

7 Presentation of officer reports

7.7 Proposed City of Boroondara Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council on 14 October 2022

Executive Summary

This report informs councillors of the proposed motion to be put forward to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on Friday 14 October 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. This in turn supplements Council's advocacy on key issues that affect the Boroondara Community.

Officers' recommendation

That Council resolve to adopt the motion in **Attachment 1**, as annexed to the minutes, to be put forward to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on 14 October 2022.

Responsible director: Phillip Storer, Chief Executive Officer

1. Purpose

This report informs councillors of the proposed motion (**Attachment 1**) to be put forward to the MAV State Council meeting on Friday 14 October 2022.

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

The Boroondara Community Plan 2021 – 31 provides: “The community’s interests are represented by Council through leadership and strong advocacy to external stakeholders.”

The MAV is the statutory peak body for local governments in Victoria and should take a role in advocating to the State Government on issues that also affect the broader Victorian community and other Councils.

Submitting motions to the MAV State Council supplements Council’s advocacy on issues that affect other communities in addition to Boroondara.

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, can support this advocacy.

The MAV State Council meeting will be held on Friday 14 October 2022.

4. Outline of key issues/options

Council has previously presented motions to State Council on a range of matters. In some cases, resolutions sponsored by this Council have been instrumental in achieving worthwhile results for the Boroondara community and the broader Victorian community.

Officers propose one motion for this MAV State Council. The proposed motion relates to kindergarten infrastructure and asks the MAV to call on the Victorian Government to fully fund all infrastructure requirements at local government owned kindergarten venues to support changes to 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten.

Attachment 1 provides further detail of the proposed motion being put forward.

5. Consultation/communication

The proposed motion was 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 14 October 2022

In accordance with the MAV Rules, the submission of motions will close on **Friday 16 September 2022**. Early motions, received by midnight on **Thursday 8 September 2022**, will be distributed to MAV representatives on **Friday 9 September 2022**.

Submitters may amend their motions up to three weeks before the State Council meeting by emailing governancesupport@mav.asn.au the amended motions no later than **5pm on Friday 23 September 2022**.

Motion Kindergarten Infrastructure	
<i>Submitted by: Boroondara City Council</i>	
MOTION:	
That the Municipal Association of Victoria call on the Victorian Government to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fully fund all infrastructure requirements at Local Government owned kindergarten venues to support changes to 3 and 4 year old kindergarten as part of its recently announced reform. 	
MAV Strategy:	
Indicate whether or not the subject matter of the motion is included in the MAV Strategy 2021-25.	
Is the subject matter of this motion included in the Strategy?	Yes / No
If yes, identify the following:	
Objective No.	Theme 2: Continue to work with the state and federal governments to advocate and represent council's role in early years education and care services Advocate for council priorities at the State Government Ministerial Kindergarten Reform Consultative Committee
Priority No.	
Item 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:

Successive Victorian Government announcements regarding kindergarten reform, initially related to 3 year old and now four year old, have been made without full understanding of the implications.

The consequences of the changes to 3 year old funded kindergarten have still not been fully realised and significant challenges remain. Despite this, and with even less planning and no consultation, the significant changes to four year old kindergarten were hastily announced without a plan as to how the aspiration will be achieved.

The announced changes have not been backed with funding commitments to Local Government, as a majority owner of stand-alone community-based kindergarten infrastructure.

The Victorian Government's reform, while ambitious in intent, creates an expectation from not-for-profit community kindergartens that the buildings they operate out of will be expanded. Of most impact are single classroom stand-alone kindergartens, that will be unable to accommodate 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten and 15 hours of 3-year old kindergarten.

It is apparent the Victorian Government has not considered or understood the nuance of kindergarten and Local Government prior to releasing the announcement of the reform. There is significant variation among Councils involvement in kindergarten and ability to meet the inevitable requirements of the changes announced.

Local Government will not prioritise ratepayer resources to deliver the Victorian Government's Kindergarten reform. Full cost funding of any expanded infrastructure is sought from the Victorian Government, including officer resourcing, temporary accommodation and ongoing maintenance.

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