representatives; and therefore
4. directs that a forum be held to explore and recommend strategies aimed at reducing the instance of civic incivility and assist and resource councils to implement safety measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of elected representatives and staff. The forum should include CEOs and Mayors of select Councils, Victoria Police, LGV, the Local Government Minister and representatives from her office, and LGPro.

CARRIED

34. Heatwave Planning

Submitting Council: Moonee Valley City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to provide role clarification and resources with respect to the operation of municipal cooling centres and heat refuges in extreme heat or declared heatwaves for the vulnerable community members.

Moved: Cr Rose Iser, Moonee Valley City Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

35. Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to provide meaningful financial support to assist all local government areas to become better 'Smarter Cities', utilising technology, data and innovation to improve service delivery and making communities better places to live.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Sahana Ramesh, Wyndham City Council

CARRIED

36. Stronger Deterrents for Illegal Vegetation Removal

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to strengthen the powers of local councils to effectively enforce, and respond to breaches of, their Planning Schemes under the Victorian Planning Provisions, particularly in regards to illegal native vegetation removal as referenced in the 'Offsetting Native Vegetation Loss on Private Land' VAGO Report (May 2022), and illegal earthworks.

Moved: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Alden, Greater Bendigo City Council

CARRIED

37. Supporting residents using in-home care

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian State Government for support for Local Governments wanting to be the first point of contact for older people seeking access to in-home care and related services that best meet their needs.

Moved: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

38. Electric line clearance and metropolitan tree canopies

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government:

1. to amend the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*, as part of the 2025 review, in order to retain trees and tree canopy and acknowledging metropolitan municipalities as a low bush fire area.
2. for an immediate amnesty to save any alleged non-compliant trees in metropolitan municipalities of Victoria.
3. consider funding support for bundling or undergrounding of powerlines and cross arm solutions when it plans for its 2024/2025 Victorian Budget.

Moved: Cr Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council

Seconded: Cr Steve Rabie, Mansfield Shire Council

Amendments were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government:

1. to amend the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*, as part of the 2025 review, in order to retain trees and tree canopy and acknowledging most metropolitan municipalities and rural townships as a low bush fire risk area.
2. for an immediate amnesty to save any low risk non-compliant trees near powerlines in metropolitan municipalities and rural townships of Victoria.
3. consider funding support for bundling or undergrounding of powerlines and cross arm solutions when it plans for its 2024/2025 Victorian Budget.

CARRIED

39. Telecommunications Infrastructure and Connectivity Resilience

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to work with the Commonwealth Government to:

1. undertake an independent investigation into the widespread telecommunications infrastructure failures in the early 2024 storm events in the state with clear recommendations to enhance system resilience; and
2. establish mandatory telecommunications infrastructure reliability standards that consider a contemporary understanding of the use of infrastructure by emergency services, government and community.

Moved: Cr Tom Crook, East Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Scott Rossetti, Wellington Shire Council

CARRIED

40. Supporting rural councils to meet the Victorian Government's Renewable Energy transition targets

Submitting Council: South Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That MAV support rural councils which are impacted by Victoria's Renewable Energy transition targets, by calling on the State Government to provide:

1. funding and resourcing to support land use and infrastructure planning and delivery to rural councils impacted by the anticipated growth; and
2. dedicated funding in lieu of rates through Community Benefit Scheme payments to rural councils impacted by offshore wind.

Moved: Cr Nathan Hersey, South Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Dinny Adem, Greater Shepparton City Council

CARRIED

41. Increase betterment funding to build resilience and support communities to build back better following disasters

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to commence an urgent review of betterment funding arrangements to identify how increased betterment funding can be provided to support improved resilience to ever-increasing natural disasters and other emergencies.

Moved: Cr Nathan Clark, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Simon Kelley, Alpine Shire Council

CARRIED

42. Strengthening Community Involvement in Emergency Events

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

The MAV completes an independent strategic review of the Terms of Reference for the MAV Emergency Management Advisory Committee with a particular focus on increasing and empowering the community and community representatives.

Moved: Cr Nathan Clark, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Robert Vance, Pyrenees Shire Council

LOST

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: STANDARD PRIORITY

Motions considered consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, are significant to whole sector and relevant to current policy and advocacy activities at state and commonwealth level.

43. State Victorian Government to conduct an independent review into the operation of the administrative body Fines Victoria

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to conduct an independent review into the operation of the administrative body Fines Victoria regarding the administration and enforcement of infringement fines and court fines across Victoria.

The review should include an analysis of the benefit that councils receive when lodging infringements through the agency or when court fines are processed through the agency by:

1. Conducting a review of the success of collection of monies owed to Victorian councils since the inception of the agency including a provision of the dollar values.
2. Providing details of returns to each council monies that have been collected in the past four years.
3. Obtaining an understanding of the key performance indicators for Fines Victoria and the relevant measures and how they are being met.
4. Providing details of how each individual council's financial expectations will be met in the future by the agency.

Moved: Cr Peter Hemphill, Hobsons Bay City Council

Seconded: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

CARRIED

44. Grant opportunities for project scoping and feasibility

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to widen the eligibility criteria of the grant programs available to Local Government to routinely include project identification, scoping, and feasibility analysis.

Moved: Cr Colleen Gates, Campaspe Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Aaron Scales, Towong Shire Council

CARRIED

45. Review of the Domestic Animals Act 1994

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government review the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to address a range of issues, including the current crisis with respect to animal shelters and pounds.

Moved: Cr Colleen Gates, Campaspe Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Ben Blain, Warrnambool City Council

CARRIED

46. Improved Infrastructure Planning for Growth Areas

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide financial support to address the infrastructure planning needs arising from the significant population growth in Growth Area councils.

Moved: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Dinny Adem, Greater Shepparton City Council

Amendments were submitted and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide financial support to municipalities experiencing very significant population growth, to address the growing funding gap between funds raised through Development and Infrastructure Contributions frameworks and the true cost of delivering essential infrastructure.

CARRIED

47. Financial vulnerability and wellbeing

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Commonwealth Government on behalf of Victorian councils to conduct a review into the funding mechanism that addresses financial vulnerability and wellbeing nationally and establish a dedicated fund that councils can access to address the financial vulnerability and wellbeing within communities.

Moved: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Simon Kelley, Alpine Shire Council

CARRIED

48. Seek action on the implementation of the Victorian food systems consensus statement

Submitting Council: Ballarat City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to establish an action plan for achieving the following 10 policy priorities in the “Towards a Healthy, Regenerative and Equitable Food System in Victoria” Consensus Statement by VicHealth and the Food Systems and Food Security Working Group:

1. Right to Food Law in Victoria.
2. Food Systems Governance
3. Food Systems Monitoring
4. Agroecological Food Production
5. Local Food Infrastructure
6. Public Sector Food Procurement and Retail
7. School Food Systems
8. Community Food Systems Strategies
9. Community Food Systems Planning
10. Food Relief Models

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh, Ballarat City Council

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Alden, Greater Bendigo City Council

CARRIED

49. A greater share of Short Stay Accommodation Levy funds for regional communities

Submitting Council: Warrnambool City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to guarantee at least 50% of the funds raised by the Short Stay Accommodation Levy will be spent on providing housing in regional Victoria.

Moved: Cr Ben Blain, Warrnambool City Council

Seconded: Cr Ruth Gstrein, Corangamite Shire Council

Amendments were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to guarantee that the funds raised by the Short Stay Accommodation Levy will be spent on providing housing in regional each municipality or region's share of revenue collection.

CARRIED

50.State Government Funding for Regional Airport Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Warrnambool City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to establish a funding program for improving infrastructure at airports in regional Victoria.

Moved: Cr Ben Blain, Warrnambool City Council

Seconded: Cr Robyn Gulline, Horsham Rural City Council

CARRIED

51.Mental Health Social Inclusion Action Groups

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to increase support for the delivery of mental health services by expediting the establishment of mental health social inclusion action groups in all Local Government Areas.

Moved: Cr Ranka Rasic, Brimbank City Council

Seconded: Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council

CARRIED

52.Fire Plugs and Free Water

Submitting Council: Wodonga City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for the changes to legislation to clarify the ownership of water hydrants, plugs and associated infrastructure should form part of the network to be maintained wholly by the water authorities.

Moved: Cr Ron Mildren, Wodonga City Council

Seconded: Cr Dean Rees, Wangaratta Rural City Council

CARRIED

53.Challenges with 'Build-to-Rent'

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV seeks a review of existing Build to Rent regulations and provisions and assesses the ongoing challenges identified by local government around these developments for infrastructure and open space investment.

Moved: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

54. Victorian Precinct Rejuvenation after COVID

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV seeks the collaborative support of the State Government through the Minister for Precincts and the Minister for Tourism to rejuvenate precincts significantly hit from a lack of visitation extending from the COVID pandemic and to open grant opportunities for these precincts to revive their visitor economies.

Moved: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

55. Maximising the value of our Major Events economy

Submitting Council: Port Phillip City Council

Motion:

That the MAV requests the office of Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events consider a roundtable to hear from traders and local government on the challenges associated with holding these major events in their municipalities, and the opportunity for flow on impacts to be realised.

Moved: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

Seconded: Cr Kylie Zanker, Yarriambiack Shire Council

CARRIED

56. Supporting People Seeking Asylum within our Communities

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to advocate to the Australian Federal Government to:

1. rapidly process valid bridging visas with work and study rights while applicants await decisions on their protection application, including automating the bridging renewal process;
2. expand the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program eligibility and simplify the application process so that individuals and families seeking asylum who are in need and awaiting the outcome of their protection claims, or awaiting the outcome of the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT) (or Administrative Review Tribunal once the AAT is abolished) can access healthcare, disability, housing support and other essential services; and
3. allow access to tertiary education options after the age of 18 for people seeking asylum (and their children) awaiting the outcome of their protection claims or awaiting the outcome of the AAT (or Administrative Review Tribunal once the AAT is abolished).

Moved: Cr Jenna Davey-Burns, Kingston City Council

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

CARRIED

57. Treaty with First Nations People

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on all levels of Government to support the First Nations Treaty Process.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam, Maribyrnong City Council

Seconded: Cr Adam Pulford, Merri-bek City Council

Amendments were proposed and accepted by the mover and seconder.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV call on all levels of Government to consider supporting the First Nations Treaty Process.

Motion to amend:

To return back to the original motion wording 'That the MAV call on all levels of Government to support the First Nations Treaty Process'.

Mover: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

Seconder: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

Procedural motion:

That the amendment be put to a vote.

Moved: Cr Stuart James, Monash City Council

Seconded: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

The procedural motion was CARRIED

The amendment was then put and CARRIED

DIVISION CALLED

The result of the division was FOR 70% and AGAINST 30% as below:

Council	Motion 57: To accept the amendment
Alpine Shire Council	FOR
Ararat Rural City Council	AGAINST
Banyule City Council	FOR
Bass Coast Shire Council	FOR
Baw Baw Shire Council	FOR
Benalla Rural City Council	AGAINST
Brimbank City Council	FOR
Buloke Shire Council	AGAINST
Campaspe Shire Council	AGAINST
Cardinia Shire Council	FOR
Casey City Council	FOR
Central Goldfields Shire Council	FOR
Colac Otway Shire Council	FOR
Corangamite Shire Council	FOR

STATE COUNCIL

Council	Motion 57: To accept the amendment
Darebin City Council	FOR
East Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Frankston City Council	AGAINST
Gannawarra Shire Council	FOR
Glen Eira City Council	FOR
Greater Geelong City Council	FOR
Greater Shepparton City Council	FOR
Hindmarsh Shire Council	FOR
Hobsons Bay City Council	FOR
Hume City Council	FOR
Kingston City Council	FOR
Knox City Council	FOR
Latrobe City Council	AGAINST
Loddon Shire Council	AGAINST
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Mansfield Shire Council	AGAINST
Maribyrnong City Council	FOR
Maroondah City Council	AGAINST
Melbourne City Council	FOR
Merri-bek City Council	FOR
Mitchell Shire Council	FOR
Moira Shire Council	FOR
Monash City Council	FOR
Moonee Valley City Council	FOR
Moorabool Shire Council	AGAINST
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	FOR
Murrindindi Shire Council	FOR
Northern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Port Phillip City Council	FOR
Pyrenees Shire Council	AGAINST
Borough of Queenscliffe	FOR
South Gippsland Shire Council	AGAINST
Southern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Stonnington City Council	FOR
Strathbogie Shire Council	FOR
Surf Coast Shire Council	FOR
Towong Shire Council	AGAINST
Warrnambool City Council	FOR
Wellington Shire Council	AGAINST
West Wimmera Shire Council	AGAINST
Whitehorse City Council	FOR
Whittlesea City Council	FOR
Wyndham City Council	FOR
Yarra City Council	FOR

Council	Motion 57: To accept the amendment
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Yarriambiack Shire Council	AGAINST

Following the division, the vote to accept the amendment was confirmed as CARRIED.

Amendment became the substantive motion.

Substantive motion:

That the MAV calls on all levels of Government to support the First Nations Treaty Process.

The substantive motion was put and was CARRIED.

DIVISION CALLED

The result of the division was FOR 71% and AGAINST 29% as below:

Council	Motion 57
Alpine Shire Council	FOR
Ararat Rural City Council	AGAINST
Ballarat City Council	FOR
Banyule City Council	FOR
Bass Coast Shire Council	FOR
Baw Baw Shire Council	AGAINST
Benalla Rural City Council	AGAINST
Brimbank City Council	FOR
Buloke Shire Council	AGAINST
Cardinia Shire Council	FOR
Casey City Council	FOR
Central Goldfields Shire Council	FOR
Colac Otway Shire Council	FOR
Corangamite Shire Council	FOR
Darebin City Council	FOR
East Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Frankston City Council	AGAINST
Gannawarra Shire Council	FOR
Glen Eira City Council	FOR
Golden Plains Shire Council	FOR
Greater Bendigo City Council	FOR
Greater Geelong City Council	FOR
Greater Shepparton City Council	FOR
Hindmarsh Shire Council	FOR
Hobsons Bay City Council	FOR
Hume City Council	FOR
Kingston City Council	FOR
Knox City Council	FOR
Loddon Shire Council	AGAINST
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	FOR

STATE COUNCIL

Council	Motion 57
Mansfield Shire Council	AGAINST
Maribyrnong City Council	FOR
Maroondah City Council	AGAINST
Melbourne City Council	FOR
Melton City Council	FOR
Merri-bek City Council	FOR
Mitchell Shire Council	FOR
Moira Shire Council	AGAINST
Monash City Council	FOR
Moonee Valley City Council	FOR
Moorabool Shire Council	AGAINST
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	FOR
Murrindindi Shire Council	FOR
Northern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Port Phillip City Council	FOR
Pyrenees Shire Council	AGAINST
Borough of Queenscliffe	FOR
South Gippsland Shire Council	AGAINST
Southern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Stonnington City Council	FOR
Strathbogie Shire Council	FOR
Surf Coast Shire Council	FOR
Towong Shire Council	FOR
Warrnambool City Council	AGAINST
Wellington Shire Council	AGAINST
West Wimmera Shire Council	AGAINST
Whitehorse City Council	FOR
Whittlesea City Council	FOR
Wyndham City Council	FOR
Yarra City Council	FOR
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Yarriambiack Shire Council	AGAINST

Following the division the motion was confirmed as CARRIED.

58. Gender Equality Advisory Committee reinstatement

Submitting Council: Kingston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Women to reinstate the Gender Equality Advisory Committee (GEAC) to ensure the local government sector remains a key partner in helping achieve the Victorian Government's vision for gender equality in Victoria's 79 councils.

Moved: Cr Jenna Davey-Burns, Kingston City Council

Seconded: Cr Susan Rennie, Darebin City Council

CARRIED

59. Local Government Consultation – Local Government Act 2020 Reform

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to revise and reframe its consultation approach to the local government legislative reforms.

Moved: Cr Tom Crook, East Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Simon Kelley, Alpine Shire Council

CARRIED

60. Review the unintended consequences of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 on management of key infrastructure and community services

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. advocate on behalf of the sector to the Australian Government to review the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act); and
2. review the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG),

so that these instruments are more effectively applied without unintended consequences and duplication.

Moved: Cr Tom Crook, East Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Scott Rossetti, Wellington Shire Council

DIVISION CALLED

The result of the division was FOR 46% and AGAINST 54% as below:

Council	Motion 60
Alpine Shire Council	AGAINST
Ararat Rural City Council	FOR
Ballarat City Council	FOR

STATE COUNCIL

Council	Motion 60
Banyule City Council	AGAINST
Bass Coast Shire Council	FOR
Benalla Rural City Council	AGAINST
Brimbank City Council	FOR
Buloke Shire Council	AGAINST
Campaspe Shire Council	AGAINST
Cardinia Shire Council	AGAINST
Casey City Council	AGAINST
Central Goldfields Shire Council	AGAINST
Colac Otway Shire Council	AGAINST
Corangamite Shire Council	AGAINST
Darebin City Council	AGAINST
East Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Gannawarra Shire Council	AGAINST
Glen Eira City Council	AGAINST
Golden Plains Shire Council	AGAINST
Greater Bendigo City Council	AGAINST
Greater Geelong City Council	AGAINST
Greater Shepparton City Council	FOR
Hepburn Shire Council	AGAINST
Hindmarsh Shire Council	AGAINST
Hobsons Bay City Council	AGAINST
Horsham Rural City Council	FOR
Hume City Council	FOR
Kingston City Council	AGAINST
Knox City Council	AGAINST
Latrobe City Council	FOR
Loddon Shire Council	FOR
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	AGAINST
Manningham City Council	AGAINST
Mansfield Shire Council	FOR
Maribyrnong City Council	FOR
Maroondah City Council	AGAINST
Melton City Council	AGAINST
Merri-bek City Council	AGAINST
Mitchell Shire Council	AGAINST
Moira Shire Council	FOR
Monash City Council	FOR
Moonee Valley City Council	AGAINST
Moorabool Shire Council	FOR
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	FOR
Mount Alexander Shire Council	AGAINST
Moyne Shire Council	FOR
Murrindindi Shire Council	FOR

Council	Motion 60
Northern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Port Phillip City Council	AGAINST
Pyrenees Shire Council	FOR
Borough of Queenscliffe	AGAINST
South Gippsland Shire Council	FOR
Southern Grampians Shire Council	FOR
Strathbogie Shire Council	AGAINST
Surf Coast Shire Council	AGAINST
Swan Hill Rural City Council	FOR
Towong Shire Council	FOR
Wangaratta Rural City Council	FOR
Warrnambool City Council	FOR
Wellington Shire Council	FOR
West Wimmera Shire Council	FOR
Whitehorse City Council	FOR
Whittlesea City Council	AGAINST
Wodonga City Council	FOR
Wyndham City Council	FOR
Yarra City Council	AGAINST
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	FOR
Yarriambiack Shire Council	AGAINST

Following the division the motion was confirmed as LOST.

61. Renewable electronic vehicle (EV) chargers in schools

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government, and specifically the Department of Education to partner with local government to enable power generated from school solar to be integrated in rural EV charging infrastructure.

Moved: Cr Tom Crook, East Gippsland Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Alden, Greater Bendigo City Council

CARRIED

62. Increase Access to Funds from the Landfill Levy for Councils

Submitting Council: Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for increased access to funds collected through the Landfill Levy to support councils in delivering key waste and environmental initiatives, particularly in light of the recent reforms introduced by the State Government's Circular Economy Plan and the recently released Local Government Service Rates and Charges Minister's Good Practice Guidelines.

Moved: Cr Jim Child, Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Joseph Haweil, Hume City Council

CARRIED

63. Second Dwelling provisions

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to adjust the Second Dwelling provisions, announced through the 2023 Housing Statement, to ensure such dwellings can only be used for long term occupancy and not short stay rental, in areas where there is a shortage of key worker and affordable accommodation.

Moved: Cr Adrian Schonfelder, Surf Coast Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Ross Ebbels, Borough of Queenscliffe

CARRIED

64. Increase funding to support councils to manage the cost impact of Cultural Heritage Management Plans

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to provide funding to support councils to manage the significant costs associated with Cultural Heritage Management Plans.

Moved: Cr Nathan Clark, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Alan Getley, Buloke Shire Council

CARRIED

65. Increased support for the management of heritage structures

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government for increased financial and other support to enable councils to appropriately manage and maintain heritage structures.

Moved: Cr Nathan Clark, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

66.State Government funding for municipal public libraries

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the MAV request the Victorian Government:

1. Reverse their declining funding for municipal public libraries and establish an annual funding model which is increased annually by CPI to reflect the rise in costs and service delivery.
2. Commit to providing annual payment of library funding in a timely manner, with notification and payment to local government in the first quarter of each financial year (as opposed to third quarter in the 2023/24 financial year).

Moved: Cr Louise Crawford, Port Phillip City Council

Seconded: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

CARRIED

67.State Government funding for local government immunisation services

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to address the disparity of funding provided for different types of immunisation providers. Local Government authorities are specifically seeking:

1. Equal access to funding for future state government vaccination initiatives, including the 2024 free influenza vaccination package;
2. Increased funding for local government immunisation services which is equivalent to pharmacist immunisers; and
3. Funding for all vaccines on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) from birth to adulthood.

Moved: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood, Glen Eira City Council

CARRIED

68.Increase current funding for prevention of violence against women

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to increase current funding for the prevention of violence against women.

Moved: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

Seconded: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

CARRIED

69. Road Safety

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

The MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to:

1. develop broader road safety messaging and education campaigns to address risks on roads neighbouring schools (not just School Speed Zones);
2. implement and adequately resource the roll-out of the new School Crossing Risk Assessment Framework; and
3. provide local governments with greater input on school planning decisions and provide investment to assist with pick-up, drop-off and parking facilities wherever necessary.

Moved: Cr Jenna Davey-Burns, Kingston City Council

Seconded: Cr Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: LOW PRIORITY

Motions considered not consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, are significant to whole of sector and relevant to current policy and advocacy activities at state and commonwealth level

70. Commission or Inquiry into the Victorian Response to the Coronavirus

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government and Victorian Opposition - given the present Royal Commission in relation to the national COVID response - to effectuate either an Inquiry or a Commission into the Victorian Government's response to the Coronavirus, notably during the height of the COVID virus (2020-2022).

Aspects of such an Inquiry or Commission should include:

- a) The impost on local governments throughout Victoria, including cost-shifting and support to the local government sector;
- b) Punitive measures that were implemented during the height of the COVID virus i.e.. 'curfews', 'ring of steel', 'fines', 'powers' etc;
- c) Whether the Victorian health-response was effective when juxtaposed against other jurisdictions both within and outside Australia;
- d) The veracity and consistency of information communicated to the public during the height of the COVID virus;
- e) The susceptibility of independent bureaucratic health advice to be politicised and therefore compromised;
- f) The impact on the rights, liberties and movements of Victorians during the height of the COVID virus;
- g) The number of 'lockdowns' and whether they were both effective and necessary; and
- h) Future safeguards and learnings to enable a more effective health-response to future viruses and diseases; and therefore, mitigating the impact on the liberties and movements of Victorians during such periods.

Moved: Cr Nathan Conroy, Frankston City Council

Seconded: Cr Kylie Zanker, Yarriambiack Shire Council

DIVISION CALLED

A division was called (Motion 70: Commission or Inquiry into the Victorian Response to the Coronavirus). The result of the division was FOR 31% and AGAINST 69% as below:

Council	Motion 70
Alpine Shire Council	FOR
Ballarat City Council	FOR
Banyule City Council	AGAINST
Bass Coast Shire Council	AGAINST
Benalla Rural City Council	FOR

STATE COUNCIL

Brimbank City Council	AGAINST
Buloke Shire Council	AGAINST
Campaspe Shire Council	AGAINST
Cardinia Shire Council	AGAINST
Casey City Council	AGAINST
Central Goldfields Shire Council	AGAINST
Colac Otway Shire Council	AGAINST
Corangamite Shire Council	AGAINST
Darebin City Council	AGAINST
East Gippsland Shire Council	AGAINST
Frankston City Council	FOR
Gannawarra Shire Council	AGAINST
Glen Eira City Council	AGAINST
Golden Plains Shire Council	AGAINST
Greater Bendigo City Council	AGAINST
Greater Geelong City Council	AGAINST
Hepburn Shire Council	FOR
Hindmarsh Shire Council	AGAINST
Hobsons Bay City Council	AGAINST
Horsham Rural City Council	FOR
Hume City Council	AGAINST
Kingston City Council	AGAINST
Knox City Council	AGAINST
Loddon Shire Council	FOR
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	AGAINST
Manningham City Council	FOR
Mansfield Shire Council	FOR
Maribyrnong City Council	AGAINST
Maroondah City Council	FOR
Melton City Council	FOR
Merri-bek City Council	AGAINST
Mitchell Shire Council	AGAINST
Moira Shire Council	AGAINST
Monash City Council	AGAINST
Moonee Valley City Council	AGAINST
Moorabool Shire Council	FOR
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	FOR
Mount Alexander Shire Council	AGAINST
Moyne Shire Council	AGAINST
Murrindindi Shire Council	AGAINST
Northern Grampians Shire Council	AGAINST
Port Phillip City Council	AGAINST
Pyrenees Shire Council	AGAINST
Borough of Queenscliffe	AGAINST
South Gippsland Shire Council	AGAINST

STATE COUNCIL

Southern Grampians Shire Council	FOR
Stonnington City Council	AGAINST
Strathbogie Shire Council	AGAINST
Surf Coast Shire Council	AGAINST
Swan Hill Rural City Council	AGAINST
Towong Shire Council	FOR
Wangaratta Rural City Council	FOR
Warrnambool City Council	AGAINST
Wellington Shire Council	FOR
West Wimmera Shire Council	FOR
Whitehorse City Council	FOR
Whittlesea City Council	AGAINST
Wodonga City Council	FOR
Wyndham City Council	FOR
Yarra City Council	AGAINST
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	AGAINST
Yarriambiack Shire Council	AGAINST

Following the division the motion was confirmed as LOST.

71. Shared school community facilities

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV requests the State Government to:

1. develop a policy to guide how councils and State Government can partner to share community facilities. The policy would explore including this in planning for new schools, where suitable and appropriate, to open outdoor sports facilities, indoor facilities, open space, and performing arts facilities for community use beyond school-only use outside of hours.
2. commit funding to support the development and operation of shared use community infrastructure on school sites, including:
 - a) early learning centres,
 - b) sports courts and facilities,
 - c) 'Community hubs' that provide meeting rooms, or
 - d) health services.

Moved: Cr Sahana Ramesh, Wyndham City Council

Seconded: Cr Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Council

CARRIED

72. Ensure the timely delivery of new schools

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government, and in particular the Minister for Education, for an overhaul of the way in which new schools are planned and delivered in order to achieve best practice standards.

Moved: Cr Nathan Clark, Mitchell Shire Council

Seconded: Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia Shire Council

CARRIED

73. Wildlife Vehicle Collision Hotspots

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the State Government, in collaboration with local councils, allocate funding to investigate and trial initiatives to reduce harm to wildlife and improve driver safety.

Moved: Cr Carli Lange, Manningham City Council

Seconded: Cr Mike Symon, Maroondah City Council

CARRIED

Meeting close

The Chair Cr Clark, MAV President thanked the State Council attendees for their participation and closed the meeting at 1.38pm.



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

STATE COUNCIL

MOTIONS

23 AUGUST 2024

STATE COUNCIL

MOTIONS LEGEND	4
CONSOLIDATED MOTION.....	5
C1. Road safety	5
MOTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED	6
Motion 1. Road Safety on Rural Roads (C1).....	6
Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council.....	6
Motion 2. Enhancing Road Safety, Renewal, and Disaster Recovery for Victoria's Regional and Rural Roads (C1).....	7
Submitting Council Murrindindi Shire Council	7
STRATEGIC PRIORITY MOTIONS	9
Motion 3. Planning for effective flood control and water management	9
Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council	9
Motion 4. Connecting communities with better bus infrastructure	11
Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council.....	11
Motion 5. Statutory Planning cost shifting from State to Local Governments.....	12
Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council	12
Motion 6. Revision of Affordable Housing Definition and Inclusion of Mandatory Affordable Housing Requirements	13
Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council	13
Motion 7. Development delays.....	14
Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council	14
Motion 8. Regional and metropolitan planning	15
Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council	15
Motion 9. Improved standards and funding for infrastructure at risk from climate change .	17
Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council.....	17
Motion 10. E-waste	19
Submitting Council: Macedon Ranges Shire Council.....	19
Motion 11. Circular Economy.....	21
Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council	21
STANDARD PRIORITY MOTIONS	22
Motion 12. Call for an audit and assessment of the Future Fit Program for Meals on Wheels	22
Submitting Council: Frankston City Council.....	22
Motion 13. Protection of Green Wedge	23
Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council.....	23
Motion 14. Inclusion of Local Government in the Worker Protection Consultation Group	24
Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council	24
Motion 15. State Government Funding for Maternal and Child Health Service	25

STATE COUNCIL

	Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council	25
Motion 16.	Balancing location of renewable energy facilities with protection of High Value Agriculture Land.....	26
	Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council.....	26
Motion 17.	MAV Budget 2025-26 Submission to the Victorian Government.....	27
	Submitting Council: Yarra City Council.....	27
Motion 18.	Assessing the impact of State Government decisions on local government and communities	28
	Submitting Council: Yarra City Council.....	28
Motion 19.	Waste Management: Statewide Waste Procurement & Contact Management	29
	Submitting Council: Banyule City Council	29
Motion 20.	Review of Victorian Grants Commission Funds Allocation Methodology	31
	Submitting Council Murrindindi Shire Council	31
Motion 21.	Retaining the Country Character of Rural and Regional Townships.....	33
	Submitting Council Murrindindi Shire Council	33
Motion 22.	Increasing funding for legal support for women to escape family violence.....	35
	Submitting Council: Manningham City Council.....	35
Motion 23.	Loss of Community Appeal Rights – VCAT.....	36
	Submitting Council: Wangaratta Rural City Council	36
Motion 24.	Investing in local economies and community renewal	37
	Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council.....	37
Motion 25.	Outcomes from previous MAV Motions from State Council meetings within the 2020-2024 Council term	38
	Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council.....	38
Motion 26.	Alignment of Victorian Government grant funding extensions with Federal Government Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 and the intent of the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020.....	39
	Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council.....	39
Motion 27.	Keeping our children safe	41
	Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council.....	41
Motion 28.	Royal Commission Recommendations into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability	42
	Submitting Council: Melton City Council.....	42
	NON-STANDARD MOTIONS	43
Motion 29.	Opposition to the Demolition of Public Housing Towers.....	43
	Submitting Council: Yarra City Council.....	43
Motion 30.	Environmental Education on Crown Land Motion.....	44
	Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council	44

MOTIONS LEGEND

Strategic priority motions

Motions considered to align with the MAV Strategy by advancing whole of sector policy positions and/or advocacy activities.

Standard priority motions

Motions considered consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, are significant to whole sector and relevant to current policy and advocacy activities at state and commonwealth level

Non-standard priority motions

Motions considered not consistent with sector roles and responsibilities, are significant to whole sector and relevant to current policy and advocacy activities at state and commonwealth level

CONSOLIDATED MOTION

C1. Road safety

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the State and Federal governments to commit to improving road safety on rural and regional roads by:
 - a) An immediate 10% increase in Financial Assistance Grants roads funding by the Federal Government, maintained in real terms thereafter;
 - b) Increased State Government funding for Regional Roads Victoria to keep all Victorian regional roads at acceptable service levels;
 - c) Simplifying and streamlining the process for accessing disaster recovery funding;
 - d) Incorporating provisions for betterment in disaster recovery funding to enable enhancements to road infrastructure alongside repair efforts thus ensuring that funding not only restores infrastructure but also enhances its resilience to withstand future events;
 - e) Improving road maintenance standards across the State;
 - f) Increased funding dedicated to road safety initiatives;
 - g) Increased accountability for Regional Roads Victoria for renewal of the regional road network through performance indicator reporting similar to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.
 - h) Empowering local governments with the ability to reduce the default speed limit on rural roads
2. Acknowledges and welcomes the increase in Roads to Recovery funding for the next 5 years from the Federal Government.

Which motions are being consolidated?	Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or is the motion 'of significance to local government' that it ought to be considered at the meeting.
Motion 1: Road Safety on Rural Roads – Nillumbik Shire Council Motion 2: Enhancing Road Safety, Renewal, and Disaster Recovery for Victoria’s Regional and Rural Roads – Murrindindi Shire Council	Yes

MOTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED

Motion 1. Road Safety on Rural Roads ([C1](#))

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to implement measures that will enhance road safety on rural road networks by empowering local governments with the ability to reduce the default speed limit on rural roads.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy, Connected places, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Many rural roads are in poor condition due to a number of factors, including narrow width, unsealed surfaces, sight issue and challenging terrain or geometry. Many of these roads sit under the 'Default Rural Speed Limit' of 100km/hour, however, the optimal travel speed is substantially less and is often not aligned with the default speed limit.

Existing processes to amend speed limits, even on Council roads, is complex, requiring Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Ministerial approval. Subsequently, the majority of speed limit assessments undertaken on rural roads, with the aim of reducing the speed limit, result in a recommendation to leave the 100km/hour unchanged or only marginally decreased.

Local councils, road users and rural communities would benefit greatly by having a new approach where delegation is granted to local government to undertake very specific changes to default speed limits along rural roads.

Implementing speed reduction initiatives along rural road networks would significantly improve driver safety and enable intervention or enforcement to be applied where motorists are driving at dangerous speeds.

Motion 2. Enhancing Road Safety, Renewal, and Disaster Recovery for Victoria's Regional and Rural Roads (C1)

Submitting Council Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. advocates for better road funding at both State and Federal level, with particular focus on the following:
 - a) An immediate 10% increase in Financial Assistance Grants roads funding by the Federal Government and maintained in real terms thereafter;
 - b) State Government funding for Regional Roads Victoria must be increased to keep all Victorian regional roads at acceptable service levels;
 - c) The process for accessing disaster recovery funding must be simplified and streamlined;
 - d) Disaster recovery funding to incorporate provisions for betterment to enable enhancements to road infrastructure alongside repair efforts thus ensuring that funding not only restores infrastructure but also enhances its resilience to withstand future events;
 - e) Road maintenance standards across the State are improved;
 - f) Increased funding dedicated to road safety initiatives; and g. Increased accountability for Regional Roads Victoria for renewal of the regional road network through performance indicator reporting similar to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.
2. acknowledges and welcomes the increase in Roads to Recovery funding for the next 5 years from the Federal Government.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	26/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Resilience & recovery	

This motion is submitted on behalf of the Hume Region Local Government Network. Regional and rural roads in Victoria urgently need support to ensure community safety. Required interventions include:

1. Increased funding via Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery.
2. Simplifying access to disaster recovery funds.
3. Providing adequate betterment funding.

4. Increasing funding for road safety improvements.

Victoria's rural and regional roads are deteriorating due to insufficient maintenance funding. Federal and State underfunding has strained councils managing aged infrastructure amid climate changes and transport needs. Neglect has jeopardised road safety, hindering regional growth.

Challenges:

1. **Funding Gap:** Federal and State underfunding, especially in Roads to Recovery, fails to meet rising costs and community needs. This gap exacerbates road deterioration, increases accidents, and stunts economic and social connectivity. The Grattan Report underscores the need for an additional \$1 billion annually.
2. **Disaster Recovery Process:** Complex funding processes delay storm damage repairs. Bureaucratic hurdles leave infrastructure vulnerable for extended periods. Inadequate support for betterment leaves rebuilt roads susceptible to future disasters, straining council budgets.

Proposed Solutions:

1. **Increased Funding Allocations:** Call for boosted Federal and State funding to meet maintenance needs. Increase support through Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery, indexed for inflation. Recent Roads to Recovery funding increases are welcomed. State funding for Regional Roads Victoria must also rise.
2. **Streamlined Disaster Recovery:** Simplify funding access with streamlined assessments. Immediate funding upon application, based on estimates, with audits post-payment, enhances efficiency and trust.
3. **Integration of Betterment:** Include betterment in disaster funds to enhance road resilience and better cope with more contemporary weather patterns. More appropriate infrastructure replacement, without necessarily increased service standards, prevents future damage through appropriately targeted resilience and therefore lowers long-term costs.
4. **Enhanced Maintenance Practices:** Improve maintenance standards to maximise resource efficiency and infrastructure longevity.
5. **Road Safety Funding:** Increase funding for proactive safety measures to reduce accidents and ensure road user safety.
6. **State Government Accountability:** Implement performance reporting for Regional Roads Victoria to track network renewal progress.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive strategy. By tackling funding gaps, improving disaster response, integrating betterment, enhancing maintenance, and boosting road safety, we ensure resilient infrastructure for future generations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY MOTIONS

Motion 3. Planning for effective flood control and water management

Submitting Council: [Glen Eira City Council](#)

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to:

1. Fund better flood management in critical areas, such as the Elster Creek catchment.
2. Develop a partnership approach for integrated water management including collaboration between stakeholders who influence urban design, natural resource management, planning, and economic development. Forums like the Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management (IWM) forum should be supported.
3. Lead updating relevant planning schemes to reflect the hazards identified in the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment. Specifically, update the Special Building Overlay (SBO) with climate change modelling.
4. Enhance the legislative framework for councils to better manage flooding by either supporting the use of declarations by a Flood Plain Management Authority to declare a flood level under the Water Act 1989, or by expediting the processing of planning scheme amendments to introduce the updated Special Building Overlay into the planning scheme under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
5. Promote a partnership approach for integrated water management, including collaboration with First Nations communities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	13/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & Wellbeing, First Peoples local government relations, climate & regenerative design, resilience & recovery, intergenerational infrastructure.	

Effective flood mitigation is crucial for safeguarding communities against increasing flood risks exacerbated by climate change. Both policy reform and financial support for urban stormwater management is urgently needed.

Flooding can have major financial, environment, safety, and liveability impacts on all Victorian communities. In the event of a major storm, about 48 per cent of Glen Eira properties, with the combined catchments of Melbourne Water and Council drainage systems, are susceptible to flooding to a depth greater than 50mm. Each year, flooding causes \$550,000 in damage to property and infrastructure in Glen Eira. This is projected to increase to over \$1 million dollars a year by 2100 due to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Much of the broader stormwater management infrastructure has not had renewal investment. In an urban municipality like Glen Eira, infrastructure is undersized compared to current condition requirements. Annually, Glen Eira City Council invests over \$3m in stormwater detention drainage infrastructure as one means to address the under capacity of the receiving pipes, which are the responsibility of Melbourne Water. Flood mitigation works to upgrade capacity in just one catchment have been assessed to be in the order of \$100m.

Previous motions endorsed by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) on flooding have primarily focused on enhancing resilience in flood-prone communities. These efforts have involved collaborating with councils to update flood hazard controls, integrate flood mapping into planning schemes, and secure funding to manage areas at risk due to climate change. Many councils have advocated for a state-wide planning approach to flood inundation, akin to existing bushfire management frameworks, and have called for emergency management funding to support flood management initiatives.

In 2023-2024, over a dozen councils submitted motions related to flooding to the MAV. These submissions have often been consolidated into unified motions, emphasising the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to flood management across the state. It is critical that flood management takes a similar approach to bushfires. The devastating impact of the 2022 floods, affecting 63 of Victoria's 79 local government areas, underscores the necessity for robust flood management strategies. Councils played a critical role during and after these floods and continue to support their communities through long-term recovery.

There were 880 submissions to the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee "Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria". The interim report (April 2024) outlines the pressing demand for community support and the complexity of processes associated with flood financial supports. This motion prioritises the need for urgent flood mitigation infrastructure management and some additional advocacy asks based on critical urban infrastructure needs. Updating the Special Building Overlay (SBO) with climate change modelling is essential for councils to manage flood risks effectively. Updating the Special Building Overlay with climate change modelling, despite its political challenges, is essential.

The Victorian Government must prioritise this critical issue with funding to protect community assets and homes. We also need greater collaboration. The collaboration seen in the City of Darebin's initiative for a Local Council Forum on applying flood legislation, provides a model for councils working together to achieve effective flood control and water management outcomes. Continuing a council-by-council approach is not an option. It leaves our communities at risk. State-wide collaboration is critical and urgent.

Motion 4. Connecting communities with better bus infrastructure

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide funding to increase bus infrastructure and provide better connectivity to townships and existing rail infrastructure.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places, Climate & regenerative design, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Buses provide essential transport for many people in our community, particularly for the many younger and older residents who don't drive and do not live close to a train station. These community members rely on buses to access health services, employment and education. However, the current availability of services, particularly in outer suburbs and rural areas, makes those trips longer and in most cases isolates and disconnects the community from public transport.

Upgrading bus infrastructure, including bus shelters and features that improve accessibility, and increasing the volume and frequency of bus services would achieve better coordination of bus and rail transportation, while also reducing the overall reliance on motor vehicles.

This action would play a critical role in providing better connections across municipalities and improving outcomes for currently isolated and vulnerable communities, while easing congestion on our roads.

Motion 5. Statutory Planning cost shifting from State to Local Governments

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to put in place a funding agreement with Local Government to ensure the financial sustainability of its planning functions given recent decisions by the State to place more planning powers in the Minister's hands.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Intergenerational infrastructure

Under the State Government's Housing Statement, developers may lodge their request directly with the Minister for Planning, where the application would have a significant economic development or residential development with an affordable housing component, bypassing Council planning approvals.

Changes to these assessment processes will result in the loss of statutory planning application fees for Councils. For some, this could be in excess of \$1 million in lost revenue.

Despite this, Councils are still being requested to provide the State Government with expert advice to support these assessments, but no formal funding arrangement is in place. This places pressure on council funds and resourcing and threatens capacity.

Motion 6. Revision of Affordable Housing Definition and Inclusion of Mandatory Affordable Housing Requirements

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government

1. to review the definition of affordable housing at Section 3AA and the income ranges at Section 3AB of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, to better reflect the housing needs of those on low incomes.
2. to introduce mandatory affordable housing requirements for all large developments (50+ dwellings).

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places	

Section 3AA of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Act) defines affordable housing in three income bands - very low, low and moderate. Section 3AB of the Act allows the Governor-in-Council to specify income ranges for these bands, which are updated on an annual basis.

As of May 2024, a developer could market a two-bedroom apartment to a family earning up to \$150,030 and claim to be providing affordable housing. The type of housing and the sale price are not reflective of community expectations as they relate to affordable housing.

It is timely that the State Government review the definition of affordable housing to better reflect the needs of those on low and moderate incomes and to ensure the type of housing being delivered is fit for purpose.

The system is also voluntary with no ability for local government to compel a developer to provide or deliver affordable housing even when they propose a development outside the requirements of the relevant planning scheme (i.e. increased height).

To ease the current housing crisis in Victoria, the State Government should consider introducing legislation to require developers to deliver affordable housing for all large developments (50+ dwellings), as has been the standard practice in other jurisdictions across Australia, such as New South Wales and South Australia, for many years.

Motion 7. Development delays

Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council calls on the Victorian Government to establish a Ministerial Advisory Committee, inclusive of Local Government sector representation, to identify barriers to constructing developments that have received planning approval and to make recommendations on how to overcome those barriers.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Health & wellbeing, Intergenerational infrastructure	

There is a national crisis of housing supply and affordability. Through the Housing Statement, the Victorian Government has introduced policy settings, funding commitments and ambitious targets to redress this severe housing shortage.

To meet the Government's target to build 800,000 homes over the next decade, approximately 80,000 new homes need to be constructed every year. Both the Federal Government and the Victorian Government have identified the planning system as a central barrier to delivering more housing, citing lengthy approval timelines, aversion to new development and restrictions on infill development in urban areas. While outdated planning regimes and process delays may be contributing to the supply shortages, the challenge with increasing supply does not end with receiving planning approval.

In the City of Melbourne alone there are currently 71 active permits for 90 buildings that have not yet progressed to construction. These permits contain proposals for new office accommodation and 17,000 residential dwellings, making up almost a quarter of the Victorian Government's annual housing target. A Ministerial Advisory Committee would provide an opportunity for government to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the development sector and work collaboratively to design measures that will support the delivery of approved dwellings and improve sector confidence.

Motion 8. Regional and metropolitan planning

Submitting Council: Melbourne City Council

Motion:

That the MAV State Council:

1. Reasserts its strongly held view that a single Plan for Victoria is not sufficient, as it cannot adequately recognise or distinguish the distinct metropolitan, regional and rural communities of interest, their unique spatial characteristics and needs;
2. Reasserts that the complexity of metropolitan Melbourne as an integrated labour market requires interconnected planning about housing, employment, transport and environment and, like other regions in the State, requires its own comprehensive plan.
3. Reasserts that, without metropolitan and regional plans, communities of interest and their economies cannot be adequately understood by Government, or be planned to thrive;
4. Therefore calls on the State Government to commit to the creation of distinct comprehensive plans for metropolitan Melbourne and the regions; and
5. Resolves that Local Government stands ready to partner with the State Government on the development of these plans.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	11/6/24
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy, Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, Intergenerational infrastructure

This motion seeks to reiterate the position of the MAV in relation to the Victorian Government's Plan for Victoria (the Plan). The Plan will set into action what the state will look like over the coming decades.

To support local government deliberation on the Plan and the potential role of the sector, the MAV, through SGS Economics and Planning, produced the paper, [Shaping metropolitan Melbourne: A Discussion paper](#) and specifically explored the proposition of 'What a Plan for Victoria should include and how the planning vision could be delivered, with local government acting as a valued and indispensable partner'.

The Discussion Paper stressed that although a state-wide planning framework is supported, a single Plan for Victoria is not sufficient and cannot adequately recognise or distinguish between

metropolitan, regional and rural communities of interest. Plans for both Melbourne and the regions are needed to address the distinct and growing challenges.

The Victorian Government forecasts that Metropolitan Melbourne's population will increase between 2021 to 2051 by over 3 million people to 8 million. As a result, Metropolitan Melbourne is facing unprecedented housing challenges to accommodate this growth. The recently released Housing Statement provides an ambitious target of producing 80,000 dwellings per year to 2051. The Discussion Paper recognises the scale and complexity of the growth management and planning tasks for Melbourne and Victoria and acknowledges the importance of addressing the environmental, social and economic challenges alongside the provision of housing.

Motion 9. Improved standards and funding for infrastructure at risk from climate change

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to ensure there are updated design standards for infrastructure at risk from climate change-related extreme weather events, and funding to retrofit existing assets, including stormwater drainage, in areas of high risk.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Climate & regenerative design	

Climate change is being experienced through more extreme weather, including flood events, heat waves and catastrophic bushfires. Impacts are profound, including loss of life, the destruction of homes and public assets, and physical and mental health conditions.

Victorian councils are at the frontline of many of these impacts. Much of the public infrastructure under council management, was designed and built according to different weather modelling.

There are many examples of infrastructure, such as stormwater drainage, no longer being able to withstand the increased severity and frequency of extreme weather events.

The motion proposed through this report seeks to address this challenge in two ways; by ensuring that future assets are built to a standard that would mitigate against new, more extreme weather events; and by provision of a suitably scaled funding program to enable assets in high risks locations to be retrofitted.

In 2021 Deloitte Access Economics estimated natural disasters cost Australia \$38 billion annually and forecast this amount would increase to \$73 billion per year by 2060, under a low-emissions scenario.

The Victorian Government's Built Environment and Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022-2026 includes recommendations that align with this motion:

- Updated building standards relevant to flood, heatwaves and storm exposure to account for projected climate change hazards, consistent with the typical asset lifecycle, location and use.
- Urban flood-reduction assets (such as a levees, floodways, drains and retention basins) are funded, designed and managed to respond to predicted extremes in flash flooding and sea level rise.

The motion in effect asks the Victorian Government to progress these key recommendations.

Motion 10. E-waste

Submitting Council: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV

1. Advocates to the State Government to provide councils with funds from the waste levy revenue to assist with the costs of collecting and transporting e- waste to be recycled;
2. Continues to advocate to the Federal Government, via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), for industry mandatory product stewardship programmes for electronic items, including but not limited to, televisions, computers, mobile phones, small electrical goods, items with embedded batteries, and photovoltaic cells;
3. Advocates for the State and/or Federal Government to mandate retailers of electrical goods to provide collection points for e-waste; and
4. Advocates to the State and Federal Government to support industry innovation that results in electrical goods being more readily repairable and reusable, as well as creating strong end markets for the resulting e-waste.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	26/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Sustainable economy	

The Victorian Government brought in a ban on e-waste going to landfill from July 1, 2019.

E-waste is now the world's fastest growing municipal waste stream with an increase in uptake of electronic devices by consumers, and a reduction in their lifecycle and capacity to be recycled.

Although product stewardship programs exist for some electronic streams, such as the national television and computer recycling scheme, most are voluntary. Even where such product stewardship programs exist, where the cost of recycling the product is born by the manufacturer and factored into the sale price, determining which of these streams are entering a Council's e-waste collection, and then obtaining a reimbursement for collecting them can be time consuming and complex.

The cost to avoid e-waste going to landfill is then born in most cases by local government, and thus needs to be reimbursed via rates collected from residents.

Markets for the materials recycled from the e-waste are also becoming less, and there is a future risk of stockpiling and the waste ending up in landfill anyway.

STATE COUNCIL

As councils provide a service to their residents to avoid the e-waste going to landfill and collect a landfill levy from these same residents it makes sense for the State Government to return funds back to councils for collecting and transporting e-waste until such time as mandatory retailer return points are established.

At the same time councils, via MAV and ALGA, should continue to advocate for improved product stewardship programs that do not result in councils, and thus the ratepayers, bearing the cost.

Motion 11. Circular Economy

Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government for greater investment in programs, policy, community education, infrastructure and market development that achieves higher order outcomes under the waste hierarchy. This includes waste avoidance, reuse and recycling, to help accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Climate & regenerative design	

State Government support for expansion of thermal Waste to Energy facilities, with a 1 million tonne cap on Waste to Energy, appears to be at odds with the achievement of higher order outcomes under the waste hierarchy of waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

Certain waste products, such as those derived from fossil fuels e.g. plastics, are not deemed eligible renewable energy sources under the Victorian Renewable Energy Act 2006, and 'renewable energy source' is not a concept in the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021. The rationale for any proposed advantage of Waste to Energy technology that bypasses increased emphasis on resource recovery requires justification from both an economic and environmental viewpoint in the state's transition to a Circular Economy.

STANDARD PRIORITY MOTIONS

Motion 12. Call for an audit and assessment of the Future Fit Program for Meals on Wheels

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to request the Australian Government carry out a comprehensive audit and assess the efficacy of the Future Fit Program under the award for Business Transition Project for Meals on Wheels Australia.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	3/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion?	Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, Diversity, equity & inclusion	

The Future Fit Program, which intended to address critical gaps across the whole Meals on Wheels Model, must be subjected to rigorous scrutiny to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

The proposed audit of the Future Fit Program is essential to uphold principles of probity, accountability, and effectiveness in public service delivery. By conducting a comprehensive assessment, the Australian Government can address concerns, rectify shortcomings, and ensure that the Meals on Wheels service is delivered efficiently and equitably to those in need. Such an audit should involve independent auditors and stakeholders to guarantee impartiality and comprehensiveness.

Therefore, we urge the Australian Government to initiate a thorough audit encompassing financial expenditures, program implementation, adherence to regulatory standards, and outcomes achieved.

Motion 13. Protection of Green Wedge

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to provide a dedicated and ongoing funding commitment to better support Green Wedge councils in their management and enforcement responsibilities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places, Climate & regenerative design	

Green Wedge councils carry out significant day-to-day management of Melbourne's Green Wedge, but also manage significant threats to Victoria's biodiversity as located in the Green Wedge, including managing deer and other pest animals, and significant weed proliferation.

Additionally, through their strategic planning function, Councils are required to respond to enforcement matters on private land that contribute to an increase in threats. Green Wedge Councils responsibilities have broader implications than simply local outcomes, rather they deal with landscape scale impacts and require significant resourcing in order for them to be effectively fulfilled.

These responsibilities and resourcing/cost implications set Green Wedge Councils apart from Metropolitan Council's. As the State Government continues to implement its planning reform to address the housing shortage, and as populations in urban areas become higher in density, protecting our Green Wedge areas for its biodiversity values and as 'the lungs of Melbourne' will become even more critical.

It is essential that the State Government shares responsibility for Green Wedge areas, so that they can continue providing communities with lush green corridors, fresh air and food security, while also ensuring the State's biodiversity is protected for our future generations.

Motion 14. Inclusion of Local Government in the Worker Protection Consultation Group

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to include local government in the proposed Worker Protection Consultation Group, to participate in the development of a legislative approach to protecting customer facing workers in the community.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	N/A

Local Government workers are customer facing workers and deserving of the same protections that are proposed for customer facing workers in retail, fast food, public transport and other relevant sectors.

It is therefore considered appropriate that local government is included as part of the Worker Protection Consultation Group being established to guide the development of this important and timely legislation.

Motion 15. State Government Funding for Maternal and Child Health Service

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the State Government to honour its commitment to providing appropriate funding support for Maternal and Child Health Service at the rate of 50% of the real cost of providing the service to the Victorian Community.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Health & wellbeing

State Government funding support for Maternal and Child Health Service is critical to ensure the sustainability of service as our communities continue to grow and the expectations on the service expand over time.

The current formula does not reflect the real cost of delivering the service and Councils are typically funding more than 60% of the real cost.

Councils' ability to provide more funding for this essential service is also restricted by rate capping. Councils' capacity to fill the funding gap is severely limited, as Councils also compete against other parts of the sector for qualified staff. In some Councils, the ability to attract new staff to fill service gaps and replace those who retire is becoming increasingly challenging.

The Maternal and Child Health Service is also experiencing an increase in demand from Cultural and Linguistically Diverse families and First Nation and Torres Straight Island families, as well as increases in presenting concerns of mental health and family violence.

One of the most effective ways to manage these demands is to ensure that Council Maternal and Child Health Services have appropriate staffing levels commensurate with the expectations on the role and the local rate of birth.

Motion 16. Balancing location of renewable energy facilities with protection of High Value Agriculture Land

Submitting Council: Campaspe Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to

1. review the Solar Energy Facilities Design and Development Guideline to provide better mapping of areas of high agriculture and landscape value within renewable energy zones
2. introduce criteria to require proposed facilities to consider the agrotourism and agriculture productivity of the site and wider area in assessing the suitability of sites for renewable energy facilities.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Sustainable economy, Climate & regenerative design	

Recent changes to the planning approval pathways for major renewable energy projects further limit the reasonable objection and concerns of local communities who will have to coexist with these projects.

Currently the Solar Energy Facilities Design and Development Guideline approach to considering the impacts on High Productive Agricultural Land is limited to land within irrigation districts at a site-specific level and ignores the impacts facilities may have on agrotourism precincts such as wine districts.

Greater consideration is required on all factors that contribute to high projective agricultural land including soil, climate and access to water, not just a site's inclusion within an irrigation district. Better mapping and criteria will enable a better balance to be struck between the economic benefits of agrotourism and agricultural productivity with the planned economic benefits of an energy facility.

Motion 17. MAV Budget 2025-26 Submission to the Victorian Government

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV lodge a budget submission 2025-26 to the Victorian Government calling on it to increase funding directly to councils in much needed areas such as:

1. climate change adaption and sustainability;
2. local roads maintenance;
3. community open space and amenity; and
4. other items to be determined.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, FutureGen, First Peoples local government relations, Climate & regenerative design, Diversity, equity & inclusion, Resilience & recovery, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Funding deficits are felt across the state in key areas for which Victorian Government investment is much needed.

As the state peak body, MAV is best placed to lodge a budget submission to the Victorian Government on behalf of local government.

Suggested areas of need as above and to be determined.

Motion 18. Assessing the impact of State Government decisions on local government and communities

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to require all new policies, initiatives and legislation affecting local government to have regulatory, financial and community impacts assessed and published.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy, Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, FutureGen, First Peoples local government relations, Climate & regenerative design, Diversity, equity & inclusion, Resilience & recovery, Intergenerational infrastructure	

The best outcomes for people and places are achieved when all three tiers of government work together, in parallel. Community outcomes are negatively affected when other tiers of government make decisions that impact councils without consultation and without assessing regulatory, financial and community impacts.

Examples include:

- grants not being indexed to meet true costs
- new responsibilities without receiving adequate resources
- increased charges without consultation
- revenue is restricted without consideration of cost increase impacts

Local Governments request that:

- State government consults local government prior to developing and again before implementing new policy or legislative changes that will impact local government and their communities.
- State Government uses a rigorous impact assessment mechanism for all policies and decisions affecting local government and their communities.
- State Government publishes the results of its impact assessments.

Motion 19. Waste Management: Statewide Waste Procurement & Contact Management

Submitting Council: Banyule City Council

Motion:

That the MAV write to the Minister for Environment requesting:

1. The formation of a new body that provides the collective procurement, contract services management recommended by the Victorian Auditor Generals 2019 Report Recovering and Reprocessing Resources from Waste, so that local government and the private sector can more efficiently achieve the goals outlined in the Recycling Victoria State Plan.
2. The new body be fully funded from the State Government Waste Levy.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/6/24
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Sustainable economy

Waste Management is a critical operational service provided by annually to the community by local government.

Waste disruptions result in significant unplanned financial expenses, negative environmental consequences, and loss of community confidence in all tiers of government and the waste sector.

When China implemented its Sword Policy in 2018 it resulted in significant structural and financial changes in the Victorian recyclables market. This was a wake-up call on the importance of well-planned and coordinated strategic waste at all levels of government.

On 6 June 2019, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) tabled the report "Recovering and Reprocessing Resources from Waste" to Parliament.

The VAGO report made six recommendations for DELWP (Department of Environment Land Water and Planning), eight for SV (sustainability Victoria), four for EPA, and four for MWRRG (Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group) to improve waste management for all Victorians.

In response the State Government implemented changes including the restructuring of functions within DECCA Department of Environment Conservation and Climate Change (formerly DEWLP), and Sustainability Victoria. The changes included the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRG's) being disbanded and Recycling Victoria established as a waste sector regulator.

The implemented change did not include implementing a key recommendation for DEWLP from VAGO which was:

“Support the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group in its capacity-building initiatives to train councils' staff and waste management and resource recovery groups' staff so that they can effectively deliver their respective waste management roles and responsibilities, including for collective procurement, land-use planning, multi-unit developments' waste management, and food and garden organics.”

With the disbandment of the WRRG's, local government lost access to an important collaborative body that provided local government with access to skills and capabilities that are difficult to source and concurrently inefficient to provide at the individual Council level.

The disbandment of the WRRG's meant the private sector no longer has a single point of contact with local and state government making it much harder for the private sector to be informed and access opportunities to provide waste processing and waste services needed across Victoria.

The State Government outlined its goals in the Recycling Victoria: A new Economy Plan in 2020. This is an ambitious plan which requires coordinate effort to achieve targets.

With the State Government increasing the waste levy from 1 July 2025 there is even greater need for substantial and rapid private sector investment in alternative waste technologies, and new innovative products made from recovered materials.

Motion 20. Review of Victorian Grants Commission Funds Allocation Methodology

Submitting Council Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Grant Commission to address the methodology used in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants be reviewed to place greater emphasis on the impacts on rural councils of natural disasters and climate change, the limited alternate revenue options, the increased costs associated with Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), and the increased demands of heavy transport and tourism impacting local roads.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	26/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Resilience & recovery, Intergenerational infrastructure	

Rural areas are disproportionately impacted by the worsening effects of climate change, affecting agricultural production and nature-based tourism, which are highly sensitive to a changing and increasingly volatile climate. Rural shires bear the brunt of more frequent and intense climate-driven disasters, including bushfires, floods, and droughts.

Ageing infrastructure and rural roads are ill-equipped to handle these extreme climatic events, leading to increased deterioration. Climate change vulnerability, combined with the demands of heavy transport and tourism, creates extra burdens on rural Council services and road infrastructure, making funding increasingly difficult.

Many floods, storms, and fires do not meet the threshold for government funding, leaving councils to cover these costs. Rural councils are more susceptible to these frequent emergencies and face additional challenges due to rate capping and limited ability to raise alternative revenue, unlike larger urban councils.

A study by Rural Councils Victoria (2022) concluded that rural councils' new or 'boutique' revenue sources are unlikely to generate sufficient income to improve local government finances. The solution likely requires improved access to national tax revenues.

Rural councils also contend with the high costs of CHMPs for capital works due to the prevalence of undisturbed land.

Consequently, rural councils are least likely to generate surplus funds to address these demands, as evidenced by having the largest relative underlying deficits among Victorian Councils.

STATE COUNCIL

We call for a review of the VGC's methodology in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to recognise the increased financial pressures and lack of alternative income streams for rural councils.

Motion 21. Retaining the Country Character of Rural and Regional Townships

Submitting Council Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. seek a commitment from the Minister for Planning to recognise and retain the character of rural and regional townships through the creation of appropriate Planning Scheme controls, with these controls set to keep the country character of our small towns and localities.
2. that this commitment provide for planning controls that recognise local constraints and fit the size, character, and location of our rural townships, avoiding local policy being over-ridden by policy and regulations more appropriate to Metropolitan Melbourne.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	26/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places	

This motion is submitted on behalf of the Hume Region Local Government Network. The character of the natural and built environments across the Hume Region varies significantly among the different municipalities. "Neighbourhood character" refers to the cumulative impact of every property, public place, or piece of infrastructure, whether great or small. This interplay forms the basis of a place's unique character. It is important to ensure new development feels like it belongs and reflects local values and features. Applying metropolitan-based controls risks the loss of unique character in rural municipalities.

Rural areas are one of the region's greatest assets, significant for both agricultural production and natural landscapes that promote tourism and attract visitors. Many rural valleys are recognised for their unique landscape qualities and are worthy of protection. The scenic value of mountains, foothills, valleys, and cleared grazing country is intrinsic to the region's landscape.

Towns such as Mansfield, Benalla, Wangaratta, Beechworth and Marysville are known for their unique character and distinct features. Preserving their charm and appeal, even while supporting population growth, is essential to avoid becoming generic urban sprawl.

Rural Town Character

Towns across the Hume Region, such as Mansfield, Benalla, Wangaratta, and Marysville, are known for their unique and distinct features. Mansfield has wide streets, large lots, and heritage buildings that should be protected. Benalla's charm lies in its lake, botanical gardens, and artistic heritage. Wangaratta is defined by its rivers and vibrant arts culture, necessitating preservation

STATE COUNCIL

of natural landscapes and public river views. Marysville, with its lush gardens and proximity to national parks, focuses on maintaining green spaces and eco-tourism.

Lakeside settlements like Goughs Bay, Howqua Inlet, and Macs Cove feature dwellings designed for water views, dense vegetation, and a holiday atmosphere. Rural villages, often near national parks, are characterised by significant vegetation and scenic views through settlements. Alpine approaches, such as Merrijig and Alpine Ridge, offer expansive mountain views that need protection, especially along key highways.

Motion 22. Increasing funding for legal support for women to escape family violence

Submitting Council: **Manningham City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV calls on State Government to:

1. expand the successful Mabels legal advice service, which places a lawyer part time in Maternal and Child Health Centres with a focus on family violence support, to all parts of Metropolitan Melbourne, noting the successful trial of the model in the outer East.
2. prioritise the expansion of community legal centres for improved service delivery, and in turn advocate to the Commonwealth for additional funding for community legal services when the current agreement between State and Commonwealth expires in mid-2025.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Health & wellbeing	

With the recent focus on violence against women, the availability of free or low-cost legal services is critical to provide advice and support where women are seeking to leave a violent or abusive relationship.

A recent trial program in the outer east - The Mabels Program - matches a community lawyer with a Maternal and Child Health Nurse within the MCH centre to support women who are considering their options. Women who have recently given birth are at higher risk of family violence. The Mabels program has been proven to be an effective and cost-efficient way to support this vulnerable cohort. Expanding The Mabels Program across Melbourne will support women and help halt the escalating numbers of women being killed by their current or former partner.

Another avenue for support is through Community Legal Centres who provide low or no cost legal advice for residents. Funding is provided by the Commonwealth to the State via a funding agreement which is due for renewal in mid-2025.

Community Legal Centres are struggling with increased demand, workforce attraction and rising costs. A report from March 2024 identified sizeable underfunding, workforce shortages and significant unmet demand for legal advice. [Please see 'A sector in crisis, survey report snapshot'](#). Inadequate funding and rising costs are pushing community legal centres to breaking point. Centres are struggling to meet overwhelming demand in the community for legal help, and are being forced to turn people away, reduce services and close outreaches. Frontline workers are suffering high rates of vicarious trauma and burnout, and high staff turnover is contributing to a national workforce crisis." (A Sector in Crisis)

Motion 23. Loss of Community Appeal Rights – VCAT

Submitting Council: Wangaratta Rural City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to State Government as a matter of urgency to repeal aspects of the current legislation, which limits the community’s ability to contest a planning decision to Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), to help secure the protection of agricultural land for food, fibre and viticultural production, as any significant change to our rural landscape and its productivity will have adverse impacts economically, socially and environmentally across the whole municipality.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	30/4/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy	

The Minister for Planning has been responsible for deciding planning permit applications for energy generation facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater for some time.

Further changes recently made to all Planning Schemes in Victoria by the State removes the ability for the Minister’s decisions on applications for renewable energy facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater to be reviewed by VCAT.

This means that objectors to an application can no longer apply to VCAT to review the Minister’s decisions.

Other parts of the planning permit application process remain the same, such as giving notice to allow submissions to be made in response to the application and seeking the view of authorities including Councils. This provides community members and Council with a pathway to provide views to be considered by the Minister prior to a decision being made on a planning permit application.

The ongoing loss and destruction of arable land currently producing food, beverage, and fibre to renewable energy infrastructure (also transmission lines) could have a serious and long-lasting economic impact to all of our rural communities. In addition to the economic impacts, the loss of agricultural land would also have significant negative social and environmental impacts. While clean, renewable energy is vital to the future of our planet, so too is our ability to feed, nurture and positively grow our rural communities. Having proper and thorough appeal rights helps ensure there are balanced and properly considered planning outcomes for these renewables projects.

Motion 24. Investing in local economies and community renewal

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to commit to investing in initiatives that support local economic and community renewal opportunities, following the cessation of Suburban Revitalisation Boards and cuts to the Growing Suburbs Fund.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Intergenerational infrastructure	

Funding to the Suburban Revitalisation Boards was not continued in the 2024/25 State Budget. As a result, the Suburban Revitalisation Boards will cease activities.

Since its establishment in 2016, the Suburban Revitalisation Program has invested over \$67 million to deliver 579 projects. The eight activity centres are Boronia, Broadmeadows, Frankston, Lilydale, Melton, Noble Park, Reservoir, and Tarneit.

The Suburban Revitalisation Program has taken a coordinated place-based approach to enhancing how people live, work and play through the delivery of activities that:

- improve the physical amenity of key suburban centres and their ability to support local economic activity, community well-being and community members experiencing higher levels of socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Improved community infrastructure that is inviting and inclusive
- Support community services that meet community needs
- Increase community participation in the local economy and public life
- Increase economic activity among local businesses.

Without ongoing funding and support the Boards will not be able to continue its activities.

The Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) has been cut in several consecutive budgets from \$50 million to just \$5 million. A reduction of 90 per cent in the past two years.

The Growing Suburbs Fund contributes toward critical local community infrastructure needs for the fast-growing outer suburbs within 10 interface councils including Wyndham. In recent years the cost of delivering community infrastructure has increased significantly. While options for Councils to raise the required funding has been constrained through capping of rates, waste levies and other sources of funding. Without co-funding from the State Government critical infrastructure projects will need to be delayed or substantially reduced in scale and scope.

Motion 25. Outcomes from previous MAV Motions from State Council meetings within the 2020-2024 Council term

Submitting Council: Greater Bendigo City Council

Motion:

That the MAV provide the outcomes from previous MAV Motions from State Council meetings within the 2020-2024 Council term, and the status of these motions.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy, Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Sustainable economy, FutureGen, First Peoples local government relations, Climate & regenerative design, Diversity, equity & inclusion, Resilience & recovery, Intergenerational infrastructure	

The City of Greater Bendigo would like to understand the completion rate and value that MAV offers for Local Government Areas through State Council process. What significant outcomes and policy changes have occurred through the advocacy of State Council in the current Council term. How often are outstanding motions reviewed that do not progress and what happens to these. Considering the tight financial constraints Councils are finding themselves in, how do we ensure the continued value of MAV or this model.

Motion 26. Alignment of Victorian Government grant funding extensions with Federal Government Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 and the intent of the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV urgently calls on the Victorian Government to align its recurrent financial grant program funding terms with Councils statutory obligations regarding the Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 (Cwlth) and the Victorian Government's Gender Equality Act 2020 to ensure gender equality for all employees in grant funded roles. Specifically, Councils seek ongoing undertakings regarding Victorian Government grant funding when:

1. grant funding is for longer than two (2) years, including extensions and renewals, or
2. grant funding has been extended or renewed more than once.

Councils also seek a minimum of six months for recurrent grant funding for the associated written notice of intention to cease or not extend funding to deal with transitional arrangements including termination of staff and cessation of agreements with suppliers.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy, Sustainable economy	

Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 (Commonwealth) (Amendment Act) took effect on 6 December 2023, introducing new rules when engaging employees on fixed term employment contracts amongst other things means that Councils can no longer continue renewing employment appointments beyond two (2) years including extensions and renewals and cannot renew or extend more than once.

There are exceptions in the Federal legislation one of which relates to Government Funded Contracts (s333F) of the Amendment Act, however, there has been no guidance from State or Federal Government regarding the operationalising of this legislation.

By way of context, typically all these grant related programs have no reasonable prospect of renewal after the period since they are time limited. Hence the risk for Council's should the associated positions be made permanent by Council and State Government not continue the funding, the Council is faced with either a cost-shifting scenario to keep the program operational

or withdraw the service to the client group the vast majority of which are typically more vulnerable within society.

Examples of Victorian Government grant funded programs include School Focused Youth Services, L2P Programs, other youth related services, Occupational Therapists and Free From Violence, to name a few.

Further the State's own Gender Equality Act 2020 requires public sector organisations to consider gender impacts of their policies, programs, and services. These grant funded programs typically sustain part-time roles (i.e. 100% of all 26 grant funded roles at Maroondah Council are part-time in nature) and most employees in these roles are women (85%).

As outlined in the State Governments own Gender Impact Assessment requirements, Women tend to bear a disproportionate amount of unpaid carer responsibilities, which can limit their ability to engage in full-time employment. Part time and fixed term contracts offer less job security and fewer opportunities for career advancement. Hence Victorian Government grant funding must align with the requirements of Secure Jobs, Better Pay Federal legislation. This would contribute to promoting gender equality through greater job security for women and others in those respective roles.

Motion 27. Keeping our children safe

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to include all Domestic and Family Violence convictions to the list of Schedule 4 Working with Children Category B Offences in the Worker Screening Act 2020 (the Act).

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Active local democracy, Health & wellbeing	

Our children should always be safe. The requirement for adults, where required by the Act, to hold current Working with Children Check (WWCC), is a tangible way to provide this. For Council, the WWCC requirements apply to both direct relationships (example employees, volunteers, students) and third-party associates (e.g. contractors, procured services, leases/hirers, grant recipients).

It is noted that the current list of convictions that could lead to the denial of a WWCC may not include all Domestic and Family Violence related convictions.

Family violence is a serious community concern and proven offences are classified as a criminal record in the Victorian Justice System. In the 2022/23 financial year within Victoria, there were 93,115 family violence incidents reported. During this period, 11% had the offence proven in Court, and 9% of all incidents involved one or more victims under 18 years of age. Child safety is closely linked to family violence and the safety of children needs to be strengthened as much as possible.

Of concern is that WWCC application assessments primarily focus on identifying offences such as child-related sexual offences, violent crimes, or serious drug offences (as well as professional conduct or disciplinary findings). In Victoria, the WWCC does not disclose details of specific convictions, but is an outcome of an assessment of an individual's suitability to engage with children based on available information. It is concerning that all family violence convictions may not be included in the assessed information, potentially resulting in an unnecessary gap in risk mitigation for child safety.

Motion 28. Royal Commission Recommendations into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability

Submitting Council: Melton City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Write to the relevant Federal and State Leaders, Ministers, MP's and shadow counterparts, welcoming and supporting the findings and recommendations outlined in the Final Report of the Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of people with a Disability (Final Report).
2. Request from the Federal and State Governments how they will implement the Recommendations outlined in the Final Report.
3. Acknowledge all people who live with a Disability and have suffered from Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation, many of whom are still suffering within society.
4. Encourage continual advocacy for people with a disability to ensure that Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation is eliminated.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	24/6/24
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Health & wellbeing, Diversity, equity & inclusion

The Royal Commission into the 'Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability' has shown people with disability continue to experience high rates of violence and abuse, multiple forms of neglect, and sexual and financial exploitation. Violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation are occurring across settings and contexts and throughout different stages of people's lives. Based on their disability, people with disability continue to be excluded from participating in many areas of life.

The Royal Commission has made 222 recommendations on how to improve laws, policies, structures and practices to ensure a more inclusive and just society that supports the independence of people with disability and their right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

These recommendations are an important step toward promoting inclusivity and protection for the most vulnerable members of our community. It is therefore important for Melton City Council to support these recommendations to Government with a view to achieving change for members of our community living with a disability.

NON-STANDARD MOTIONS

Motion 29. Opposition to the Demolition of Public Housing Towers

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government to cease demolition of the public housing towers.

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	18/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places, Health & wellbeing, Climate & regenerative design, Diversity, equity & inclusion, Intergenerational infrastructure	

In September 2023, the Victorian Government released its Housing Statement: The Decade Ahead 2024-34. As part of the statement, it announced plans to demolish all 44 public housing towers located in the inner Melbourne metropolitan area.

At the time of the announcement, no consultation had occurred with local government or residents. It is unclear whether a program of renovation has been adequately considered. The Victorian Government has not released the data and evidence it relied upon to make its decision. There has also been considerable criticism of the plan for not considering adaptive re-use options.

There continue to be few program details in the public domain, such as the potential impact to public housing stock, open space and detailed plans for resident relocations.

Melbourne’s public housing towers are home to 10,000 people. With an estimated 64,700 public housing dwellings across Victoria, these towers represent a significant proportion of the state’s stock.

Demolition will displace residents from their communities, services and supports.

Motion 30. Environmental Education on Crown Land Motion

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

The internationally significant Ramsar-protected Cheetham Wetlands in Melbourne's western suburbs is visited by thousands of migratory birds annually, significant to First Nations people and has been impacted by climate change upon coastal wetlands.

The following motions have been developed for Council to consider for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting to address the environmental education on Crown Land:

1. Providing educational opportunities to highlight the significance of the inner western coastal wetlands to First Nations people.
2. Promote education about the impact of climate change on coastal wetlands
3. Provide unique eco-tourism and nature-based recreational experiences like a Wetlands Centre in metropolitan Melbourne

Submitting Council Confirmation and Rationale:

Council Resolution	25/6/24	
Is the motion of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government?	Yes - of strategic relevance to the MAV or of significance to local government	
Is the motion repetitive in a form or substance of a motion or item considered at the most recently held meeting of the State Council?	No	
Which of the 10 enabling priorities from the MAV Strategy 2024 - 2027 aligns with your motion	Connected places, Climate & regenerative design	

Strengthen and promote First Nations culture, identity and opportunities in Victoria.

Foreshore and riverine assets are upgraded to meet predicted impacts of climate change, maintain existing recreational uses while improving conservation values.

Proactive enrichment, expansion and conservation of the natural and urban environment.