

## **7.5 Proposed City of Boroondara Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council on 24 June 2022**

### **Executive Summary**

This report informs councillors of two proposed motions to be put forward to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on Friday 24 June 2022.

Motions that are carried at the MAV State Council become Resolutions. These resolutions are then considered by the MAV Board when setting the strategic workplan for the MAV.

### **Officers' recommendation**

That Council resolve to adopt each motion, as annexed to the Minutes, to be put forward to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on 24 June 2022.

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**Responsible director:**     **Phillip Storer, Chief Executive Officer**

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## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform councillors of two proposed motions to be put forward to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on Friday 24 June 2022.

## **2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan**

The MAV is the statutory peak body for local governments in Victoria and should take a lead role in advocating to the State Government on a variety of issues of concern to local governments in Victoria. Submitting motions to the MAV State Council is consistent with Council's practice of advocating on behalf of the community.

This report is consistent with the strategy within the Boroondara Community Plan 2021 – 31: "The community's interests are represented by Council through leadership and strong advocacy to external stakeholders."

## **3. Background**

Council has a strong commitment to advocating on behalf of the Boroondara and the broader community. The MAV, as the peak representative body for local governments in Victoria, is in a strong position to support this advocacy.

The MAV State Council meeting will be held on Friday 24 June 2022. Motions are required to be received by the MAV no later than Friday 27 May 2022.

## **4. Outline of key issues/options**

Council has previously presented motions to State Council on a range of matters including: Library funding; Landfill Levies; Aged Care Reforms; Sustainable Street Lighting; Apartment Design Code; Newspaper advertising requirements; Regulation of Strategic Resource Plans; Assistance for people affected by heatwave; Enhanced proactive VicRoads asset maintenance programs; Bicycle safety; the School Focused Youth Service (SFYS) program; Subsidies for HACC (Home and Community Care) and meals-on-wheels services; ESD principles in State Planning Provisions; Vulnerable Persons Register; VCAT (Local policy, Plans in appeal proceedings); Infringements Court; Building Regulations; Immunisation; U3A; Residential Noise; Penalty Units in Local Laws; Cladding, Fines Management System; Social and Affordable Housing; Heritage Protection for Standalone Heritage Places; Electricity Safety (Electrical Line Clearance); Early Years Infrastructure Strategy; Landfill Levy Sustainability Fund, Maternal Child Health CDIS and Telecommunications legislation.

In some cases, resolutions sponsored by this Council have been instrumental in achieving worthwhile results for the Boroondara community and the broader Victorian community.

**Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2** provide further detail of the proposed motions being put forward:

- Motion 1 – Maternal Child Health (submitted by Community Support)
- Motion 2 – Office of the Victorian Government Architect funding reduction (submitted by Urban Living)

## **5. Consultation/communication**

The proposed motions were prepared in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team.

## **6. Financial and resource implications**

There are no direct financial implications to Council in presenting either motion to the MAV State Council other than Council officer time in preparing and submitting the motions. These costs are met from the Council operating budget.

## **7. Governance issues**

The implications of this report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

The officer responsible for this report has no general or material conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

## **8. Social and environmental issues**

The motions being considered at the MAV State Council cover a range of matters.

The motions sponsored by Council have the potential to achieve worthwhile results for the Boroondara community and the broader Victorian community.

**Manager:** Bryan Wee, Manager Governance and Legal

**Report officer:** Bryan Wee, Manager Governance and Legal



FORM

## MAV State Council Meeting - Friday 24 June 2022

## Attachment 1

**Motion****[Maternal & Child Health Service]****Submitted by:** Boroondara City Council**Primary Contact:** Carolyn McClean 9278 4344**Secondary Contact:** Andrew McHugh 0407 007 752**MOTION:**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria call on the Victorian Government to:

1. review the outdated funding model for Maternal Child Health (MCH) Service and restore funding to 50-50 between Councils and the Victorian Government.
2. review Key Age and Stage appointment times (increase appointment time) to cater for the cumulative increases in responsibilities added over the past decade.
3. review and update a MCH workforce strategy to maintain ongoing delivery of the MCH service.

**MAV Strategy:****Indicate whether or not the subject matter of your motion is included in the MAV Strategy 2021-25.**

Is the subject matter of this motion included in the MAV Strategy 2021-25?	Yes
If yes, identify the following:	
Objective No.	<b>Theme 2 Objective 3:</b>  <b>Continue to represent council's statutory role in the delivery of the Victorian Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure a new four year 2022-25 MCH MOU with the State Government on behalf of local government.</li> <li>• Influence new State Government policy and guidelines to ensure council's priorities and challenges are addressed.</li> </ul>
Is the subject matter of this motion of state-wide significance to the sector?	Yes
Is the subject matter of the motion identical or substantially similar to a motion submitted to State Council in May 2021, October 2019, May 2019, or October 2018?	The motion is similar to one put forward in May 2019, however the pandemic has exacerbated the issue and the current arrangements are not sustainable.

*\*Note: Motions must be submitted by **one** council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***

**RATIONALE FOR MOTION:**

Over the past decade, and especially during the COVID19 Pandemic, MCH services have been stretched to breaking point. A report *'Envy of the Country or Golden Goose? Victoria's Maternal and Child Health Program at the crossroads'* commissioned by the Eastern Metropolitan Region Councils describes a system at a crossroad, in dire need of a fresh approach from the Victorian Government.

Prior to the Pandemic, Boroondara MCH was struggling under the strain of new initiatives introduced by the Victorian Government almost annually and without consultation. These changes increased the responsibilities of the workforce, yet the Key Age and Stage (KAS) appointment times have not increased to reflect the additional work required. This is placing enormous pressure on MCH services and is not sustainable. Coupled with the fact that families are becoming more complex, regardless of Covid, the inadequate appointment times can only mean poorer outcomes for families.

Despite the MOU between the Victorian Government and Councils committing to a 50/50 split to fund the MCH service, Councils across Victoria are contributing well over 60% of MCH funding now - effectively subsidising the Victorian Government. The current funding model of MCH has not been reviewed in well over a decade and does not reflect the current costs of service delivery.

Development of a new funding model is sought immediately to restore the balance to equal amounts between Councils and the Victorian Government.

The KAS appointment times are inadequate and do not reflect the many additional responsibilities added to KAS visit requirements over the past decade. The effect of these ongoing changes can no longer be sustained.

The MCH service has never been more important and shoulders a significant burden at a time when GPs, psychological services and hospitals are too stretched to provide additional support.

Covid has exacerbated a system already under pressure and many Councils are struggling to maintain service delivery due to the issues above not being addressed. Addressing these issues by investing in MCH to enable consistently early intervention will provide better outcomes for families and their children and less impact on the broader health system as children develop.

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FORM

## Attachment 2

## MAV State Council Meeting - Friday 24 June 2022

**Motion**  
**[Office of Victorian**  
**Government Architect**  
**funding reduction]**
**Submitted by:** *Boroondara City Council*
**Primary Contact:** *Scott Walker 9278 4800*
**Secondary Contact:** *David Cowan 9278 4830*
**MOTION:**

That the Municipal Association of Victoria call on the Victorian Government to:

1. Immediately reinstate the full \$1.3 million funding to the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.
2. Continue to fully fund the role of the OVGA to provide independent expert architectural advice to improve the outcome for State Government and State Significant projects.
3. Make publicly available the advice of the OVGA where they have reviewed State Government and State Significant projects.

**MAV Strategy:**
**Indicate whether or not the subject matter of your motion is included in the MAV Strategy 2021-25.**

Is the subject matter of this motion included in the MAV Strategy 2021-25?	No
If yes, identify the following:	
Objective No.	
Is the subject matter of this motion of state-wide significance to the sector?	Yes
Is the subject matter of the motion identical or substantially similar to a motion submitted to State Council in May 2021, October 2019, May 2019, or October 2018?	No

*\*Note: Motions must be submitted by **one** council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***

**RATIONALE FOR MOTION:**

The Office of the Victorian Government Architect sits within the Department of Premier and Cabinet and is an independent voice that focuses on quality design to help shape the nature and function of our cities, buildings and landscapes across the State. The OVGA promotes high-quality design principles, processes and outcomes and has influenced improvements in the design of many significant projects. [Office of the Victorian Government Architect | Office of the Victorian Government Architect \(ovga.vic.gov.au\)](#)

The OVGA not only provides leadership and strategic advice to government about architecture and urban design but also runs the Victorian Design Review Panel (VDRP) which is an independent expert design advisory service on significant projects in Victoria. The VDRP have undertaken over 300 design reviews since 2012 on a variety of projects including civic buildings, urban renewal, major transport infrastructure, public housing renewal, hospitals, parks, cultural and sports buildings, commercial buildings, precinct plans and town centres.

The Victorian Government has, without consulting with Local Government, recently reduced the \$1.3 million funding of the Office of the Victorian Government Architect by \$600,000 which will impact the OVGA's ability to provide meaningful independent input and expert advice. This will have a wide-ranging impact on the quality of the design outcome for significant projects across Victoria.

A reduced role for the OVGA is another measure by the State Government to reduce scrutiny of State and other significant projects in addition to the changes already taken place as part of Planning Reform within the Development Facilitation Program and State Project exemptions which have reduced community and Council review and input. Given the Planning changes to reduce the Community and Council role in influencing improved design outcomes the OVGA role should be expanded to provide genuine independent input to State Significant Projects.

Reports from the OVGA should also be made publicly available to improve transparency and demonstrate to the community that improvements to design outcomes have at least been considered in finalising projects.

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