

**ALL WARDS****ENDORSEMENT OF MAV STATE COUNCIL MOTIONS**

**SUMMARY:**        *Manager – Governance & Innovation (Fleur Cousins)*

*This report seeks endorsement of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) motions to be presented to the 2016 MAV State Council meeting to be held on 9 September 2016.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council endorse the proposed motions contained in Appendix A for the next MAV State Council to be held September 2016.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is the statutory peak body for local governments in Victoria with a key role of advocating local government interests to the State Government. The MAV has written to Victorian Councils seeking submissions of motions for consideration at the MAV State Council meeting to be held on 9 September 2016.

Attached to this report as Appendix A are the motions presented for Council consideration and endorsement.

**2. DISCUSSION**

The MAV State Council meeting considers motions of statewide importance submitted by Victorian local governments. Motions that are carried at the MAV State Council meeting become Resolutions. These resolutions are then considered by the MAV Board when setting the strategic workplan of the MAV.

The following proposed motions are submitted to Council for endorsement.

- Act for the Future
- Australian Disability Insurance Scheme

**3. CONSULTATION**

Councillors were provided an opportunity to identify motions for consideration and endorsement by Council.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY ISSUES**

There are no environmental or amenity issues associated with the preparations of this report.

**5. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial or economic implications associated with this report.

## **Endorsement of MAV State Council Motions (cont'd)**

### **6. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council plays a key advocacy role on behalf of the community. Participation at the MAV State Council will assist Council to build strong relationships with other local governments and develop statewide approaches to a number of issues impacting the sector.

### **7. RELEVANCE TO CITY PLAN 2013-17 (INCORPORATING THE COUNCIL PLAN)**

The MAV State Council will consider a wide range of motions, many of them that will have relevance to the City Plan for Knox.

### **8. CONCLUSION**

Contributing to the MAV State Council will ensure Council's views are represented at a state forum and provide Council an opportunity to advocate on issues that would be of benefit to the Knox community.

### **9. CONFIDENTIALITY**

There are no issues of confidentiality associated with this report.

**Report Prepared By:**      **Manager – Governance & Innovation  
(Fleur Cousins)**

**Report Authorised By:**   **Director – Corporate Development  
(Joanne Truman)**

## APPENDIX A – Endorsement of MAV State Council Motions

**MAV State Council Meeting – 9 September 2016**

To submit a motion for consideration by State Council on 9 September 2016, please complete this form and email to [State Council](#), **no later than 12 August 2016**. Please note, motions received by **4 August** will be distributed to all MAV representatives on **5 August**. Submitters may amend their own motions up to 5pm on **19 August 2016**.

**MOTION  
ACT FOR THE FUTURE**

*Submitted by: Knox City Council*

**MOTION:**

That the MAV and member Councils actively respond to the current Act for the Future – Directions for a new Local Government Act seeking a principles based legislative framework that enables Councils to operate in an efficient and effective manner for the benefits of their local Communities and without undue prescription and administrative burden. In addition, the sector take the lead in producing its own guidelines and best practice recommendations through its peak body rather than look to the state to provide them.

**RATIONALE:**

The Victorian State Government is providing a unique opportunity to provide input to the direction of a new Act for local government. The recently released directions paper titled Act for the Future – Directions for a new Local Government Act, outlines proposed directions and *'seeks to remove unnecessary legislative prescription....replaced, as far as possible, by high level principles about transparency in decision-making and community accountability, alongside measures to ensure consistency and fairness'*.

Knox Council strongly supports this approach, however has identified that a number of the directions identified within the directions paper are contrary to this approach. Knox Council calls on the MAV and all member Councils to actively respond to the directions paper and support a principles based approach to the design of the new Local Government Act and for prescriptive measures that create additional administrative imposts on Councils and result in increased costs for the ratepayer be kept out of the new Local Government Act.

The directions paper also makes reference to a range of best practice guidelines many of which will be need to be developed. Knox Council believes MAV is best placed to support the sector inform and develop these guidelines rather than the sector looking to the State Government to develop and set the best practice guidelines.

## MAV State Council Meeting – 9 September 2016

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### **MOTION** **AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY PARKING SCHEME**

*Submitted by: Knox City Council*

#### **MOTION:**

That the MAV advocate to the State Government, in particular the State Minister for Transport and VicRoads, to prioritise the implementation of the Australian Disability Parking Scheme in Victoria.

#### **RATIONALE:**

Victoria is well behind other States in the adoption of the Australian Disability Parking Scheme (ADPS), introduced by the Commonwealth Government in 2010. The ADPS was introduced to replace over 100 different permits types across Australia, and to make it easier for permit holders when travelling interstate. The common design for the new national permit also provides for easy recognition by all enforcement officers across Australia, and includes enhanced security features to help reduce the misuse of parking permits. The ADPS also provides a national minimum standard for parking concessions, and new national eligibility criteria.

All Australian States, for the exception of Victoria, provide for the Australian Disabled Parking permit (or its equivalent). All States, other than Victoria, have a centralised authority or service agency that process and issue their Disabled Parking permits, with several States (New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia) charging an application and/or replacement permit fee for disabled parking permits.

Victoria's 79 local Councils continue to administer and deliver Victoria's Disabled Person's Parking Scheme on behalf of VicRoads. It should be noted that Victorian Local Councils are delivering this service with no State Government funding, despite the program being a State Government responsibility. Furthermore, Disabled Person Parking permits are one of the only permits Councils issue to which no fee or charge is collected, constraining Council in their ability recover the costs in the administration of this program.

Victoria's Disabled Person's Parking Scheme has been a financial and resourcing impost on local government for several decades, and its operation through a decentralised model using 79 individual local Councils across the State results in both inefficiencies and inconsistency in its application for the community. In a rate capping environment, local government can no longer afford to deliver this State Government program without sufficient funding to cover the administration of this program.

VicRoads' website makes reference that "VicRoads is working towards implementing the Australian Disability Parking Scheme in Victoria, and addressing a number of long-standing issues with the operation of the current scheme." No time frame has been provided regarding the implementation of a scheme that other States have adopted and been operating since 2010. Local Councils have not received any advice regarding the transition to the national permit scheme. While local Councils deliver this State Government service funded from our municipal ratepayers, there is no incentive for VicRoads to progress the implementation of the Australian Disability Parking Scheme in Victoria.