

2 Presentation of officer reports

2.2 Proposed City of Boroondara Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council on 17 May 2024

Executive Summary

This report presents councillors with the two motions proposed to be put forward to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on 17 May 2024.

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.

- Motion 1 - State Government funding for municipal libraries
- Motion 2 - State Government funding for local government immunization services

Officers' recommendation

That Council resolve to endorse the two motions to be submitted to the MAV State Council meeting on 17 May 2024 (as annexed to the minutes).

Responsible director: Phillip Storer, Chief Executive Officer

1. Purpose

This report seeks Council approval for a proposed motion by the City of Boroondara to be put to the MAV State Council meeting on 17 May 2024.

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

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 advocates on behalf of the Boroondara community on issues important to Boroondara. One advocacy tool is to leverage Council's membership of MAV. The MAV as the statutory peak representative body for local government in Victoria advocates on behalf of all councils for issues that affect the sector.

The MAV's process to decide issues to advocate is to put motions from member councils to a vote in a MAV State Council meeting. MAV then advocates on behalf of councils for motions that receive majority support.

The next MAV State Council meeting will be held on 17 May 2024. Motions are required to be received by the MAV by 11.59 pm on 18 March 2024.

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 achieved 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 - State Government funding for municipal libraries
- Motion 2 - State Government funding for local government immunization services

Any queries about the content of the motion can be directed to Kate McCaughey, Director Community Support. Queries about the MAV State Council can be directed to Bryan Wee, Manager Governance and Legal.

5. Consultation/communication

A call for proposed motions was made to members of the Senior Leadership Team. The proposed motion was prepared in consultation with input from members of the Executive Leadership Team.

6. Financial and resource implications

There are no direct financial implications to Council in presenting the motion to the MAV State Council other than Council officer time in preparing and submitting the motion. 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 motion being considered at the MAV State Council covers a range of matters.

The motion 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 –

Motion:**State Government funding for municipal public libraries***Submitted by: Boroondara City Council***MOTION:**

We request the Victorian Government:

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

RATIONALE:

Boroondara Council was notified of this year's Public Libraries Funding Program. This financial year, Boroondara Council is due to receive \$1,190,010 in funding. This is the same amount as last year, with no increase. Given there has been no CPI increase to support the rise in costs and services, this represents an overall reduction in funding from the previous year.

Each year, Boroondara Council contributes almost \$10m to Public Libraries in the municipality, as libraries are used by a significant proportion of our local residents, with approximately 800,000 visits, and almost 2 million branch loans annually. Boroondara Libraries also support the wider Victorian population by way of servicing inter-library loans to other public libraries across the state. Council does this, because it values the role Libraries have in supporting the wider community to support life-long learning and love of reading; establish and maintain social connections; provide social support; and contribute to the overall improved mental health and wellbeing for patrons.

Over the years, there has been a gradual decline in the funding received from the Victorian Government, from representing approximately 12.9% funding in 2017/18, required to deliver the service, to only 12% last year (Council contributed 88% of the funding required to deliver Library services in Boroondara).

Further to this, in the current year, there was an additional delay in receiving notification of the funding. Whereas in other years notification was received around August, this year, notification arrived mid-December, with funding yet to be received (this is expected sometime in early February). This presents a cashflow challenge for councils, with Boroondara council being no exception. It is evident the Victorian Government expects local government to continue to provide the same level (or improved) customer service while waiting for funding to offset some of the costs of providing the service, and therefore expects Council carry the associated financial risk should the funding not be granted. Additionally, given this signifies payment received in arrears for services already delivered, this represents a change to the funding model, with no opportunity afforded for consultation or feedback.

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.***



FORM

MAV State Council Meeting –

Motion:
State Government funding for local government immunisation services

Submitted by: Boroondara City Council

MOTION:

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

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

RATIONALE:

- LGA immunisation services are popular with local communities and are responsive and understanding of the unique needs of their community. The provision of vaccines by councils is perceived as highly competent and readily available.
- Funding provided to LGAs for immunisations under the NIP is less than 60% of the funding provided to Pharmacist immunisation programs (\$10.94/vaccine vs. \$18.85/vaccine)
- The disparity is larger in childhood vaccine payments, some attracting funding less than 20% of pharmacy programs (funding as low as \$3.64/vaccine).
- Councils are not funded for all the NIP Vaccines they administer, forcing councils to implement vaccination administration fees and restricting access to free NIP vaccines. Pharmacy vaccination programs receive funding for all NIP vaccines they administer. This creates an uneven playing field where local government immunisation services are not funded to deliver some vaccines, where for-profit chemists are fully funded.
- There is no justification for providing less funding to LGAs compared to pharmacists to provide the same service.

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