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Proposed Consolidated Motions

C1 Consolidated Motion 1 Municipal Emergency Resource Program (MERP) funding

Submitting Councils:

Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Manningham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for the following:

That the Victorian Government commit as a matter of urgency to provide certainty for:

- Funding the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) on a permanent basis from 1 July 2020;
- Review the allocation of funding to ensure all municipalities in Victoria are funded equitably;
- End the freeze on annual indexation; and
- Increase the level of funding available to reflect changes in costs since 2016.

Motions being consolidated:

Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program [Macedon Ranges Shire]	(Motion 73)
Emergency Management Funding [Manningham]	(Motion 61)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

C2 Consolidated Motion 2 Recycling and Waste Management

Submitting Councils:

Bass Coast [x2]	Hobsons Bay
Bayside	Maribyrnong [x2]
Brimbank	Nillumbik
Darebin	Surf Coast
Frankston	Wyndham

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian and federal governments to provide leadership and investment for the waste and resource recovery system by:

- Committing to each of the actions in the MAV's 'Rescue Our Recycling' action plan
- Initiating whole-of-government commitments to work towards a circular economy in partnership with all stakeholders
- Investing accumulated and future Sustainability Fund monies into our resource recovery system, including by urgently providing greater funding for sorting and processing infrastructure, community education and market development
- Providing financial assistance to those councils affected by the recent SKM facility closures (if SKM does not provide compensation)
- Implementing a Victorian Container Deposit Scheme in consultation with local government and industry
- Developing contingencies to address potential environmental, economic, and reputational harm which may result from disruptions to recycling services
- Providing financial assistance to councils and the MAV to develop and deliver local government-led solutions including collaborative procurement, community education and improvements to council-owned waste infrastructure

Motions being consolidated:

Sustainable solution to the recycling crisis [Bayside]	(Motion 14)
Waste and Recycling Industry Reforms [Brimbank]	(Motion 15)
Waste Recycling [Darebin]	(Motion 16)
Waste to landfill reduction [Maribyrnong]	(Motion 17)
Domestic Recycling Industry [Nillumbik]	(Motion 18)
Sustainable waste and recycling model [Surf Coast]	(Motion 19)
Addressing Urgent Waste & Recycling Challenges [Wyndham]	(Motion 20)
Waste Recycling – EPA levy [Bass Coast]	(Motion 21)
Access to Landfill Revenue [Frankston]	(Motion 8)
Container Deposit Legislation [Hobsons Bay]	(Motion 22)
Container Deposit Schemes [Bass Coast]	(Motion 23)
Container deposit scheme [Maribyrnong]	(Motion 24)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

C3 Consolidated Motion 3 Bus Service Network Review and Improvement

Submitting Councils:

Hobsons Bay City Council
Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government to undertake a comprehensive review of bus services in Metropolitan Melbourne especially for those areas not adequately serviced by rail, to ensure that the bus network delivers an equitable, efficient (frequency) and integrated system with rail services, that serves the community and promotes a shift away from private vehicle dependency.

Motions being consolidated:

Bus Service Network Reviews [Hobsons Bay]	(Motion 38)
Public Transport Improvements [Bayside City]	(Motion 39)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

C4 Consolidated Motion 4 Less Car Dependant Society and Safe and Connected Cycling Infrastructure

Submitting Council:

Darebin City Council
Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

Part One: That the MAV writes to the Minister for Planning requesting:

- the Victorian Government plan for the decoupling of housing and parking;
- an amendment to the planning scheme to remove the current minimum parking rates based approach for new developments in preparation for a shift in private car ownership and use.
- Transport for Victoria to work closely with local governments in undertaking research and development into innovative and disruptive transport technologies and urban infrastructure.

Part Two: That the MAV:

- Call on the State Government to recognise the importance of safe and connected active transport infrastructure in and around our cities and commit to providing funding to work with local government to close the existing gaps in our walking and cycling networks
- Compiles information from local government cycling plans and work with councils to identify up to 50 priority projects to improve cycling infrastructure across Melbourne, enabling people to safely cycle as a primary mode of transport.
- Presents these projects to the Minister for Transport, VicRoads and Transport for Victoria, with a request to fund these projects.
- Calls on the Victorian Government to:
 - (i) increase funding for cycling infrastructure to a minimum of \$500 million per year, noting that this is less than 0.05% of the Victorian government's 2018-19 roads budget; and
 - (ii) extend TAC coverage to include any person injured while riding a bike on Victorian roads and paths.

Motions being consolidated:

Less Car Dependant Society and Cycling Infrastructure [Darebin City Council] (Motion 37)
Safe and connected active transport infrastructure [Maribyrnong City Council] (Motion 32)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

C5 Consolidated Motion 5 Gambling Reform

Submitting Councils:

Mitchell Shire Council
Yarra City Council

Motion:

THAT the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) call on the State Government to implement an evidenced based public health approach to reduce gambling harm associated with electronic gaming machines through

- (a) introducing a stronger Responsible Gambling Code of Conduct to include:
 - (i) stronger focus on venue and staff responsibility to reduce levels of gambling harm by offering assistance to people displaying signs they are being harmed by gambling, as is the case under laws in New Zealand and Switzerland;
 - (ii) mandatory breaks and maximum daily limits on gambling time;
 - (iv) prohibition on inducements to gamble such as gifts or offering free food and drink (excluding water) and instead encourage gamblers to take a break going to other parts of the venue for food and drink;
 - (v) requiring venues to assist research projects approved by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR);
 - (vi) no service of food or drinks at the machines.
- (b) reducing opening hours for pokies venues to include mandatory 2am - 9am shutdown.
- (c) banning losses disguised as wins as recommended by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR), noting this feature is already banned in Queensland and Tasmania.
- (d) Mandating the display of signage on all electronic gaming machines with a product health and safety warning – ‘stating the machine is designed to keep you playing and programmed for you to lose money’, emulating the approach taken with the tobacco industry.

Motions being consolidated:

Gambling Reform [Yarra City Council] (Motion 51)
Electronic Gaming Machines Signage [Mitchell Shire Council] (Motion 52)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

C6 Consolidated Motion 6 Affordable Housing

Submitting Councils:

Manningham City Council
Bass Coast Shire Council
Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the State and Federal Government to provide significant, consistent and ongoing funding for social and affordable housing, which includes targeted support to address the needs of older women at risk of homelessness as well as other at risk groups such as young people
2. Advocates to the State Government to provide significant, consistent and ongoing funding for homelessness services and access points, to include assertive outreach and brokerage for safe emergency accommodation.
3. Calls on the State Government to provide additional stimulus funding to registered housing services to work in partnership with Councils to support vulnerable residents.

Motions being consolidated:

Affordable Housing [Manningham City]	(Motion 71)
Homelessness and Emergency Housing [Bass Coast]	(Motion 54)
Advocacy fo Homeless Women Aged 50+ [Darebin City]	(Motion 55)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

C7 Consolidated Motion 7 Tree protection

Submitting Councils:

Darebin City Council
Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government that appropriate penalties apply to discourage the removal of trees protected by local laws or planning schemes.

Motions being consolidated:

Tree protection [Darebin City]	(Motion 59)
Planning Infringement Costs - Seeking Changes to the Penalties Associated with Illegal Tree Removal [Maroondah City]	(Motion 3)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Sustainable land use

C8 Consolidated Motion 8 Coastal Protection

Submitting Councils:

Bass Coast Shire Council
East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State and Federal Governments to urgently respond to the risks climate change presents to Victoria's coastal environment and assets, including through

- Strategic approaches to coastal asset protection and erosion mitigation and adaptation
- Support for local government initiatives to develop and implement coastal adaptation plans

Motions being consolidated:

Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Erosion [Bass Coast Shire] (Motion 65)
Funding the Protection of Victoria's Coastal Assets [East Gippsland Shire] (Motion 78)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

C9 Consolidated Motion Climate Emergency

Submitting Councils:

Bass Coast Shire Council
Manningham City Council
Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State and Federal Governments to:

- acknowledge we are in a state of climate emergency
- as a matter of priority, increase funding and support for climate change adaptation and mitigation research and action, including by providing greater funding to the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO) research

Motions being consolidated:

Climate Change [Manningham City]	(Motion 66)
Climate Resilience and Adaptation Research [Bass Coast Shire]	(Motion 67)
Climate Emergency [Yarra City]	(Motion 68)

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Financial sustainability

1 50/50 State & Local Government Funding For Universal M&CH Service

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

That the MAV continue to strongly advocate to the State Government for a more equitable funding arrangement for Councils to ensure that Local Government is not required to contribute more than 50% to the delivery of the Universal Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the compact between the State Government and Local Government to support children and families in early years has driven many service reforms and led to better outcomes for Victorian families. As the MOU and compact expire in December 2020, now is a timely opportunity to restart advocacy concerning fairer funding of the Universal Child and Maternal Health Service.

2 [C7]

Planning Infringement Costs - Seeking Changes to the Penalties Associated with Illegal Tree Removal

Submitting Council: Maroondah City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council calls upon the State Government to pursue increased penalties associated with Planning Infringement Notices (PIN) issued to expiate the offence of tree removal

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

The removal of vegetation without the relevant planning approval from Council is increasingly becoming an issue for both the Council and the community. The loss of canopy cover and significant vegetation not only impacts on the natural environment but facilitates an outcome whereby a landowner may gain a development advantage as a result of vegetation removed from the site.

Due to increased land values, population growth and development aspirations sought by landowners seeking to redevelop their site, there has been a growing trend both in Maroondah and other municipalities for vegetation to be removed or destroyed without planning permits being sought from Council. Since 2015, Planning Infringement Notices issued by Maroondah for illegal tree removal has increased, with the removal being primarily for the purpose of facilitating future redevelopment opportunities.

The relatively low infringement amounts based on the penalty units in the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for an individual or company, can easily be absorbed into the cost of doing business and are not a sufficient deterrent. This then leaves Council with the burden (including financially) of managing the impacts to its environment and future development outcomes, as well as the expectations of the community.

This proposed motion has considered the financial and environmental impacts, as well as the increasing trend of such offences continuing particularly given the current economic climate. The imposition of greater penalties, which may include delays on future developments commencing or substantial replanting requirements could aid in minimising future offences occurring.

3 Rate Capping

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government on behalf of all Councils that:

- Consideration is given to sector-wide issues that are impacting the costs of all Councils, such as recycling, when the annual rate cap is being set rather than just setting the rate cap at CPI; and
- The funding provided to Councils to deliver services or undertake functions on behalf of the State Government is increased in line with real cost to Council of those services or functions.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Increases to Councils' main source revenue in rates on municipal properties have been capped by the State Government. The cap on rate increases since the introduction of rate capping have been set in line with the CPI forecast in State Government Budget Update released just prior to the setting of the rate cap.

No consideration is being given to other external factors that are having significant financial impact on Councils' operations. It is requested that consideration be given by the State Government to these factors when setting the cap on rate increases.

Councils provide services to the community on behalf of the State Government such as maternal and child health and undertake functions on behalf of the State Government such as the collection of the Fire Services Property Levy. The funding for these services from the State Government has not increased in line with the increases in the cost to Councils of delivering these services creating overall financial disadvantage to Councils. It is requested that State Government funding is increased in line with cost increases experienced by Councils.

4 **Review of School Crossing Supervisor Program**

Submitting Council: **Whitehorse City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government for the review of the School Crossing Supervisor program to:

1. Incorporate an increased focus on the strategic and risk evidence based approach of the program to include associated costs, staffing requirements, road and pedestrian safety factors.
2. Acknowledge the increased level of funding towards the School Crossing Supervisor Program, with the current 50/50 funding model shared between the State Government and Local Councils.
3. Involve the Department of Education and Training so that consideration can be given to a funding model that directly funds schools for the provision of school crossing supervisors.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Whitehorse Council has been advocating to the State Government for some time to achieve increased levels of funding for the School Crossing Supervisor Subsidy program. Whilst Council supports and acknowledges the increased levels of funding to the current 50/50 split between the State Government and local Councils, the program continues to present challenges to Council.

There are a number of unresolved issues relating to the school crossing supervisor program including the VicRoads subsidy criteria, recruitment and retention of school crossing supervisors, funding for the installation of new school crossings and the involvement of schools in the program

5 Funding Programs to Assist the Local Government Sector

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government to extend their commitment to funding programs that assist local government to respond to the sector's financial sustainability challenge.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

The ongoing financial sustainability of local government is reliant on programs led by the State Government to assist councils to meet the sector's financial sustainability challenge. The State Government has led programs such as the Rural Councils Transformation Program, however this is not ongoing nor does it apply to all councils in Victoria. More needs to be done to ensure the local government sector is financially viable in the long term.

6 Federal Assistance Grants - Agreed Schedule of Payments

Submitting Council: Murrindindi Shire Council

Motion:

That the Federal Government and Victorian State Governments commit to funding of Councils through the Federal Assistance Grants (FAGS) Programme on set dates each year. This being to avoid smaller Councils, particularly small rural Councils being forced to incorrectly report deficit budgets to their communities.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils welcome the Federal Governments assistance to Councils by way of Federal Assistance Grants. In smaller Councils where the contribution has a significant and material impact, receiving the funds a day earlier than planned, e.g. the last day of a Financial Year, may assist Federal Departments balancing their budgets, but can place smaller Councils in a significant surplus or deficit position.

7 [C2]

Access to Landfill Revenue

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV is to investigate the legalities of retrieving municipal funds being withheld by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) from the Sustainability Fund and distributing this to Local Government through funding for resource recovery infrastructure.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

This motion fits into Objective 1 of the Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Priority 3 specifically related to achieving access to the Landfill Levy revenue and therefore, assisting Local Government to become financially sustainable.

- (1) MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to seek a greater proportion of funds being released from the Landfill Levy to support local government and their communities with their waste reduction and resource recovery efforts, through improved infrastructure, services, communication and education, with the intention of achieving best value for the Frankston City Council Community.
- (2) MAV to initiate the development of a local government advocacy program with the aim to achieve a greater proportion of funds from the Landfill Levy for local governments in Victoria, to enhance their ability to strategically manage and minimise municipal waste on behalf of their local communities.

8 Mobile Black Spot Funding

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

- a. Endorses a Notice of Motion from the Nillumbik Shire Council to the 2019 National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association requesting the Commonwealth Government to secure further Mobile Black Spot funding to increase the safety, well-being and liveability of regional and rural communities.
- b. Seek State Government support and advocacy for this Motion.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

More than 10,000 sites were nominated under the Mobile Black Spot Programme as having inadequate mobile phone coverage. In 2019, communication should be a basic necessity, particularly for those living, working and travelling in regional and remote Australia.

This lack of mobile phone coverage severely impacts business, industry, health services, education and other government services and requires serious consideration and commitment to close the inequity in communication services between metropolitan and rural communities. It also poses a significant danger for communities living in regional and rural areas within a bushfire prone landscape. In Victoria, communities saw first-hand the issues created by the combination of mobile phone blackspots, power outages and bushfires. Poor mobile phone coverage in regional and rural areas potentially put people's lives at risk during the devastating bushfires.

The Mobile Black Spot Program is well over halfway complete and despite the funding committed, only 867 new base stations from more than 10,000 nominated sites have been deployed across the country. Furthermore, not all base stations funded under the first three rounds of the program are all operational. Council is seeking a commitment to the continuation and strengthening of the Mobile Black Spot Funding to support regional and rural communities. Previous funding rounds have been insufficient to address local blackspot issues, and address this significant infrastructure issue.

9 Improved Rural Councils' Grant Funding Ratios

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to State and Federal Governments to implement funding ratios in all grant programs that require rural councils to contribute less than 1:1 (or 50%) in matched funding

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Rural councils historically have experienced grant programs that require a contribution less than 50% with ratios often set to enable one council dollar to leverage two or three State or Federal dollars.

More recently rural councils have been required to match other levels of government dollar for dollar to secure grants.

Many rural councils do not have the same ability to raise revenue as metropolitan councils. Lower grant funding ratios can assist rural councils to deliver vital infrastructure and services and be sustainable in the longer term.

Waste & resource recovery

10 Australian Packaging Covenant - Litter Management

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council:

- Formally endorses the MAV 'Rescue our Recycling' policy, and congratulate the Association on this necessary policy;
- Notes the critical importance of product stewardship and polluter pays principals advocated within the 'Rescue our Recycling' policy;
- Advocates for the 'Australian Packaging Covenant' to alter its Strategic Plan (2017-2022), insisting on a larger focus on litter and post-consumer waste management, in addition to existing goals, including the allocation of funds to local councils and not for profits organisations who are involved in litter management.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) launched their 'Rescue Our Recycling Action Plan' (the Plan) on 7 March 2019. The Plan sets out five key actions each level of government should take to help solve the current Victorian recycling crisis.

The plan identifies the need for stronger leadership and increased investment by governments, greater regulation of our recycling industry, plus more responsibility placed on businesses to generate less waste.

Action 5 of this Plan, outlines the need for advocacy and collaboration with federal and state governments to achieve the required reforms within the waste and resource recovery industry. There is an opportunity to advocate to the federal government regarding packaging and litter management.

The Australian Packaging Covenant, which is the principal national body aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of consumer packaging in Australia has a strategic plan aimed at two goals that embody product stewardship and shared responsibility:

- optimising resource recovery of consumer packaging through the supply chain
- preventing the impacts of fugitive packaging on the environment.

This 'Australian Packaging Covenant Strategic Plan (2017-2022)', has not addressed postconsumer management of packaging, specifically litter management. The absence of actions and funding to manage litter is a gross oversight from the Australian Packaging Covenant. The City of Port Phillip urges the MAV to advocate to the Australian Packaging

-continued-

Covenant, to alter their Strategic Plan to include actions and funding to manage litter caused by post-consumer packaging. As part of this advocacy, the City of Port Phillip recommends the allocation of funds to both local councils and not for profits organisations who are involved in litter management.

11 ^[C2] **Container Deposit Legislation**

Submitting Council: **Hobsons Bay City Council**

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate for the State Government to implement container deposit legislation and to encourage the whole of Australia to adopt a consistent approach to discourage single use plastic litter by offering a partial refund for the return of empty beverage containers.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

A number of States and Territories have implemented or are implementing container deposit legislation. Victoria is the only state where one is not being considered. A recommendation of a Senate Inquiry into the waste and recycling industry in Australia released in June 2018 recommended that the Australian Government implement a national container deposit scheme. A recommendation of the 2017 Senate inquiry into the threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia and Australian waters was that the Australian Government encourage states and territories to support container deposit schemes and if they have not by 2020 that the Australian Government revisit the issue.

12 [C2]

Container Deposit Schemes

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the Local Government sector supports the introduction a Container Deposit Scheme in Victoria, and throughout Australia. It writes to the State and Federal Environment Ministers advocating for them to manage and support a Container Deposit Scheme, because of the financial, social and environmental benefits.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

The concept behind Container Deposit Schemes (CDS) is that the consumer pays a deposit on certain beverage containers that are refunded when the container is returned to a collection deposit site.

Container Deposit Schemes have been adopted by a range of jurisdictions across Canada, Europe and the United States and have shown to deliver a range of benefits.

Victoria is one of the only states in Australia not to have a CDS. Modelling undertaken outlined benefits throughout Victoria, including:

- Increasing recycling rates from 49 per cent to 83 per cent
- Reducing the volume of litter in our parks, beaches and roadsides by 12 to 15 per cent
- Increasing recovery of packaging waste (and reducing landfill) by 128,000 tonnes per year
- Reducing Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions by over 350,000 tonnes of CO₂e per year (equivalent to over 50,000 Victorian homes switching to 100 per cent renewable energy)
- Saving enough water to permanently supply over 12,500 Victorian homes
- Delivering the same level of Victorian air quality improvements equivalent to taking 44,000 cars off the road
- Saving rate payers \$15.2 million per annum
- Creating 300 to 400 new jobs

13 ^[C2] Container Deposit Scheme

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate for Victoria to adopt a container deposit scheme, and to encourage the whole of Australia to adopt such to discourage beverage litter and pollution by offering a partial refund for the return of empty beverage containers.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

Container deposit schemes (CDS) have proven to be effective in recycling containers and reducing litter in South Australia.

In its Packaging Impacts Decision Regulation Impact Statement, the Council of Australia Governments (COAG) noted that CDS options achieve the highest litter reduction impact when this is measured by tonnages. An analysis of the co-benefits (increased collection and recycling of other recyclable materials and increased recyclable quality or value) highlights that a CDS will generate a high level of co-benefits due to the design of drop-off collection depots as its primary collection point.

The introduction of a Scheme may reduce the amount of litter as people will be inclined to 'cash in' their unwanted items rather than litter or pollute the environment.

14 **Dumping of Soil/Fill in Rural Areas**

Submitting Council: **Bass Coast Shire Council**

Motion:

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to develop a statewide approach to the issue of dumping soil/fill through:

- improving definitions and planning permit triggers in the Victorian Planning Provisions for soil dumping, and
- considering a volumetric trigger for rural zones, such as the 100 cubic metre threshold in the Hume Planning Scheme which is considered an enforceable, measurable permit trigger.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Yarra Ranges Council has recently approached all rural councils in relation to the issue of tens of thousands of cubic metres of soil/fill being dumped in rural Victoria. This issue is prevalent across metropolitan Melbourne and peri-urban areas and standardised approach is required to address this policy gap.

15 [C2]

Sustainable solution to the recycling crisis

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call upon the Minister for Environment to urgently convene a taskforce comprising representatives for MAV, the Metropolitan Waste Management Forum, the Metropolitan Waste Management and Resource Recovery Group and key State Government decision makers to identify and implement sustainable solutions to the current crisis in the recycling sector.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

A critical factor in the recycling crisis is the lack of local demand for recyclable materials, which necessitates a reliance on foreign commodity markets for local processors to achieve throughput of the material. As the sharp reduction in demand for recyclable materials from Asia recently has caused instability for local recyclers and resulting incidents of stockpiling and landfilling of recyclables, the MAV needs to advocate to the State Government to respond urgently with a whole-of-government Circular Economy initiative to support the generation of local demand for recyclable materials. Such an initiative is well beyond the scope of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and needs to involve the following Ministries:

- Economic Development
- Resources
- Small Business
- Creative Industries
- Jobs, Innovation and Trade
- Training and Skills
- Higher Education
- Roads.

16 ^[C2] Waste and Recycling Industry Reforms

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

That the MAV writes to the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Victoria highlighting the priority given by the MAV to waste and recycling issues in Victoria, and emphasising the urgent need for the MAV and Local Government Authorities to work with the Federal and State Government to address the waste and recycling crisis facing all local councils.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

Waste and recycling is a core function of all local councils. Local Government Authorities (LGAs) recently experienced significant pressure regarding kerbside recycling processing. Over 90 per cent of Victoria's kerbside recycling is processed by only 3 recycling companies, which are heavily reliant on overseas markets. China's decision in late 2018 to restrict the import of recycling materials placed significant pressure on LGAs and the local recycling industry. The recent array of issues associated with the waste and recycling industry- in terms of processing and storage- should be highlighted in the context of LGAs seeking to help advocate for meaningful solutions. The recent toxic fire in Campbellfield on 5th April 2019 is an example of how this region lives with the failures of historical waste policies that need to be addressed and rectified. The recent toxic waste chemical fires in Campbellfield, West Footscray on 31st August 2018, and Coolaroo in July 2017- also highlight the issue of dangerous waste storage sites across suburban Melbourne, and the need to find safer and sustainable solutions for our waste industry and communities. The waste industry issues being experienced today by the north-western regions of Melbourne are to a large extent the result of many historical decisions to process and store a large volume of Victoria's waste throughout these local communities. These issues have exposed the Victorian waste and recycling industries, which require urgent leadership, direction and support from the Australian and Victorian Governments. Bi-partisan action is required across all levels of government to help fix our broken waste and recycling system.

17 [C2]

Waste Recycling

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls upon the Victorian Government to:

1. Immediately take steps to establish a storage facility for all recycling in order to avert it going to landfill;
2. To provide local governments with financial support in the event that SKM is unable to meet its contractual obligations to financial compensate local governments for the costs of directing recycling to landfill;
3. Set a up a Taskforce with local government representation as a first step to developing and implementing a new recycling industry policy;
4. Similarly to the renewable energy industry, develop a new comprehensive Victorian Government Recycling Industry Policy and invest the land fill levy into recycling processing and education.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

It's over a year since China banned the receipt of contaminated recycling. India and Malaysia have now also closed their doors to accepting recyclable materials. Over a year, and Victoria's recycling industry is in an ongoing, worsening crisis.

The closure of SKM created havoc for Councils. We did all we could – tried to take our recycling to other recycling processors, looked for safe storage options to wait out the closure and asked our communities to hold their recycling at home where possible. Despite this significant quantities of valuable Victorian recycling was sent to landfill.

While SKM is obliged to compensate many Councils for the costs of landfilling recycling, there is fear that this may not eventuate. The Victorian Government must step in to help affected Council's offset this significant financial burden by providing financial support. Since development of the Recycling Industry Strategic Plan in June 2018, Councils have seen little Victorian Government action on the recycling crisis; yet we've weathered another year of recycling chaos. Decisive action is needed to create a stable, self-sustaining, robust and resilient Victorian recycling industry.

-Continued-

A Taskforce should be established by the Victorian Government as a first step. The Taskforce must have meaningful local government representation, which is not hampered by the need for confidentiality, like the previous Taskforce was. Principles of transparency, inclusiveness and open commitment to real change are critical. It should work with the Federal Government where needed. It must show real direction and have significant outputs. In the short term, stabilising the Victorian recycling industry is critical. Safer storage options are urgently needed to be established by the Victorian Government, with EPA Victoria oversight and approval, to prevent valuable resources being landfilled in the event of potential recycling processing site closures. The Taskforce should develop a new, comprehensive Victorian Recycling Industry Policy to take immediate action to secure Victoria's recycling industry and create longer term strategic directions for a robust future. The Policy should build on the existing Plan. It should invest landfill levy monies into recycling processing and education and support waste avoidance for meaningful outcomes for Victoria.

18 ^[C2] Waste to landfill reduction

Submitting Council: Maribyrnong City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victorian seek a commitment from the Victorian Government that it will work with Local Government to incentivise industry to move towards alternate and more efficient waste and recycling technology and further reduce targets and the reliance on waste to landfill.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

With increasing population, impacts of climate change and social expectations to reduce our waste generation and landfilling rates and increase the start of pipe management of waste (reduce/recycle), all tiers of government can take a lead role to incentivise industry and support local government to actively move towards more innovative and efficient technology.

19 ^[C2] Domestic Recycling Industry

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria write to the Prime Minister and the Federal Ministers for Communications and the Arts to take action to develop and support the stability of the domestic recycling industry so that an uninterrupted service is provided.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

The message from material recycling facilities following the impact of China's National Sword Policy is that they are no longer profitable at new commodity prices and existing gate fees. Councils will need to pay more to recycle and will pass these costs onto residents in the community who will feel the impact. Local governments, particularly those that are resource constrained, require significant levels of external funding to address the market failure. There are a number of ways that the State government support can help address the current market failure:

- By providing information on the supply and demand profile of waste material over its lifecycle. This will help to identify opportunities and provide an information based to make investment decisions.
- Catalysing the development of domestic material reprocessing capacity and/or advanced waste and resource recovery technologies.
- Develop and support policy, which increase domestic demand for recyclables, especially glass and plastic. For example, minimum recycled content legislation and/or standards.

20 ^[C2] Sustainable waste and recycling model

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to State and Federal Governments to provide adequate funding and work with local government to design a sustainable model to manage waste and recycling - for the whole length of the supply chain - which does not rely on managing recyclable material offshore. Specific funding and support should be extended to councils with landfill facilities

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

The current waste management in particular, the recycling system is totally unsustainable. Over 90 per cent of Victoria's kerbside recycling is processed by three recyclers who in the past have largely relied on overseas markets to support their business model.

Rather than focussing on recycling a product at the end of its life, we need to include; improved product design, packaging regulations, introduction of a container deposit scheme, improved sorting of material, community education programs and sector wide collaboration. Council supports introducing mandatory product stewardship schemes for all products that generate waste and sacrifice valuable resources to landfill or other non-renewable channels. The use of the Australasian Recycling Label or equivalent should be mandatory to remove confusion and assist the community to recycle their products correctly.

21 ^[C2] **Addressing Urgent Waste & Recycling Challenges**

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

Given safety concerns and the lack of investment by the private sector to address Victoria's urgent waste and recycling challenges, the MAV calls on the State Government to take further urgent action.

Specifically, the State Government should urgently consider legislative, regulatory and other tools to enable groups of Councils to collaborate to address these challenges. The MAV believes that more group procurement and collaboration between Councils will:

1. Demonstrates clear community benefits, including significant increased investment in waste and recycling solutions, and
2. Deliver aspirations in the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan in a more timely way to divert waste from landfill and to recover resources from waste streams.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

Given recent international and more local events, recycling services in Victoria have been under threat. More broadly, Local Government undertakes a range of critical roles in the waste and recycling space, and yet we really heavily on other levels of government to set the regulatory and support the market environments. Local Government is willing to collaborate to resolve some of the entrenched challenges in this space, yet such collaboration requires the regulatory and policy support of the State Government.

22 ^[C2]

Waste Recycling – EPA levy

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the Local Government sector advocates for the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy funds collected to be invested directly back into the waste sector to address the recycling crisis in Victoria. This is to find new technologies to improve recycling and undertake research, development and delivery to address the failures of the waste market to properly process, recycle and reuse materials collected through kerbside waste management programs.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & resource recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

Under Section 70 of the Environment Protection Act 1970, the State Government impose a Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy on every tonne of waste received at landfill.

One of the key purposes of the landfill levy is to provide additional and ongoing funding to support efforts by government, industry and the community to reduce waste and increase recycling. Landfill levies create an incentive for waste generators and processors to investigate ways to reduce the amount of waste they generate and dispose of to landfill. Each year Victorian councils pay over \$200 million in landfill levies to State Government.

On behalf of its community, Council has a role to advocate for the funds collected through the EPA levy to be used to undertake research and development. This is urgently needed to address the failures of the waste market to properly process, recycle and reuse materials collected through kerbside waste management programs. Although this has commenced in response to the China Sword crisis it is not sufficient. Councils work diligently with the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups, and its community to ensure responsible and appropriate waste management and recycling through its waste education programs.

The State Government must support the waste industry and be more accountable for the way the funds from the landfill levy are used. These funds must be used to undertake research and develop technologies to provide solutions and build infrastructure to responsibly process the materials collected through kerbside waste management programs.

Government relations

23 Consumer Protection For New Home Purchases

Submitting Council: Wyndham City Council

Motion:

The MAV calls on the State Government to provide greater consumer protection for purchasers of land in new housing areas to ensure that development and infrastructure indicated in masterplans, Precinct Structure Plans and other relevant plans is delivered.

The MAV is concerned that many landowners who have bought land find that development and infrastructure is not occurring as per the marketing materials provided by developers at the time of purchase. Specific concerns include:

- Changes such as the removal of child care facilities or other non-residential uses
- Inclusion of medium density developments, and
- Changes to lot layouts.

The MAV therefore requests that such a review include:

- The level of consumer protection applying in these circumstances
- What audits are being undertaken on the advertising of new estates, and
- Whether strengthening legislation or relevant codes of practice could be beneficial to better protect consumers.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Government relations

Submitting Council Rationale:

The purchase of a home is the largest purchase many families are likely to ever make in their lifetimes. As well as the complexity of the purchase, many buyers rely heavily on the marketing of developers for certainty about what types of infrastructure will be provided in their new neighbourhoods, and what lot development patterns they can expect in the future. Local Governments often receive complaints when this marketing does not match the expectations that buyers have, yet Local Government is not empowered to act on these complaints given that the State Government legislates and regulates the area of Consumer Protection. Given recent steps undertaken by the State Government to increase such protections, this motion requests that action be taken to address what has become a growing problem for many families in Victoria.

24 Stop the Statutory Planning Clock for Planning Applications

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls upon the State Government to amend planning legislation to:

1. Pause the statutory clock for planning permit applications to prevent the lodgement of failure appeals to VCAT during periods of negation initiated by a planning permit applicant.
2. Extend the statutory clock for planning permit applications to a minimum of 80 days for those applications requiring both external referral and public notification before an applicant for planning permit can lodge a failure appeal.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Government relations

Submitting Council Rationale:

Various reforms to the Victorian planning system in recent years have provided a range of improvements designed to achieve faster planning decisions. However, the increased complexity associated with assessing some forms of applications, such as mixed use or apartment buildings, has yet to be recognised. Boroondara is of the view the statutory time for making a decision on a planning application should extend in particular circumstances to provide more reasonable time frames for assessment.

Boroondara has previously made submissions in response to reviews of planning legislation that the time frame provided for processing planning permit applications should be linked and vary according to the steps in the process required for a particular application or the complexity of the application. Boroondara is of the view an 80 day time limit would be more appropriate for applications requiring public notification and referral.

The statutory clock continues to run, notwithstanding circumstances where an applicant requests a planning permit application be placed on hold to allow time for issues to be resolved before a decision is made. Boroondara has experienced applicants lodging appeals to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for failure to make a decision, even though those applicants have requested time to address issues raised.

Boroondara is of the view the statutory clock should pause when a request is received from an applicant to place a planning application on hold at any time during the application process. The clock should only recommence upon further request.

25 Reform - Telecommunications Legislation

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls upon the Federal Government to reform telecommunications legislation as follows:

- Require telecommunications facilities proposals to include evidence that emissions from the proposed facilities and the cumulative impact of existing telecommunications infrastructure within the surrounding area are safe to the health of surrounding residents;
- Amend the Industry Code to improve the community consultation process and increase the notification of proposed facilities to 50 metres to reflect the area with the highest exposure impact;
- Require co-location of facilities unless demonstrated that this is not practical; and
- Change the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination to prevent the location of Low Impact Facilities in residential areas without Council permission.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Government relations

Submitting Council Rationale:

Telecommunications Company TPG recently proposed the roll out over 100 mobile phone based stations at various sites across Boroondara. TPG also commenced the roll out of facilities across other parts of Melbourne.

Telephone companies licensed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as 'carriers' (in this case, TPG) may install a range of low impact facilities without needing approval from councils under Federal legislation.

The proposed mobile phone base stations proposed by TPG in Boroondara satisfy the definition of a 'Low-Impact Facility' under the Telecommunication (Low-Impact) Facilities Determination 2018 and therefore do not need any Council permission.

Sites chosen by TPG are in local residential streets directly outside dwellings, despite the proximity of less sensitive locations. A significant number of complaints have been received from the community expressing concerns in relation to potential impacts of these facilities and the lack of meaningful consultation and information provided.

-Continued-

Council has raised the following with the Federal Minister for Communications and the Arts, The Hon Mitch Fifield MP:

- Concern regarding the visual impact of the proposed locations of the telecommunications facilities, including the disruption to the amenity of the streetscape, the creation of cluttered public realm and adversely impacting upon heritage precincts;
- Resident's concern regarding the impact of the electromagnetic energy (EME) exposure from the proposed telecommunications facilities located within residential streets, on the safety and health of our community;
- Require telecommunications facilities proposals to include evidence that emissions from the proposed facilities and the cumulative impact of existing telecommunications infrastructure within the surrounding area are safe to the health of surrounding residents;
- The consultation plans received by Council have given notice to owners and occupiers within 10-20 metres of the proposed location. It is requested that the Industry Code is updated to increase the notification to 50 metres to reflect the area with the highest exposure impact, as identified in the Environmental Electromagnetic Energy (EME) Reports provided to Council;
- Request that providers are required to share existing infrastructure; and
- Request that the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 is updated to prevent the location of Low Impact Facilities in residential areas.

26 Fines Management System - Fines Victoria

Submitting Council: Boroondara City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria seek a commitment from the State Government to the following:

1. To investigate and implement remedies to resolve the ongoing reporting and collection issues arising from the new fines system implemented by Fines Victoria in January 2018, resulting in significant and unfavourable financial impacts to Councils.
2. Require Fines Victoria to consult and communicate with Councils on the proposed remedies and the timing of their delivery.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Government relations

Submitting Council Rationale:

Following a review of the management of fines formerly delivered by the Infringements Court, in January 2018 the State Government introduced the new fines management system under the new name of 'Fines Victoria' which functions under an administrative framework. Fines Victoria provides the opportunity for various enforcement agencies, including Councils, to register unpaid infringements for further enforcement, and ultimately collection of infringement penalties and associated costs for disbursement to respective agencies. This approach is delivered through an administrative framework as an alternative to the more traditional enforcement through the Magistrates' Court.

The concerns experienced by Councils since the introduction of Fines Victoria have included system deficiencies impacting reporting, under-performance in the enforcement and collection of fines and poor communication.

These issues have resulted in the following impacts:

- Reduction in the collection/recovery rates;
- Cashflow shortfalls;
- Operating expenditure adversely affected due to increased doubtful debts;
- Reduction in the recovery of lodgement fees paid to Fines Victoria; and
- Increased exposure to risk for Councils.

While sympathetic to the issues experienced by Fines Victoria, Councils' concerns have continued to escalate resulting in frustration and a sense of alarm as to the potential for the current issues to continue or worsen.

Appreciating the State Government's intention for Fines Victoria to be the primary avenue for the enforcement of unpaid infringements, it is essential for the current issues to be addressed as a priority. Advocacy through the MAV is therefore sought to assist in rectifying this situation.

27 Citizenship Ceremonies - Federal Government Financial Contribution

Submitting Council: Knox City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Federal Government requesting that it provide a financial contribution to local government in recognition of its role in the administration of the Australian citizenship program.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Government relations

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Federal Government has accorded local government, as the arm of government closest to the community, a significant role in the Australian citizenship program, through the conferral of Australian citizenship at citizenship ceremonies. However, there is no legislative obligation or binding agreement on local government to conduct citizenship ceremonies. These citizenship ceremonies have significant personal and legal implications, conferring on each person a number of reciprocal rights, privileges and responsibilities as an Australian citizen.

All three levels of government are required to be represented at each ceremony via their elected representatives, with the objective of introducing new citizens to Australia's three-tiered democratic system of government.

The Department of Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs administer citizenship ceremonies, whilst local governments that conduct ceremonies are responsible for ensuring that the citizenship ceremonies are conducted as prescribed by the Australia Citizenship Act 2007, Australian Citizenship Regulations 2007 and the Australian Citizenship Ceremony Code.

There are significant administrative requirements, protocols, rules and responsibilities to be met to ensure legislative compliance when organising and conducting a citizenship ceremony. The administrative resources required are continuing to increase due to an increase in the number of candidates each year. This requires a significant resource commitment for a local government, with this expenditure as well as the actual ceremony expense incurred directly by that local government.

The Department of Home Affairs states that it has a cost recovery arrangement in place for processing citizenship applications (80,562 conferrals in 2017/18). Their 2017/18 Annual Report states that it received \$61,986 million for fees associated with citizenship applications with expenses totalling \$58,757 million.

It is requested that the MAV advocate to the Federal Government requesting that it provide a financial contribution to local government in recognition of its role in the administration of the Australian citizenship program.

28 Victorian State Local Government Agreement

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria report to members on the Victorian State Local Government Agreement (VSLGA) signed by the Premier and Minister for Local Government with the MAV on 10 September 2014, on the stipulated monitoring of its implementation and evaluation of its performance, including as regards:

1. annually maintaining and reviewing a register of working committees and plans to support the VSLGA;
2. providing six monthly written feedback on the successes and failures of parties working in accordance with the VSLGA;
3. meeting quarterly with the Minister for Local Government on the successes and failures of parties working in accordance with the VSLGA;
4. the Minister for Local Government writing annually to Cabinet colleagues reminding them of their obligation to adhere to the VSLGA.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Government relations

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Agreement was revised in 2014 to be a more effective document with provisions on disseminating information about the Agreement and its aims to support improved communications and coordination between State and Local Government levels. Feedback is sought on whether the VSLGA objectives are being achieved and whether the Agreement should be further revised.

Transport, freight & infrastructure

29 Regulatory framework for technology enabled shared transport services

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the Victorian Government to create a regulatory framework that sets and enforces standards for technology enabled shared transport services, such as e-scooters, that protect the safety of pedestrians and road users, and enable the creation of a new marketplace with consistent rules for prospective new shared transport service businesses.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

There are public benefits to offering the community a convenient and flexible travel choice, such as dockless e-scooters and shared bikes, however, these benefits must be balanced with the needs and safety of people using footpaths, road users and other factors.

Legal advice indicates that Council has no power to regulate the deployment of dockless e-scooters and shared bikes, this power rests with the State Government, who need to learn from the chaotic and failed introduction of oBikes to our cities, and act by introducing regulations under the Road Safety Act 1986 to establish minimum and enforceable service standards for shared transport services to provide a safe environment for the community and reduce the impact on the environment and public. Over 1,200 oBikes appeared across greater Melbourne in June 2017. By October 2017, the cities of Port Phillip, Melbourne and Yarra had received over 400 complaints and enquiries, with more community members venting frustration through the media. These bikes were left in public spaces, such as parks and footpaths, with no thought to public safety, creating danger for pedestrians, particularly the mobility impaired. The problem was compounded by pranksters dumping bikes in waterways or up trees. A similar situation could now occur with e-scooters with officers aware of eighteen operators considering deployment in the region.

30 ^[C4] **Safe and connected active transport infrastructure**

Submitting Council: **Maribyrnong City Council**

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victorian call on the Victorian Government to recognise the importance of safe and connected active transport infrastructure in and around our cities and commit to providing funding to work with local government to close the existing gaps in our walking and cycling networks.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

The development and management of infrastructure continues to be a significant challenge for local government, in particular, the importance of infrastructure which connects people and promotes active living is critical in promoting healthy living and greater uptake of active modes of transport such as walking and cycling. A collaborative effort to plan regionally, join missing links and address these intergenerational infrastructure needs is requires across all levels of government

31 Taskforce to Combat Copper Thefts

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government to highlight the impact on local government and local communities of the unabated copper thefts from community facilities, including sports pavilions, sportsground lights, street lighting and community centres and requests that the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, The Hon. Lisa Neville MP urgently establishes a State Government Taskforce to combat illegal theft of copper.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

Provision of community and sporting infrastructure is a core function of any local council, including Brimbank. Brimbank council, like many councils across Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne, has been investing heavily in community and sporting infrastructure, including new or upgraded sports pavilions, sportsground lights, street lighting and community centres. In some cases specific Projects have received funding support from the State Government through Sports and Recreation Victoria Grants. Brimbank council has experienced significant theft of copper cabling over the last 18 months with approximately 25 incidents with estimated insurance claims in the order of \$1 million. The issues experienced in Brimbank are occurring across many other local governments in Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne and is causing significant financial and operational issues. State Government assets, such as train signalling infrastructure, have also been targeted, which has impacted public transport services. Brimbank Council, like many other LGAs, has implemented a number of anti-theft measures, including security patrols, CCTV surveillance, modifications to electrical pits, etc. and have continued to liaise with Victorian Police in an attempt to prevent further thefts. However, the illegal activity continues across Melbourne metropolitan areas unabated. Local governments have making every effort to deter future thefts, including increasing security patrols, working closely with Victoria Police and investigating additional preventative measures. Given the copper thefts are continuing unabated it is considered this issue needs to be escalated with State Government and Victoria Police to address the ongoing community concern.

32 Melbourne Airport Rail Link, Western Rail Plan & Suburban Rail Loop - Significant Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Brimbank City Council

Motion:

That State Council:

1. Notes the Federal and State governments' \$10 billion commitment towards the Melbourne Airport Rail Link (MARL) is an unprecedented investment in transport infrastructure connecting Victoria.
2. Acknowledges the MARL, combined with the Western Rail Plan (WRP) and Suburban Rail Loop (SRL), will transform connectivity, economic and social outcomes across Victoria.
3. Advocates that all Local Government Authorities (LGAs) formally be engaged as strategic partners for respective major transport projects taking place across the state, within their municipal boundaries.
4. Requests the MAV President writes to the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Victoria, forwarding a copy of this motion, and outlining MAV's call for the Australian and Victorian governments to engage formally with all councils in the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure projects across Victoria.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

Rationale: The \$10 billion committed by Federal and State governments toward the Melbourne Airport Rail Link (MARL) is one of the most transformational projects for any Local Government Areas (LGA) across Australia, outside of metropolitan CBD LGAs. The MARL, combined with the Western Rail Plan (WRP), and Suburban Rail Loop (SRL), will transform the economic and social opportunities for many LGAs across Victoria. In order to leverage all of the opportunities for the entire region, it is vital the Australian and Victorian Government adopt to most effective governance and working group model around the project; which engage all LGAs across the region. Local councils have a distinct knowledge of their local communities and local area integration's, and can play a valuable role in facilitating community engagement and support. The Victorian Government's new 'Priority Precinct' Portfolio is also considering the locations of new potential priority precincts across the state. All LGAs across the state, including those mooted as one of the new potential 15 sites for the new SRL, should be closely monitoring how the Victorian Government potentially implements its new priority precinct model in the context of the significant city changing infrastructure.

33 ^[C3] Public Transport Improvements

Submitting Council: Bayside City Council

Motion:

That the MAV call upon the State Government to fast track public transport improvement in particular improvements to local bus services to improvement frequency and connectivity with the railway schedule.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

With increased population within Melbourne, the State Government need to fast track several transport infrastructure to provide increased capacity and greater connectivity between the between modes of public transport. These include:

- Billions4buses to upgrade Melbourne's bus services with 10 minute service frequency on 30 major routes, replacing old buses with modern, quiet, pollution free electric buses, installing bus priority lanes in all new road projects, turn-up and go buses from train stations and more weekend and late night bus services;
- A program to expand commuter parking at train stations to meet current and future demands for access to public transport, given bus connections to rail services are inadequate;
- Introduce improved Parkiteer bicycle cages at all train stations; and
- Review bus timetabling to improve bus/rail connectivity and encourage commuters to take the bus to train stations.

34 Melbourne Metro 2 - supporting a jobs rich corridor

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the State Government to commit to a business case for the Melbourne Metro 2 with the project to follow on from the completion of the Metro Tunnel. This will ensure that the metropolitan train system has the capacity needed to provide a world-class mass transit system that is able to support continued population and employment growth and reduce vehicle dependency.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

Melbourne is rapidly expanding through urban development and population growth and while there are projects underway to deal with transport capacity issues, such as the Metro Tunnel and level crossing removals, more needs to be done to ensure there is sufficient capacity on our train network into the future. Melbourne Metro 2 is a proposed rail tunnel connecting Newport with the CBD through Fisherman's Bend with a further connection to Clifton Hill via Fitzroy. This connection links the Werribee and Mernda rail lines, provides a direct link to employment centres in the CBD, Parkville and Fishermans Bend and provides more capacity on other lines for future growth. Hobsons Bay City Council is also calling for the additional connection from Newport to Sunshine via the existing freight line to further build connections within the western region. Planning needs to begin for this project with a broad range of stakeholders to maximise benefits. Construction should commence following completion of the Metro Tunnel Project.

35 To advocate for a dedicated Rail Minister in both Federal and State Governments.

Submitting Council: Horsham Rural City Council

Motion:

To endorse MAV State Council to advocate for a dedicated Rail Minister in both Federal and State Governments.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

A proposed dedicated Rail Minister will provide a focus for governments to ensure that the rail infrastructure and services within the regions are adequately considered to meet the needs of our communities.

Current State and Federal transport ministers have multiple portfolios which prevent them from properly focusing on the needs of rail.

The current campaign for more efficient freight on rail through investment in standardisation, mode shift and port access initiatives through our membership with the Rail Freight Alliance is critical to the prosperity of our region.

Horsham Rural City Council is partnering with other Wimmera and South West Councils to advocate for the return of passenger rail.

36 [C3]

Bus service network reviews

Submitting Council: Hobsons Bay City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the State Government to undertake a comprehensive review of bus services in Metropolitan Melbourne especially for those areas not adequately serviced by rail, to ensure that the bus network delivers an equitable, efficient and integrated system that serves the community and promotes a shift away from private vehicle dependency.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

The current approach to the provision of bus services across much of Victoria, and in particular metropolitan areas, does not promote buses as an effective component of an integrated transport system and as an alternative to private vehicle ownership. Whilst the previous term of government committed \$100 million for buses over the four years, compared to the billions of dollars allocated to road and rail transport, this is small by comparison. This is despite the important role that buses play in providing public transport to those not able to access rail and other transport options. Other states and cities in Australia, especially Brisbane and Sydney, have recognised the potential of buses and have shifted to successful bus rapid transit systems. Rather than continuing the historic underinvestment in the bus network we believe a comprehensive and inclusive review of bus services which includes bus operators, local government and communities is required. Council supports a review based upon the principles of building an equitable, efficient, innovative and integrated network that provides a real alternative to private vehicle ownership and aims to reduce the greenhouse gas emission associated with the transport network.

37 ^[C4]

Less Car Dependant Society and Cycling Infrastructure

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

Part One: That the MAV writes to the Minister for Planning requesting:

- the Victorian Government plan for the decoupling of housing and parking;
- an amendment to the planning scheme to remove the current minimum parking rates based approach for new developments in preparation for a shift in private car ownership and use.
- Transport for Victoria to work closely with local governments in undertaking research and development into innovative and disruptive transport technologies and urban infrastructure.

Part Two: That the MAV:

- Compiles information from local government cycling plans and work with councils to identify up to 50 priority projects to improve cycling infrastructure across Melbourne, enabling people to safely cycle as a primary mode of transport.
- Presents these projects to the Minister for Transport, VicRoads and Transport for Victoria, with a request to fund these projects.
- Calls on the Victorian Government to:
 - (i) increase funding for cycling infrastructure to a minimum of \$500 million per year, noting that this is less than 0.05% of the Victorian government's 2018-19 roads budget; and
 - (ii) extend TAC coverage to include any person injured while riding a bike on Victorian roads and paths.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Transport, freight & infrastructure

Submitting Council Rationale:

With the forthcoming introduction of autonomous vehicles and the increasing use of car share and ride share schemes; the need for households to privately own a car will lessen. In light of these shifts in car access and ownership the requirement for minimum parking rates in new developments will need to be reconsidered in the Victorian Planning Scheme.

Local government has a role in managing the decoupling of housing and parking (i.e. parking rates for new developments will need to be reconsidered with the view to remove minimum parking rates where appropriate). To date there has been little forward looking leadership on this matter shown by the Victorian Government, with planning decision being made on a case by case basis to derogate from the planning scheme.

-Continued-

The need for less onsite and on street parking should lead to the reallocation of public open space to provide communities with greater urban greening, safer pedestrian facilities, more economic vibrant streetscapes and increased liveability.

The Victorian Government's 2018 Cycling Strategy has not been funded to deliver a high standard of metropolitan cycling infrastructure. As a consequence Melbourne's cross city routes are incomplete and vary widely in terms of safety, design and user experience.

Societal & social policy changes

38 Annual Valuation Process

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the annual valuation process include more appropriate timelines that enable Councils to review the rating data and consider further community consultation prior to the adoption of the Budget.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Council has worked assiduously over the past few years to ensure financial sustainability, particularly in a rate capping environment. One of the key inputs to this has been an early adoption of Council's budget (no later than May in each year) to allow for considered planning and delivery of projects and services in the forthcoming financial year. Council has been able to achieve this in the past and adopted a timetable in December 2018 that committed to delivering a Council budget in early May 2019 to ensure that the organisation can prepare and plan for the 2019-2020 financial year. In effect, early adoption of the budget turns a 12 months financial year into a 14 month delivery year.

Notwithstanding the above, Council holds grave concerns for its ability to deliver a budget within statutory timeframes if valuations are not supplied at the earliest possible date. Council is requesting final certification of the valuations within 30 days of Stage 3 submission, otherwise it will be impossible to commit to delivering a Council adopted Annual Budget to the Minister of Local Government by the prescribed 30 June timeframe.

This issue will be further exacerbated should the Local Government Bill in its present format be adopted by the Victorian Government where ANY change to the rate in the dollar will require a formal Revised Budget to be undertaken. The 30 April date no longer represents a best practice outcome for the delivery of an annual revaluation and needs to be changed to an earlier point and certainly no later than 1 March. If this means that the effective date for the revaluation (currently 1 January) needs to be brought forward to say October, then this should be mandated.

39 Indigenous Recognition

Submitting Council: Strathbogie Shire

Motion:

1. That MAV State Council support the sentiments contained in The Uluru Statement from the Heart
2. That MAV State Council support Aboriginal recognition and reform of the Constitution
3. That MAV State Council support a referendum campaign and process to enshrine a First Nations Voice to federal parliament

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

The issue of Indigenous Recognition is one that resonates with the Australian community and action needs to be taken on recommendations of the Government appointed Committee.

A Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (the Committee), tasked with recommending options for constitutional change which meet the expectations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and will secure the support of the Parliament and the Australian people, submitted its report to Government in November 2018 with the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 In order to achieve a design for The Voice that best suits the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Committee recommends that the Australian Government initiate a process of co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Recommendation 2 The Committee recommends that, following a process of co design, the Australian Government consider, in a deliberate and timely manner, legislative, executive and constitutional options to establish The Voice

Recommendation 3 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government support the process of truth telling

-Continued-

Recommendation 4 The Committee also recommends that the Australian Government consider the establishment, in Canberra, of a National Resting Place, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remains which could be a place for commemoration, healing and reflection. Uluru Statement From The Heart. A constitutional convention bringing together over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders met in 2017 and the majority resolved, in the Uluru Statement From The Heart to call for the establishment of a "First Nations Voice" in the Australian Constitution and a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise a process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

These objectives reflect the nature of reform desired rather than specifying the fine detail of any proposed changes to the Australian Constitution.

40 Financial and Material Aid

Submitting Council: Monash Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the State Government and Federal Government seeking a greater commitment in regard to addressing the increased demand of community members seeking financial and material aid.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Monash Council has been informed of the increased demand on financial and material aid services in the municipality. Council has also been informed that the demographic profile of community members accessing support is changing and now includes those who are employed, families with mortgages and pensioners, all of whom are all struggling to meet basic monthly needs.

There are many factors that are contributing to this increase including:

- Newstart Allowance payments (after inflation) have been frozen since 1994 resulting in many people considered as living below the poverty line
- Increased cost of utilities (an increase of 130% for electricity between 2015-2017)
- Increasing rental costs and slow wage growth
- Increase in the number of community members becoming to be homeless

There has been significant reduction (\$15 billion cut over 4 years) to essential social security payments and community services. The Foodbank organisation assists many of the services in Monash to provide material aid to community members in need. Foodbank has experienced a steady increase in demand whilst there has been a decrease in funding from the Federal Government. This has impacted on the ability of the services which are supporting vulnerable and at risk members of the Monash community to provide aid to all who present at their service seeking help.

41 School Focussed Youth Service

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

That MAV call on the State Government to commit to funding the SFYS program for a further three years, from 1 January 2019.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

- Education affects the trajectory of life outcomes. Since 1998, SFYS has played a valued role to support vulnerable young people and their families to improve educational engagement and achievement.
- A range of impacts such as mental illness, family breakdown and family violence, alcohol and drug use, and social isolation continue to impact the health and wellbeing of young people.
- SFYS supports young people through targeted interventions and capacity building, and compliments other support measures available through school wellbeing coordinators (SWB) and DET social support services (SSS).
- 34 agencies around the state are funded to work with schools to deliver SFYS at a cost of \$8M pa. Current funding arrangements cease in 2018-2019.
- In an evaluation of a local SFYS service in 2016, Victorian University identified a number of important gains for children and young people, their families and the schools involved in the SFYS initiative.

42 Rehabilitation Services

Submitting Council: Glen Eira City Council

Motion:

That Council recommend to the Municipal Association of Victoria to include the adoption of the National Quality Framework for private sector providers of alcohol and other drug treatment services as an advocacy issue to the Federal Government.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

There is increasing demand for publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment services, and emerging concern about the operation of private rehabilitation services for alcohol and other drug treatment because of a lack of appropriate regulations and standards for these providers. The Victorian Government 'Inquiry into Drug Law Reform' recognised funding policy and regulation in the private sector is complex and diverse and the sector requires oversight and consumers need protections beyond which are currently enacted.

The standards of care in a rehabilitation service in the private sector are determined under the general Code of Conduct in the Health Complaints Act 2016. The onus is on the consumer to make a complaint to the Health Complaints Commissioner for consideration and possible investigation. A consumer's family, friends, carers and other health services, are also able to make a complaint on their behalf.

The National Quality Framework for alcohol and other drug treatment providers which was endorsed in June 2018 by the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum is due to be finalised in early 2019. This provides an opportunity to advocate to the Federal Government to mandate the National Quality Framework include non-funded private sector providers to enact such oversight and improve protection of consumers.

43 Aged Care Services

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Coordinates a campaign and advocates to maintain block funding for the delivery of the Commonwealth Home Support Program beyond June 2020,
2. Advocates for the Victorian State Government to grant an exemption to local government providing home care services from the National Competition Policy.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Reforms in the aged care sector have been driven by the federal government to achieve a nationally consistent system. Local government in Victoria has a proud history of delivering aged care services to local communities. The Victorian system, supported with joint planning and delivery from local government, has been at the forefront of home support services which are responsive to local needs. The current reform agenda provides certainty of funding for Commonwealth Home Support Program services only to the end of June 2020. It is unclear how the federal government will proceed with funding model beyond then although it was previously expected that block funding would end at that time, and a competitive market of service providers created instead. This situation is creating uncertainty for older Victorians in receipt of these services, for service providers and for the workforce. It is important that the federal reforms do not result in a lowest common denominator approach, where quality Victorian services may be affected because of an imposed nationwide system.

44 Nursing and Medication Management Subsidy for Home Care Packages

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV calls on the Federal Government to introduce two new Home Care subsidies to medication management, and nursing services. This will allow Home Care Packages recipients to receive these two crucial services and maintain care in the community.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes
Population growth/decline

Submitting Council Rationale:

Home Care Packages are funded by the federal government to help older Australian with complex care need to live independently in their own homes. As at 30 June 2018, there were 91,847 older Australians in receipt of Home Care Packages nationally, with additional 40,000 packages announced this financial year so far. The federal government pays a range of care subsidies and supplements depending on the care requirements, and funding levels of a package are allocated based on the care needs. Currently Level 1 and 2 (basic and low needs) can access nursing services at the subsidised Commonwealth Home Support Program rate from nursing providers for short term when the Home Care Package funding have been fully allocated to other services, this is not available for Level 3 or 4. Older people who are on a Home Care level 3 or 4 package, are assessed to have intermediate and high needs, although these level of packages have higher care subsidies levels, however due to the complex care need requirements and cost of case management service recipients are left with little funding to support them with all their care needs. This includes the medication management cost and the purchase of nursing services to meet their needs adequately. This motion argues for the government to consider specific supplements for the nursing support and medication management for people on these level 3 and 4. This anomaly and lack of funding for these two services places additional pressure on older Australians and their carers as it renders these services out of reach for people on a package.

45 [C5]

Gambling Reform

Submitting Council: Yarra City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

1. makes gambling reform one of its key advocacy pillars noting that Victorians lose more than \$2.7 billion a year to pokies and that most of this expenditure is associated with harm.
2. calls on the State Government to:
 - (a) introduce a stronger Responsible Gambling Code of Conduct to include:
 - (i) stronger focus on venue and staff responsibility to reduce levels of gambling harm by offering assistance to people displaying signs they are being harmed by gambling, as is the case under laws in New Zealand and Switzerland;
 - (ii) mandatory breaks and maximum daily limits on gambling time;
 - (iii) prohibition on inducements to gamble such as gifts or offering free food and drink (excluding water) and instead encourage gamblers to take a break going to other parts of the venue for food and drink;
 - (iv) requiring venues to assist research projects approved by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR);
 - (v) no service of food or drinks at the machines.
 - (b) reduce opening hours for pokies venues to include mandatory 2am - 9am shutdown.
 - (c) ban losses disguised as wins as recommended by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR), noting this feature is already banned in Queensland and Tasmania.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

In Victoria, pokies venues are required to abide by a Responsible Gambling Code of Conduct. This sets minimum compliance standards aimed at reducing harm from gambling. The present Code is considered weak with evidence of venues engaging in activities targeting gamblers to continue gambling and increase their losses. The Alliance for Gambling Reform of Victorian Councils has requested Councils to argue for strengthening of the Code through inclusion of the above matters aimed to protect the vulnerable from predatory activities.

46 ^[C5] Electronic Gaming Machines Signage

Submitting Council: Mitchell Shire Council

Motion:

THAT the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) call on the State Government to implement an evidenced based public health approach to reduce gambling harm associated with electronic gaming machines and specifically:

- Mandate the display of signage on all electronic gaming machines with a product health and safety warning – ‘stating the machine is designed to keep you playing and programmed for you to lose money’, emulating the approach taken with the tobacco industry.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Evidence from two government Productivity Commission Reports (1999 and 2010) along with numerous national and international research studies indicate EGMs are the most addictive form of gambling and that there is a fundamental issue with the product. EGMs are designed to keep you playing and programmed to lose money. Stronger regulation is needed to make our community healthier. By, mandating public health product warning messages stating, ‘this machine is designed to keep you playing and programmed for you to lose money,’ clearly visible on each EGM to anyone who is using, would ensure those using the machines are provided with evidenced based messages. This emulates the approach taken with the tobacco industry. Health warnings are regulated on all tobacco product packaging for retail in Australia. These warnings provide a clear message about the harmful health consequences of tobacco products.

EGMs are widely understood to be an unsafe product. Mandated, regulated EGM product safety warning messages in visible locations on all EGMs provides significant opportunity to ensure communities are reduced from gambling harm.

47 [C6] Homelessness and Emergency Housing

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the State and Federal Governments allocate funding to local agencies to identify and develop emergency housing across the state and prioritise increased funding for urgently needed support services such as emergency relief funding and youth homelessness.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

The State is experiencing an increased incidence of people facing homelessness or being at risk of homelessness. We have a range of challenges and complex issues which increases the need for emergency accommodation, as supported by the SEIFA index of relative social disadvantage across Australia. Anglicare Victoria's 'Rental Affordability Snapshot 2018' report has found that the affordability of housing, particularly in the private rental market is extremely low. This is exacerbated by factors such as significant seasonal fluctuations in tourism related areas and the recent phenomenon of 'Airbnb' which has restricted access to longer term affordable rental accommodation. Supply of emergency housing is extremely limited. Homelessness service providers have indicated that there is limited to no emergency accommodation in many regional areas.

48 [C6]

Advocacy for Homeless Women Aged 50+

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the State and Federal Government to provide significant, consistent and ongoing funding for social and affordable housing, which includes targeted support to address the needs of older women at risk of homelessness.
2. Advocates to the State Government to provide significant, consistent and ongoing funding for homelessness access points, to include assertive outreach and brokerage for safe emergency accommodation.
3. Advocates to the State Government to continue to implement measures aimed at improving women's financial security and economic independence across the lifespan, as outlined in the Safe and Strong, Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy.
4. Supports the North and West Housing Networks A Crisis in Crisis advocacy campaign and to promote the campaign to local government areas.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Women over 55 years are now the fastest growing cohort of homeless people in Australia. Experiencing Family Violence is the single most common reason women seek the support of the Homelessness Service System. Women experience economic inequality as a result of wage, wealth and retirement income gaps, increasing their risk of vulnerable to housing stress, insecurity and homelessness. Women who are older and living alone will be significantly more disadvantaged than men their age, less able to maintain homeownership and less able to compete in the private rental market for affordable accommodation. Homelessness prevention is possible through the provision of affordable housing stock. In order for the supply of affordable housing to be significantly increased, ongoing and substantial investment is required. Further to this the cumulative impacts of social and financial disadvantage over a woman's lifetime mean that the gendered nature of homelessness cannot be overlooked. Measures aimed at improving women's financial security and economic independence across the lifespan is a vital component of preventing this homelessness. There is significant work being undertaken to further affordable housing and gender equality, and the MAV is ideally positioned to play a lead role in coordinating and supporting this work.

49 Compulsory Inclusionary Zoning in Planning Schemes for Public, Social and Affordable Housing

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV:

1. Advocate for a coordinated, national response to housing issues, incorporating all levels of government.
2. Advocate for mandatory controls in planning schemes, in the form of inclusionary zoning, to require affordable housing contributions as part of private development.
3. Ensure MAV is appropriately resourced to support Councils to implement state government housing policy.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Australia has faced a structural housing affordability problem for the last 60 years, whereby the growth in the cost of housing has outstripped growth in wages. In addition, the last 20 years have seen a significant reduction in government investment in public housing. These factors, and others, have resulted in a housing system that is unaffordable for increasing numbers of Australians.

The lack of affordable, secure housing in Australia will have significant social and economic impacts, not only on the individuals affected, but upon our society. There is significant cultural, social and economic importance attached to home ownership, and the inability of increasing number of people to enter the property market will have significant consequences. For example, the Australian government relies on the fact that many retired Australians own their own home in calculating the aged pension. If future generations do not have secure housing, there will be significant impacts upon the ability of the government to support and house older Australians.

Capital cities, particularly Melbourne and Sydney, have been acutely impacted by the lack of investment in public and community housing by successive governments. There are now more than 80,000 Victorians, including 20,000 children, on the waiting list for subsidised housing. Again, this has severe implications for those individuals directly affected, but also for society more broadly. Those in affordable and secure housing have better health and education outcomes, and are better able to contribute to and participate in civic life. Given the significance of the impact of rising house prices on generations of Australia, a national policy debate and response is needed.

50 ^[C6] **Affordable Housing**

Submitting Council: **Manningham City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to provide additional stimulus funding to registered housing services to work in partnership with Councils to support vulnerable residents.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Population Change

Submitting Council Rationale:

- As a key determinant of health within the social model of health framework, affordable housing is a priority for many local governments throughout Victoria.
- Recent legislative changes (definition of affordable housing, s173 agreements) and funding arrangements (Social Housing Growth Fund) are important first steps in addressing the issue of affordable housing for vulnerable cohorts.
- Additional resources are required to create and develop affordable housing across the regions in response to a critical shortfall in social and affordable housing for the most vulnerable in the community, in particular people with a disability to support and foster independent living, older women and single parents with young children.

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51 Awareness Campaign

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV develops and implements a strategic communications campaign to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the work Councils do in regional and metropolitan Victoria and rebuilds the trust in local government as an institution.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

There is a need for the MAV to lead the development of a state-wide campaign that helps build trust and confidence in local government and strengthens the relationships with our communities and stakeholders. We need a compelling story that articulates the purpose of local government and contributes to improving overall accountability and transparency.

52 Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Advocacy

Submitting Council: Greater Dandenong City Council

Motion:

Given the rising number of people seeking asylum that have already been removed by the Federal Government, funding for humanitarian relief is immediately required. MAV calls on the State to:

1. advocate to restore SRSS support for people seeking asylum in the community; and
2. increase Victorian Government funding for emergency relief support for people seeking asylum while awaiting the full reinstatement of SRSS policy by Federal Government.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Support for people seeking asylum has been provided in previous years through the SRSS (Status Resolution Support Services) program which provides a basic living allowance (typically 89% of Newstart allowance, or approximately \$35 per day), casework support and access to torture and trauma counselling.

Changes by the Federal Government to this program will cut all income and case management support of many people seeking asylum and have already dramatically increased the demand for material aid resources at the local municipality level. This action has left many people destitute across Victoria and requests for places to live, money for clothes, food and medicine, will only further escalate.

City of Greater Dandenong has taken a leadership role in local government advocacy against the change and, in partnership with other municipalities, has established the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum. The Mayor of Greater Dandenong chairs the Taskforce Executive and officers provide secretariat support.

Whilst there has been a Federal focus by the campaign to ensure that SRSS cuts are reversed by the Federal Government, there is scope for the State Government to provide interim funding to temporarily resolve this humanitarian crisis. Given that many people seeking asylum have already been removed off the SRSS program, the impact this is having on service providers and community agencies has dramatically increased, and immediate action is required.

-Continued-

In response to the campaign changes it was recommended by the Taskforce to submit a subsequent Notice of Motion that reflects the revised campaign objectives.

The Executive members have agreed that a submission of a Notice of Motion to the upcoming meeting of Municipal Association of Victoria State Council would support the broader advocacy campaign against the changes. The taskforce members have requested that City of Greater Dandenong table this motion on behalf of the taskforce at the 17 May meeting.

53 Metro Access Program

Submitting Council: Manningham City Council

Motion:

The Victorian State Government commit to fund the Building Inclusive Communities program (Metro Access) for a further 3 years directly through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant program.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

- Since 2002, Metro Access have been funded under the Building Inclusive Communities (BIC) Program, through the State Disability Plan.
- Metro Access provides many partnership initiatives that bring disability, community organisations and businesses together to achieve greater outcomes for people with disabilities in their local community.
- During this significant period of change in the disability sector, Metro Access has played a central role in supporting people with disabilities, families and professionals to navigate their local supports and to understand the new funding available through the NDIS.
- People with disabilities and carers have developed strong relationships with their local Metro Access officer who provides information and initiatives to increase opportunities to participate in community life.
- There is substantial concern across local government that the NDIS will not be able to deliver and sustain the whole of community capacity building approach that has been achieved and delivered to date through the Metro Access program.

54 Local Government Act – Local Law - Review of Penalties – Dilapidated Buildings

Submitting Council: City of Casey

Motion:

That the Association endorse as a key part of its advocacy program to:
Seek amendments to the Local Government Act for better controls that will empower Councils to deal with derelict residential and all commercial properties (as applicable) and non-responsive owners as follows:

1. That councils be able to issue a warning to the owners of these properties to address the issues of abandonment and dereliction;
2. Should owners fail to do so, councils should be able to do the following:
 - a. issue penalties commensurate with the community risk these properties pose
 - b. temporarily confiscate the properties and undertake the remedial work passing the full costs of these works including officer time onto the owners
 - c. should reoffending occurs the same process in part 2 would apply except that the penalties would continue to double on every occasion, on the same property;

and that the Minister be assured that every municipality in Victoria would like to maintain its neighbourhoods, safe and beautiful for the enjoyment of all Victorians, and unless the legislation is strengthened to facilitate this, then this horrendous problem of derelict properties and uncaring owners will never be addressed.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Council recently sought to resolve safety and amenity issues involving a prominent commercial property that had been allowed by the owner over recent years to deteriorate into a ruinous state.

Council sought to remedy this situation through the issue of Notices to Comply issued under Council's Community Local Law. Actions required included securing the building and removing graffiti rubbish and overgrown vegetation. The works undertaken by the owner however failed to meet community expectations.

The inability of Council to force the owner to undertake works has been of concern and accordingly prompted Council to seek amendment to the current legislation.

-Continued-

It is suggested that the penalties available under the Local Government Act, where fines amount to a few hundred dollars and maximum of \$2,000 applies, warrant review. This is most evident when weighed against the value of a commercial property, which may involve some millions of dollars.

It is acknowledged that the Local Law provisions of the Local Government Act are designed to deal with residences. Council's responsibilities extend to commercial properties. When considering any amendments to increase penalties, it would be beneficial for changes to reference individual and commercial entities, mirroring those incorporated in the Building and Public Health and Wellbeing Acts. Penalties should be commensurate with any offence.

A source of frustration to Council is the approach by property owners to seek to hold over any improvements or demolition until redevelopment occurs. There is nothing from a planning perspective that precludes the owner from cleaning up the site. The experience is that often owners do not care. Failure though to maintain/clear the property is contrary to the wider community interest.

In conclusion, Council is wanting to find a way of making it a disincentive for these circumstances to arise in the future.

55 Increase to Newstart Allowance

Submitting Council: **Bass Coast Shire Council**

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the major parties in the forthcoming Federal election stressing its support for an increase to the Newstart Allowance to a level of income that will lift people dependent on the allowance out of poverty.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Federal Government provides an income support payment to people who are unemployed and looking for work called the Newstart Allowance.

According to the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) website, the Newstart Allowance for a single person with no children is \$550.20 per fortnight (\$278 per week). This equates to it being approximately \$160 per week below the poverty-line (50 per cent of the national median income) and \$178 per week below the pension.

56 Tertiary Education Investment

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the State Government invest in a Regional Study Hubs Funding Program similar to the program initiated by the Federal Government to support tertiary education opportunities in regional and remote areas.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Societal & social policy changes

Submitting Council Rationale:

Many regional communities have limited access to higher education and skills training. Bass Coast also experiences a shortfall in skilled workers. Many regional students are less likely to complete year 12, less likely to go to university and less likely to complete a degree they start at university compared to metropolitan students.

Many of the obstacles relate to the need to relocate to pursue further studies. Providing a local tertiary education pathway in regional areas would improve retention and participation, and support students at risk of poor learning outcomes to reach their potential and stay in education for better life opportunities. This also leads to the retention of skilled workers in these communities and is a benefit to the local economy.

Sustainable land use

57 Heritage Properties - Demolition by Neglect

Submitting Council: Cardinia Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the State Government strengthen all Planning Schemes to bring properties under a heritage overlay into a more protected system to ensure local heritage sites do not become dilapidated and derelict through the process of demolition by neglect and therefore receive a similar level of current protection afforded by the Heritage Act (1995) for sites of State significance.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Sustainable land use

Submitting Council Rationale:

The incidents of demolition by neglect of local heritage sites is on the rise in Cardinia Shire and across the state. The loss of local heritage sites by neglect in combination with the sheer number of properties under the heritage overlay has raised increased concerns within the local community. In attempting to respond to the concerns and address the problem it has become evident that there is a lack of planning and enforcement tools available to Local Councils to protect these sites particularly in comparison to sites of state significance controlled by the Heritage Act.

The recommendations in the 2013 report 'Demolition by Neglect'¹ commissioned by the National Trust of Victoria examines and addresses this issue. The report provides a suite of tools and options available to Local Councils. The strengthening of Local Amenity Laws is one of the key recommendations – "Enact and strengthen across all municipalities to govern maintenance of derelict or dilapidated buildings, including maintenance criteria. Combine with greater enforcement powers and sufficient penalties to provide a disincentive. Amenity Laws governing building maintenance should be enacted or strengthened across all municipal Councils of Victoria to combat lack of maintenance and security and therefore deterioration of significant properties. This has also been discussed in the Review of Heritage Provisions in Planning Scheme (2007)". Currently only a small number of Councils have amenity laws that covers this. The benefit of statewide legislation through a model law will provide a holistic protected system for all properties with a heritage overlay and ensure equity across all Councils and municipalities in Victoria. In addition, amendment of the Planning Scheme to include the discouragement of demolition through condition and integrity across the State is also a key recommendation sought.

¹ https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/DemolitionbyNeglect_ReneeMuratore_for_NTAV_Sept_2013.pdf

58 ^[C7]

Tree Protection

Submitting Council: Darebin City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates for a change in the Local Government Act allowing councils to charge the tree's Amenity Value (Melbourne City Council Method) or significantly increase the number of penalty units for the unauthorised removal or damage of a local law and planning scheme protected tree.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Sustainable land use

Submitting Council Rationale:

The purpose of this motion is to protect and enhance the urban character, by regulating tree removal and pruning of trees on private property.

With increasing housing density and loss of private open space protection of trees on private property is becoming an issue. Neighbourhoods are losing character and in this time of climate change the mitigating effects of tree canopy are being lost.

This is particularly true in middle and outer suburbs of major cities where rapidly growing populations are placing increasing demands on housing supply.

A mechanism to reduce this tree removal by an increase in fines will deter the indiscriminate removal of trees from private property.

Business/digital transformation

59 Connectivity and Telecommunications

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the Australian Government commits to ongoing investment in eliminating mobile blackspots across the State to reduce social disadvantage and support business and tourism growth. Through its continued support through the Mobile Blackspot Program (currently round four) and accurate data available to assist Council in determining areas of greatest need.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Business/digital transformation

Submitting Council Rationale:

The State of Victoria is reasonably well served with National Broadband Network (NBN) infrastructure and services especially in the main population centres. The regional and rural areas and some of the more remote parts of the State are not served so well, largely due to the high cost of providing services in these areas.

There are mobile telephone blackspots which place people at risk in emergency situations, limit their quality of life and restrict their capacity to operate a business in those locations. Many rural areas also experience a decrease in network quality during peak periods. Council participates along with other Gippsland Councils in the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot Program. However, this is a competitive national program with no guarantee that all local issues and needs will be met. Councils need access to the most up to date data provided by the various mobile phone companies about their existing network coverage and planned system upgrades. This can then be integrated with the experience of people 'on the ground' to ensure that Councils are in the best position to nominate priority areas.

Climate change & environment

60 ^[C1] **Emergency Management Funding**

Submitting Council: **Manningham City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to provide certainty in Municipal Emergency Resource Program (MERP) funding.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

- Following the Black Saturday fires in 2009, additional funding was provided via LGV MERP grants to Councils located within the CFA area to provide assistance with their emergency management obligations.
- Councils continue to have a key role in emergency management, as demonstrated in the LGV Councils and emergencies project. This funding support needs to be more to be provided to Councils with longer term certainty as to enable these responsibilities to continue to be delivered for local communities.
- There is imminent changes to the Victorian Emergency Management Legislation, as a result of the recent Emergency Management Planning Bill updates and changes, with the municipal level legislative changes due to be introduced in mid to late 2020. These changes will result in Councils role in emergency management becoming more prescribed and prominent in responsibilities required to be delivered.
- The recently released Report (Phase 1 of LGV Councils and emergencies project) indicated that some Councils would not be able to deliver their legislative emergency management requirements should this funding stream cease to be available, which would put many Victorians at risk of the impacts and consequences of future emergency events due to an inability to gain vital assistance from Council before, during and after such event.

61^{C1} Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program

Submitting Council: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate for the following:

That the Victorian Government commit as a matter of urgency to:

- Funding the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) on a permanent basis from 1 July 2020;
- Review the allocation of funding to ensure all municipalities in Victoria are funded equitably;
- End the freeze on annual indexation; and
- Increase the level of funding available to reflect changes in costs since 2016.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

No

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) is administered by Local Government Victoria and provides funding to the 64 Victorian councils within Country Fire Authority (CFA) districts to support strategic emergency management planning to ensure councils are able to prepare for, respond to, and actively manage council responses during emergencies.

MERP funding has been provided through a series of funding agreements covering the eight years from 2012 to 2020. Total funding in excess of \$4.5 million per year is shared between the 64 councils.

Under current arrangements the funding program expires in June 2020 and there is not commitment from the government to extend the funding beyond that point.

This funding is essential to support the capacity and capability of local government in emergency management, especially for rural councils.

-Continued-

The MERP's objective is to boost the capacity of councils to fulfill their legislative responsibilities for emergency management. This includes:

- Implementing relevant recommendations from the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and the 2011 Victorian Floods Review;
- Planning to support the most vulnerable members of the local community in times of emergency, undertaken in liaison with the Department of Health and Human Services, (DHHS); and
- Working in partnership with other councils, emergency organisations and Victorian government agencies to facilitate joined-up planning, staff training, exercises and systems development.

62 Underground Transmission Lines for Renewable Energy Projects

Submitting Council: **Moyne Shire Council**

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Minister for Planning that all renewable energy project transmission lines that connect power to the state wide electricity grid must be underground.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

The unregulated construction of 40 metre high shiny abhorrent transmission poles, connecting wind farm power to the electricity grid, has caused considerable angst within Moyne Shire communities. See the attached photo.

Following strong advocacy from Moyne, Corangamite and other shires, the construction of transmission lines is now regulated. However the visual amenity and road safety concerns created by the construction of 267 transmission towers over a distance of 50 kilometres for the recently constructed 15 turbine Salt Creek Wind Farm continues to highlight the major impact these poles and wires are having on local communities.

One of the cross beams and wires from one of these towers recently detached and highlighted the potential fire risk from these structures.

The developer of the Mortlake South Wind Farm, which is commencing construction, announced in March this year that they will be undergrounding these Transmission Lines. Council has advocated for this position and applauds the developer.

It is now time for the state government to mandate the undergrounding of all transmission lines.

Refer to photo below



63 Strategic Siting of Renewable Energy Projects

Submitting Council: Moyne Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate to the Minister for Planning that a strategic approach be taken by the state government to the siting of renewable energy developments across Victoria having particular regard to the cumulative social, economic and environmental impacts these developments have on local communities.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

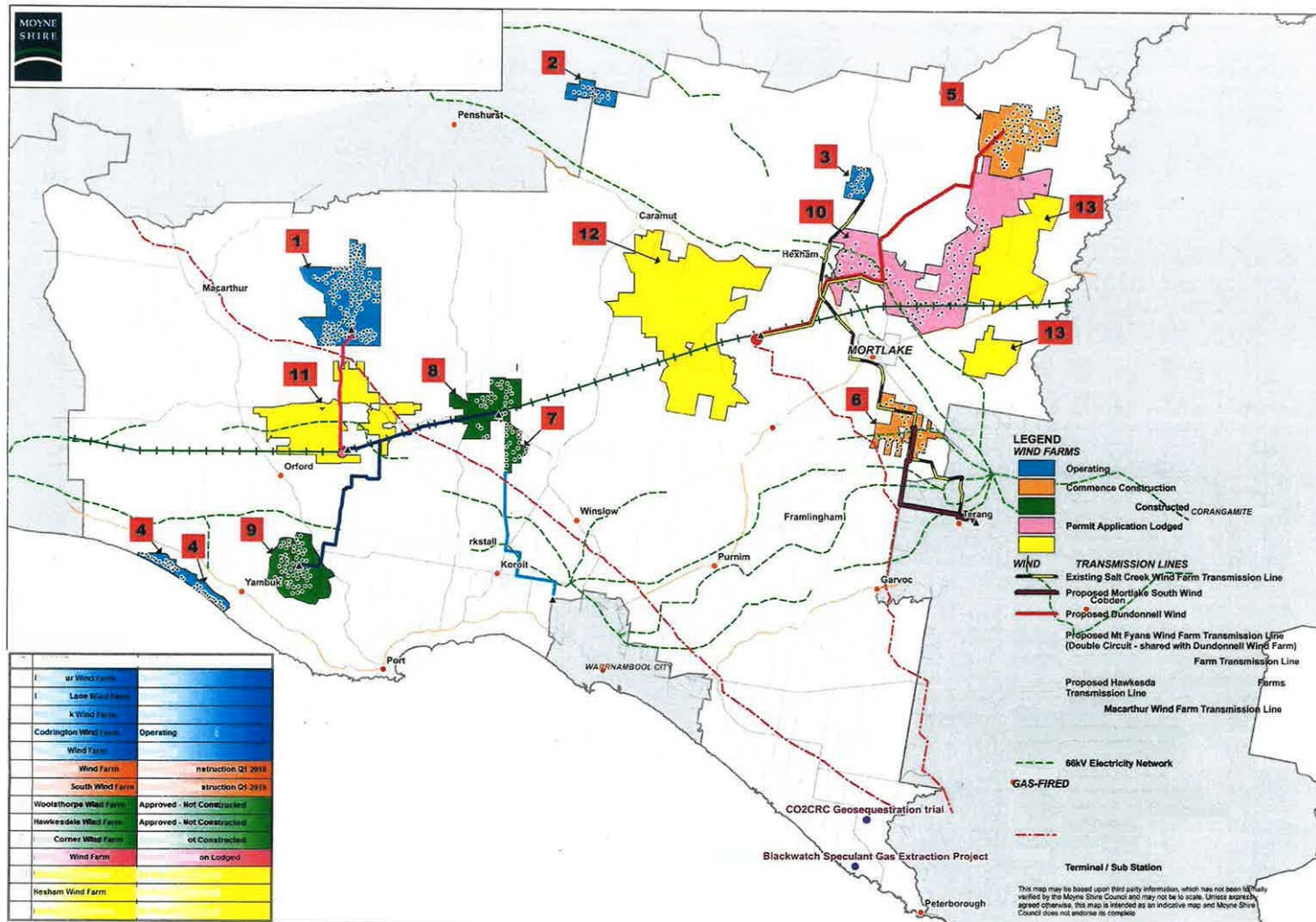
The following table summaries wind turbine development within Moyne Shire :

	No. Windfarms	No. of Turbines
Operational Wind Farms	5	202
Wind Farms under construction	2	130
Wind farms with Permits approved	3	102
Proposed Wind Farm developments	4	approx 360
Totals	14	794

Our local communities are becoming increasingly agitated at the cumulative impact that flows from positioning so many wind turbines in a relatively small geographic area. These communities are expressing their concerns at the close proximity of the wind turbines to townships and neighboring dwellings. Complaints from existing wind farms, not only in Moyne Shire, but across the state are increasing.

The state government needs to take a strategic approach to the location of future renewable energy projects to minimise the cumulative impact on local communities and look to placement in more lowly populated areas.

Refer to map below.



64 ^[C8]

Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Erosion

Submitting Council: Bass Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the Australian Government commits to urgent mitigation action, in order to implement critical erosion infrastructure across the coastline of Victoria. A vital step in preserving and protecting our coastal environment is to implement a more strategic and holistic approach to foreshore management, and install erosion control infrastructure.

We need a national strategy for erosion mitigation and adaptation due to impacts of climate change on coastal communities and environments. A collaborative approach involving Federal, State and Local Government will be key in moving forward. We further call on the Australian Government to support initiatives by councils to develop and implement coastal climate change adaptation plans, to improve the sustainability and resilience of coastal settlements vulnerable to increasing climate change risks.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

The natural environment is one of the States greatest asset; the economy for coastal areas is based on tourism. The coastline is subject to damage from storm surges and coastal inundation which causes significant erosion and is placing public, natural and community assets at risk such as Surf Life Saving Clubs buildings, emergency vehicle access tracks and recreational pathways. Councils are at the forefront of responding to these risks in the coastal zone on behalf of all Australians, but they lack the resources necessary to respond effectively to the complex challenges involved.

65 [C9]

Climate Change

Submitting Council: **Manningham City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV call on the State Government to provide stronger leadership and stimulus funding to local government for local climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

- Preventing and managing climate change risks across the municipality, council services and infrastructure are critical responsibilities of local government. Current funding levels and programs are insufficient to meet current demands.
- As the drivers to adapt and mitigate climate change strengthen, all levels of government need to work together to create behavioural and sustainable change at the local level.
- The Victorian Government has lead the way with the Climate Change Act (2017) and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2017-20).
- Leadership and funding incentives are needed to meet these responsibilities and to activate innovative initiatives to support our local communities to adapt and mitigate to the increasing challenges of the environment before it's too late.

66 ^[C9] **Climate Resilience and Adaptation Research****Submitting Council:** **Bass Coast Shire Council****Motion:**

That the Federal and State Government commit to ongoing and increased funding to support climate resilience and adaptation research through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO) research.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

The Australian Government funding allocation to support climate resilience and adaptation research through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO) has been reducing. The Australian Government State of the Environment Report indicates that the coastal environments are already under pressure from development and other human pressures. A paper was presented to the Australian Coastal Councils Conference written by Graeme F. Clark and Emma L. Johnston, University of New South Wales. Graeme Clark was a co-author of the State of the Environment Report. The outlook concluded:

- Current pressures are growing and will be compounded by climate change
- The most significant climate change pressures for the coast include sea level rise, and increased frequency of cyclones and severe rainfall events
- The key challenge in the short term is to implement strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, while conserving the natural integrity of the coast

67 ^[C9] **Climate Emergency**

Submitting Council: **Yarra City Council**

Motion:

1. That State Council:
 - (a) Notes State Council's resolution of 12th May 2017 recognising that we are in a state of climate emergency; and
 - (b) Writes to the Victorian State Government requesting them to recognise the climate emergency and for them to mobilise the resources of the State of Victoria to take urgent action to respond to the emergency.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

The State Council Resolution 12 May 2017:

That the MAV recognise that:

- (a) we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local councils;
- (b) human induced climate change stands in the first rank of threats to humans, civilisation and other species;
- (c) it is still possible to restore a safe climate and prevent most of the anticipated long-term climate impacts – but only if societies across the world adopt an emergency mode of action that can enable the restructuring of the physical economy at the necessary scale and speed; and
- (d) the MAV has a particular role in assisting local governments in this regard.

68 Development of Renewable Energy Facilities

Submitting Council: Nillumbik Shire Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria:

- a. Endorses a Notice of Motion from the Nillumbik Shire Council to the 2019 National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association requesting the Commonwealth Government to provide direct funding to assist local government to address the risks of climate change through the development of renewable energy facilities and support related community actions.
- b. Seek State Government support and advocacy for this Motion.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

The economic, social and environmental prosperity of Australia is dependent on stable, competitively priced, supply of low emission energy. In recent years, there has been very little Australian Government funding available to local government to implement mitigation actions. For many resource-constrained Councils finding funds to reduce their own fossil fuel based energy profile, through the implementation of building, lighting and fleet upgrades is extremely difficult, with many competing community needs. Significant action is required now, not in the future when the change is irreversible.

Local government in partnership with the various greenhouse action alliances are in a position to support the community directly in reducing emissions and transitioning to cost effective renewable energy solutions that best fit local community need. Seed funding to support business cases and shovel ready projects are essential. It remains critical that vulnerable sectors of the community receive assistance to ensure they are protected from the predicted impacts. Improved technologies in the energy area are increasing productivity and efficiency, and this is critical to delivering an effective service through community facilities. Such technologies are often out of the financial reach of lower economic groups in the community and support for programs that facilitate their uptake will have the multiple benefits of reducing greenhouse gases and energy costs with the latter reducing the stress on low income households.

A balance between funding mitigation actions and adaptation actions must be found. We must continue to address greenhouse emissions to achieve significant reductions that will allow communities to prosper. We cannot continue to adapt indefinitely.

69 Funding the Protection of Victoria's Coastal Assets

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocate on behalf of coastal municipalities to the Victorian Government to seek the allocation of adequate resources and to fast track reforms that will ensure a strategic approach to the effective management and protection of Victoria's Coastal Assets.

State-wide Sector Significance?

No

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Transport, freight & infrastructure
Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

Population Change

70 Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund

Submitting Council: Swan Hill Rural City Council

Motion:

That the Municipal Association of Victoria lobby the Victorian State Government for the continuation of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund for a further eight years, and that this fund be resourced to levels similar to the previous eight years, whereby \$1 billion flowed to investment projects in Rural and Regional Victoria.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Population Change

Submitting Council Rationale:

Rural Victoria has benefited from the \$1 billion regional jobs and infrastructure fund for a number of years. The program was initially set up in 2011 for an eight year period as the regional growth fund. Following the election of the Andrews Labor Government the program was rebadged to regional jobs and infrastructure fund but, largely operated in the same way as the previous fund with very similar objectives.

The objectives of the fund are to support infrastructure and economic growth in regional Victoria. The funds are only available to regional areas and provided a pool of \$1 billion over eight years, from which regional industry and communities could draw (upon application) to fund improvements that would drive the economy of regional Victoria.

The Swan Hill Rural City Council and its community has benefited from this fund through the following grants over the last 4 years alone.

- Swan Hill Regional Arts, Indigenous and Cultural Precinct Stronger Regional Communities Plan (RJIF) \$300,000.00
- Stories Beneath the Vale Stronger Regional Communities Plan (RJIF) \$50,000.00
- Swan Hill - Live Better Stronger Regional Communities Plan (RJIF) \$50,000.00
- Robinvale Housing Strategy Stronger Regional Communities Plan (RJIF) \$50,000.00
- Connect U Regional Skills Fund (RJIF) \$270,000.00
- Enhancing the Swan Hill Farmers' Market Farmers' Markets Support Program (RJIF) \$15,000.00
- Boosting Boundary Bend Project Rural Development (RJIF) \$75,000.00
- Swan Hill River Walk Enhancement Stage 2 Rural Development (RJIF) \$256,500.00
- Catalina Park Activation Rural Development (RJIF) \$297,000.00
- Establishing the Swan Hill Region Farmers' Market Farmers' Markets Support Program (RJIF) \$19,500.00

• -Continued-

In the lead up to the 2018 State Election, the current Andrews Labor Government made no commitments to renew this funding program. Following the election there has been no statements from the Government providing any certainty that the existing fund will be renewed. The current Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund is due to wind up on 30 June 2019.

Given the importance of this fund to regional Victoria and the benefits that this fund has provided to the Swan Hill community over the last eight years, it is suggested that Council should lobby our local members, along with the Minister for Regional Development, the Honorable Jaclyn Symes and the Victorian Premier, the Honorable Daniel Andrews. In advocating for the continuation of this fund, Council should demonstrate the value that previous grants have provided to our community and implore the Government to renew the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

71 State Government developing policy and prioritising investment in regional infrastructure.

Submitting Council: Horsham Rural City Council

Motion:

Seeking support for the State Government to develop a long term plan for investment in regional cities as a key to maintaining the liveability of the regions they support, attract business investment and to provide high quality health, education, recreation and cultural facilities.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Population Change

Submitting Council Rationale:

Horsham Rural City Council supports policies which enable regional centres to grow and develop by attracting further investment and encouraging the presence of a skilled workforce. Most regional cities have the capacity to accommodate more people and attract new businesses.

Government investment needs to be focused on creating jobs, increasing business investment, increasing exports from our region and increasing opportunities through innovation and diversification. Additionally, this focus needs to encourage private sector investment and collaboration.

Key focus areas for investment are:

- Jobs and Business Growth to incentivise business growth and employment opportunities
- Population Growth and Liveability to facilitate population growth and enhance liveability
- Transport and Connectivity to improve road and rail infrastructure to enable better connectivity. Rail, air and road freight and passenger networks between regional cities and state capitals are vital and government investment should look to improve these over the next 10 years.

A long term investment plan for regional cities, aligned to unique infrastructure needs of each region will enable better planning and leveraging of the local and federal government contributions.

Planning and building

72 OVGA review of urban clutter

Submitting Council: City of Port Phillip

Motion:

That MAV advocates for the Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA) to conduct a review of the cumulative effect of “low impact” facilities (covered under the Telecommunications Act 1997) and other State/Federal facilities, such as PTV/Yarra Trams substations, on public space / road-reserve, and present a series of recommendations for improving amenity and the (co-location /underground) placement of facilities to the Victorian Government.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Planning and Building

Submitting Council Rationale:

Public space, such as footpaths, plazas and parks, are becoming clogged by essential service facilities, including NBN boxes, roadside cabinets, public payphones, tram and bus shelters, bins, tram substations, and more. There is often little thought given to co-locating these facilities, placing them underground or designing them to have minimal impact on the environment. This results in poor outcomes for the community, including increased hazards for the visually impaired and restricted pedestrian mobility (particularly for wheelchairs and prams).

Many of these service facilities are considered 'low-impact' facilities under the Telecommunications Act 1997, companies licensed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority can install 'low-impact' facilities without seeking state, territory or council planning approval. The Telecommunications Code of Practice, which sets conditions for the installation of these facilities, has not been properly enforced and, with no overarching authority to handle complaints or consider the bigger urban realm picture, councils are regularly the first-point of contact for community grievances.

PTV/Yarra Trams substations have also resulted in negative outcomes for public amenity, most recently in Brunswick West and St Kilda, which has led to great community frustration. Improved community consultation or locating the services underground could have led to a more community accepted outcome, with a lower impact on the environment.

The OVGA should conduct a review of the organisations/authorities that can install service facilities, what impact the installation of these facilities are having on public space, and consider the benefits and implementation of a more co-ordinated approach to installation and ratification, among other recommendations to combat urban clutter.

Repeat Motions and Other Motions

73 Reducing repetitive and return motions to MAV State Council Meetings

Submitting Council: East Gippsland Shire Council

Motion:

That State Council reviews its Rules to incorporate clauses that will minimise the number of repetitive motions that are included in State Council Meeting Business Papers and ensure subject matter is relevant to the sector as a whole. Clauses could include:

- a limit on the amount of times identical or substantively equivalent motions can come before State Council meetings;
- the incorporation of clear principles and guidance to assist the Chief Executive Officer and ultimately the Board to ensure that only matters of "state-wide significance to local government" be included in the business papers;
- the incorporation of clear principles and guidance to the Board to ensure that, at its discretion, motions that can be consolidated are consolidated; or
- other clauses that may better achieve the desired benefit.

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

No

Submitting Council Rationale:

Councils and their MAV representative are asked to review and consider a large number of motions for resolution at each MAV State Council meeting. This task is made more onerous because of the recurrence of identical or substantively similar motions across multiple State Council meetings, insufficient use of the consolidation option and the inclusion of motions that are not of "state-wide significance to local government". To optimise the value of State Council Meetings to participants and the sector as a whole, the MAV Rules should be revised to ensure that compliance with them will deliver an agenda that is both concise and relevant.

74 Changes to legislation to protect Authorised Officers

Submitting Council: Surf Coast Shire Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the State Government to provide greater protection and improved safety for Council officers by amending definitions in The Justice Legislation Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2018 to include Authorised Council Officers.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

No

Submitting Council Rationale:

Occupational violence and aggression is an issue for many council officers. In particular, Authorised Council Officers perform duties that can place them into contact with people who can be threatening, violent and aggressive.

There have been several cases in the state and around the country of Authorised Council Officers being attacked or injured by a member of the public.

The State Government recently changed legislation bringing laws into effect that impose a custodial sentence for people found guilty of attacking and injuring emergency workers (police paramedics, doctors, nurses).

The State Government could to provide greater protection by including Authorised Council Officers in the definitions in the current legislation.

75 Compulsory 'Responsible Pet Ownership Test'

Submitting Council: **Frankston City Council**

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian State Government for the need to introduce a mandatory 'Responsible Pet Ownership Test' for the public to complete (to an acceptable standard) in order to own given pets. The completion of the said test could be enforced via a number of mechanisms (i.e. annual pet registrations, completion of purchase etc.).

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

No

Submitting Council Rationale:

The proposal is proposed due to ongoing high rates of pet cruelty and abandonment which is, among other reasons, associated with select pet owners being ill-equipped to care for their pets.

76 **Legislation for Short Term Accommodation**

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian State Government for the need to amend State-wide Planning Scheme provisions to regulate Short Term Accommodation uses.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

No

Submitting Council Rationale:

An ongoing issue concerning Council are residential properties being hired for short periods of time to facilitate parties and anti-social behaviour which hinders the peaceful and general enjoyment of neighbouring residents (ie. Short term Accommodation).

Currently, these uses do not require planning permissions and are not subject to control or requirements relating to such matters as frequency, occupier management and control, car parking and/or venue registration.

Either such uses should be required to obtain planning permissions, as with 'Hotel' type uses, or specific requirement should be drafted into State Planning Provisions (as with Home Based Business, Private Tennis Courts) which enable more effective control of such uses.

77 Management of “Kiss and Go” zones at schools

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian State Government the requirement for Schools to provide traffic management at their drop-off “Kiss and Go” sites on all school days.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

No

Submitting Council Rationale:

Council is concerned about the ongoing poor behaviour of motorists and pedestrians in the vicinity of school drop off areas. Within Frankston, there are 35 schools; many of which have limited parking on school property and is generally available for staff only.

To support children's safety, Council has 84 supervised school crossings. School crossing supervisors need to be constantly aware of young pedestrians in their role and do not have sufficient capacity to monitor traffic as well. Further, Local government does not have the resources to manage traffic at schools. While traffic and pedestrian congestion is for a relatively short time, in the morning and afternoon, the peak periods are consistent across the schools. As such, the peak periods often present the general public and school crossing supervisors with a range of risky and dangerous driver behaviours.

Concern has previously been and consistently expressed by motorists and schools that drop off /Kiss and Go zones are not being efficiently used and require monitoring and traffic management to keep vehicles moving.

Schools are best placed to understand the needs of the school community and so the Victorian State Government should be encouraged to ensure schools provide traffic management at their drop-off “Kiss and Go” sites on all school days.

78 State Government Levies [Repeat]

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV is to explore legal options, on behalf of its Council membership, on the legality of the State Government being able to impose levies for payment in lieu of rate notices. The legal advice is to explore the power of the State Government to do this, the power of local government to decline the collection of State Government rates, what basis local government has in seeking fair and concise reparations for taking on the collection of State Government rates and the ability for/of local governments to charge the State Government for the collection of State Government rates.

Further, the MAV is to express frustration to the relevant Minister (and Shadow Minister) about the unfair situation that is local government collecting state government based levies with unfair and insufficient compensation.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

There has been further speculation where legislation was introduced to assist building owners to replace dangerous combustible cladding. The intent of the legislation is to enable building owners to access low interest bank loans to be paid back via Council rates to rectify buildings affected by combustible cladding.

The mechanism, known as Cladding Rectification Agreements (CRA), will be an agreement between owners (or owners corporations), lenders and local councils. Under the CRA, the owners will pay the funds back via their Council rates. The implications and liabilities for Councils needs to be carefully analysed and reviewed so that Councils are not further imposed with financial and resourcing issues. The requirement for Councils to enter into CRAs was not consulted with local government adequately. It is considered that the involvement of Councils represent additional 'red tape' for all parties concerned.

Council residents find it difficult to distinguish between what is a Council charge and what is a State Levy with ratepayers essentially only looking at the bottom line figure on their rates notices and attributing all of these costs to Council. This causes Council significant reputational damage.

The State Government has its own property based utility in the State Revenue Office and access to all local government valuations via the Valuer General. The only realistic rationale that the State Government doesn't utilise the SRO to collect these State levies is the transference of the political fall out directly on to Local Government. Frankston City Council therefore recommends that the MAV seek to undertake steps to advocate for the removal of State levies from local government rate notices.

79 Overreach of unelected bureaucratic entities [Repeat]

Submitting Council: Frankston City Council

Motion:

That the MAV is to register concern to all tiers of government about the continued encroachment from unelected bureaucratic bodies on local government in Victoria.

The continued interference from both state government and state government bureaucratic bodies is eroding the democratic impetus and independence of local government decision-making.

Moreover, the MAV is to also express concern about the existing power imbalance between the Victorian Parliament and the bureaucratic branch of the Executive insofar the increasing 'executive creep' into democratic decision-making and funding allotments.

State-wide Sector Significance?

Yes

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Essential Services Commission(ESC) (which determines rate-capping)

The ESC and the introduction of rate capping has significantly reduced local government autonomy in that it has essentially provided State Government control over the vast amount of revenue that Council raises and limit Councils role to only being a body that determines how scarce resources are then allocated. The ESC and State Government now determine over 80 per cent of the revenue raised (combination of rates, grants and statutory set fees and charges) by Frankston City Council. Council's ability to raise additional revenue from fees and charges are quite minimal.

It would be the preference of Frankston City Council for the ESC's assessments of rate capping to be advisory in nature and not determinative. In this manner, Council could remain accountable to its local community for its rating decisions and retain its autonomy.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (which often overturns local government decisions on planning matters).

The overbearing intrusion of VCAT into the Council responsibility of determination of planning applications under local government planning schemes needs to be overhauled to return the VCAT role to one of a technical review of administrative decisions, and not a 'de novo' assessment of planning applications. Instead of considering the material placed before Council by applicants, and reviewing the Council's resulting decision, VCAT goes significantly further and often invites and entertains entirely new development proposals for the subject site with material supplied by the applicant that was never seen by Council. This over-reach has lead to applicants and other sectoral interests 'gaming the planning system' and reserving information so that it can be decided by VCAT rather than dealt with at the local government level. This has the unfortunate effect of unnecessarily extending the time required to come to a final decision on a planning application while undermining trust in the transparency of the planning process.

Proposed Late Motions - Motions Received after 23 April 2019

At its meeting on 3 May 2019, the MAV Board resolved to distribute the following four motions received after 23 April and before the circulation of these Business Papers

L1 Transitional Funding support for Council Pound and Animal Shelter Services

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Motion:

That the State Government provide urgent funding to cover the transitional costs being incurred by Victorian municipalities to assume the management of their local pound and animal shelters services, as a result of the RSPCA's decision to move away from management these service on behalf of Local Governments

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Financial Sustainability

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victorian municipalities have a range of responsibilities under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act), including the provision of pound services. Pound and animal shelter services can be delivered by the Council concerned, or contracted out.

The City of Greater Bendigo (the City) like many other Councils, have contracted out pound and associated shelter services to the RSPCA. In Bendigo this has been the successful arrangement for more than 20 years.

Historically in Bendigo, the RSPCA has been the only organisation to tender for the contract. There has been no alternative service provider, particularly with the capacity necessary to run these services in a municipality the size of the City of Greater Bendigo.

Recently the RSPCA has taken a strategic decision to transition away from the provision of pound and animal shelter services, which was reflected in their pursuing full cost recovery for any contracted services they provide. This decision has had significant impacts on the cost of providing these services for a number of Councils, not only in Victoria.

In response, the City determined it to be more cost effective in the long term to provide pound and animal shelter services in-house from the end of June 2019, rather than enter into a contract with the RSPCA at the inflated rates. Contracting to an alternative provider was also not available, as there are no service providers in the municipality that have the scale of operation necessary.

Other Councils in the region have taken similar decisions over the past 12-24 months including Shepparton, Ballarat and Campaspe.

The costs of this transition from a contracted service to an in-house service are considerable, particular for the City who have not provided these services for more than 20 years, and do not have a code compliant facility from which to operate the service.

The additional cost to the Greater Bendigo City Council budget is expected to be initially around \$660,000 annually, however bringing the service in-house gives the City opportunities to continue to deliver a high quality service, while being able to identify and implement efficiencies.

The transitional one off set up costs are expected to be between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to cover equipment purchasing and staff costs.

Our intention through this motion is not to criticise the RSPCA over its decision to pursue full cost recovery for their services. They have provided a highly valued pound and animal shelter service for many years, subsidising this service on behalf of our community. Rather, the motion is to point out the City of Greater Bendigo is not the only Council which may find itself in this unexpected financial predicament.

In the absence of a mature market of private providers, Councils have no alternative but to bring these services in-house, since the Domestic Animals Act 1994 requires that they must provide a service.

Given this is a State mandated service, it is our view that the Government must come to the aid of Councils as they struggle to find funds to meet these changing arrangements.

L2 Council Access to EPA Victoria Landfill Levies

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Motion:

That the State Government provide the means for Victoria's municipalities to retain the millions of dollars it collects annually in EPA landfill levies in order to fund approved programs designed to provide regional solutions to the current waste management crisis

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria's municipalities currently pay millions of dollars annually for landfill levies imposed by the Victorian Government through EPA Victoria for all waste disposed at licensed landfills.

The funds drawn directly from Council residents and ratepayers are collected by EPA Victoria and passed on to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Two of the key purposes of the landfill levy are to:-

- provide additional and ongoing funding to support efforts by government, industry and the community to reduce waste, and
- provide a financial incentive to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Nine regional Councils – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Warrnambool - pay almost \$18 million a year in such levies. These are funds collected from residents and ratepayers.

Loddon Campaspe municipalities pay approximately \$6.4M annually either directly or indirectly.

Greater Bendigo alone has paid \$12.8 million in landfill levies in the past five years with limited if any access to the funds for waste management projects.

Like other regions of Victoria, Central Victoria is facing increasing pressure to devise alternative waste management solutions without access to a level of funding which matches the size of the challenge facing Councils.

Like other Victorian municipalities Greater Bendigo has a strong focus on implementing sustainable and alternative waste disposal solutions to assist with management of residential and commercial waste streams.

However little, if any, of the levies paid by Councils is returned to assist in financing waste management solutions.

Improved access to the funds generated by the levy and potential future grants from

the Sustainability Fund, is essential to assisting Council create the necessary infrastructure.

Under this proposal the structure of the fund would be amended to allow Councils to retain the money for approved projects which provide regional solutions to the current waste management crisis.

L3 Container Deposit Scheme

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate Change & Environment

Motion:

That the Victorian Government join other mainland Australian states by introducing a container deposit scheme to help build a sustainable recycling industry and help alleviate the State's waste recycling crisis.

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Waste & Resource Recovery

Submitting Council Rationale:

Victoria's current recycling predicament has resulted in thousands of tonnes of recycle paper, plastic and cardboard being buried in landfill.

Every mainland state and territory except Victoria have or are setting up a container deposit scheme. Queensland became the most recent state when it adopted its scheme late last year and Western Australia expects its scheme will start in 2020.

South Australia implemented its scheme in 1977.

South Australia is reported to have one of the highest recycling rates in the country, with an overall return rate of 79.9 percent in 2016/17.

The aim of the schemes is to reduce litter by encouraging people to pick up the bottles, cans and cartons that mar streets, beaches and parks and claim the refund.

Some experts argue that a container deposit scheme would help alleviate the problem of contamination of recyclable material.

According to media reports the New South Wales Reverse Vending Scheme introduced about 14 months ago collects, on average, four million containers a day at return points and reduced drink container litter by 33 per cent in the six months to May 2018.

According to a December 2018 report by the Boomerang Alliance, the NSW scheme in its first year recycled 1 billion articles and in the process:

- Increased recycling rates from 32% to 54%
- Increased the value of the recyclable material from \$110 per tonne to \$350 per tonne.

Other research has shown container deposit recycling schemes to reduce container waste and litter overall.

L4 Funding for Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP)

Submitting Council: City of Greater Bendigo I

Motion:

That the Victorian Government commit as a matter of urgency to:-

- Extend the funding for the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) until June 2025,
- End the freeze on annual indexation, and
- Increase the level of funding available to reflect changes in costs since 2016.

Relevant to MAV Draft Strategic Plan 2019/21?

Yes

Climate change & environment

Submitting Council Rationale:

The MERP is administered by Local Government Victoria and provides funding to the 64 Victorian councils within Country Fire Authority (CFA) districts to support strategic emergency management planning to ensure councils are able to prepare for, respond to, and actively manage council responses during emergencies.

MERP funding has been provided through a series of funding agreements covering the eight years from 2012 to 2020. Total funding in excess of \$4.5 million per year is shared between the 64 councils.

Under current arrangements the funding program expires in June 2020 and there is not commitment from Government to extend the funding beyond that point.

This funding is essential to support the capacity and capability of local government in emergency management, especially for rural councils.

The MERP's objective is to boost the capacity of councils to fulfil their legislative responsibilities for emergency management. This includes:

- implementing relevant recommendations from the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and the 2011 Victorian Floods Review;
- planning to support the most vulnerable members of the local community in times of emergency, undertaken in liaison with the Department of Health and Human Services, (DHHS); and
- working in partnership with other councils, emergency organisations and Victorian government agencies to facilitate joined-up planning, staff training, exercises and systems development.

The level of this funding has been frozen for the four year period to June 2020, with no indexation during this time.

If an announcement extending the MERP program is not forthcoming or is delayed until early 2020 there is a significant risk that experienced staff currently employed under this funding will seek alternative work and their skills will be lost to the regions.

Without this funding municipalities like Greater Bendigo will struggle to meet their legislated emergency management responsibilities