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Association of Bayside Municipalities

**Brief Description:** Advocates and undertakes joint projects to benefit Port Phillip Bay.

**Annual fee:** $11,000  
**Next Payment date:** 19 July 2019

**Background / Purpose:** Founded in 1974, the Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) is an association of the 10 councils that have frontage to, and are affected by the tidal influences of, Port Phillip Bay.

The ABM is recognised by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) as the key representative of local government in relation to the sustainable management and health of Port Phillip Bay.

The ABM provides a forum for:

- information exchange, innovation and best practice in coastal management
- advocacy – representing the collective views of member councils
- networking and collaboration between member councils, other Bay stakeholders and coastal organisations
- leadership in coastal planning and practice, and
- integrated, whole-of-bay outcomes for Port Phillip Bay.

**Officer comments:** As an advocacy body, ABM is well-respected and works closely with State Government. During negotiations for the Port of Melbourne Lease, the ABM successfully advocated for ongoing monitoring of Bay health, cessation of additional major dredging of shipping channels or widening / deepening of the Bay entrance, and the establishment of a $10 million fund for the Bay.

The ABM are currently developing The Coastal Planning Guide, a practical guide on land use planning for coastal hazards and adaptation. The Guide could be a valuable tool, it will identify for each council area planning scheme and related land use planning responses to help manage the risk from sea level rise, tides, storm surges and coastal processes. This will contribute to Council’s Act and Adapt action 27 – ‘...develop an implementation and strategy action plan to help protect the City of Port Phillip against sea level rise and inundation’. DELWP provided a funding grant to assist with this work. Cancelling the membership may remove CoPP from the Guide.

Council is a part of other associations / groups that (as part of a broader spectrum of work) advocate and undertake joint projects to benefit Port Phillip Bay.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Committee for Economic Development of Australia

**Brief Description:** National organisation that provides leadership and policy advice on economic and social issues.

**Annual fee:** $2,000  
**Next Payment date:** 1 July 2019

**Background / Purpose:** CEDA is an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation, which “identifies policy issues that matter for Australia’s future and pursue solutions that deliver better economic, social and environmental outcomes for Australia”.

CEDA’s membership includes over 780 Australian businesses, community organisations, government departments, councils and academic institutions. CEDA membership benefits:

- participate in thought leadership: engage and shape policy discussion on the critical issues facing Australia.
- engage with colleagues, clients and stakeholders: gain access to discounted rates at CEDA public and member only events.
- peer-to-peer networking: invitations to CEDA’s Trustee only boardroom briefings.
- position organisation: profile and align your organisation with CEDA events relevant to your business and expertise.

**Officer comments:** Around 3-5 CEDA research papers are released every year. Some are relevant to Council, for example a review of housing and inequality in Australia. However, the research papers aren’t widely utilised by officers.

Networking opportunities provided through events can be valuable. In 2018 the Port Phillip Mayor was part of a panel discussion at a CEDA event regarding Melbourne’s future. CEDA event speakers often include Government cabinet members, such as Treasurer or Minister for Planning, attract senior level government bureaucrats and advisors, and private sector representatives.

Overall there is limited contribution to delivery of Council priorities. Councillors and officers can continue to receive research papers and pay non-member price ($310) to attend events. (note: member price of $195, does not justify the membership cost as not enough officers attended events in 2018).

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to not renew its membership (and engages on a “non-member”/user pays basis as required).
Committee for Melbourne

Brief Description: An independent broad-based member organisation which advocates and undertakes activities to support Melbourne’s economy and development.

Annual fee: $14,300  Next Payment date: June 2019

Background / Purpose: Committee for Melbourne (CFM) “is an apolitical, not-for-profit, member-based organisation that brings together over 140 organisations from Greater Melbourne’s business, academic and community sectors who have a passion for shaping Melbourne as a leading global city in the world’s fastest-growing region, the Asia-Pacific.”

CFM focuses on four key areas:

- Future economy: A productive city, with globally competitive, innovative industries, harnessing the full potential of a quality workforce and entrepreneurs.
- Urban optimisation: A great place to live, with the right blend of housing, well-connected to jobs and essential services. Sufficient public open spaces and visual appeal.
- Infrastructure: A city with world-class infrastructure that supports our productivity, enhances our liveability and supports innovation.
- Liveability: A world-leading liveable city with exceptional healthcare and education services, strong sport, recreation, arts and cultural sectors with access and opportunity for all residents.

Officer comments: CFM focuses on providing benefits to the broader community, for example, CFM was a major advocate for funding the Airport Link and free tram zone in the CBD. Currently CFM has several taskforces and multiple policy focuses, ranging from providing faster internet speeds to supporting the development of affordable housing.

In late 2018, Cr Yoss was appointed Chair of CFM’s Metropolitan Collaboration Taskforce and, in August 2018, participated in a panel discussion on integrated transport. This contributed to closer collaboration between CoPP and Transport for Victoria on projects.

Officers are of the view that, on balance, there is limited contribution to the delivery of Council priorities.

CoPP is a Foundation Member (top tier - $13,000 plus GST) with City of Melbourne. The other councils, City of Greater Dandenong and Hume City Council, are Corporate Members (tier 2 - $6,500 plus GST).

Recommendation: That Council resolves:

A. to maintain its Committee for Melbourne membership, or
B. to maintain its Committee for Melbourne membership, but change membership category from a Foundation Member ($13,000 + GST) to a Corporate Member ($6,500 + GST), or
C. to not to renew its Committee for Melbourne membership.
CoPP Officer Review of Strategic Memberships

Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities

**Brief Description:** Australian research centre for the transition to water sensitive cities.

**Annual fee:** $10,000  
**Next Payment date:** June 2019

**Background / Purpose:** Established in July 2012, the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) undertakes research and develops tools and processes to ‘transition to a water sensitive city’.

**Officer comments:** The City of Port Phillip is a founding partner of the CRCWSC and is party to a nine-year agreement ending 30 June 2021. The CRCWSC and CoPP have collaborated strongly on key projects including:

- Elwood Community Visioning and Elster Creek flood modelling
- Multiple and ongoing Fishermans Bend initiatives
- Development of the Water Sensitive City Index
- Development of the Adoption Guidelines for Stormwater Biofiltration Systems

Having a partner with the capabilities of CRCWSC helps deliver several Council priorities designed to make CoPP a ‘water sensitive City’.

**Current work that benefits from membership includes:**

- Fishermans Bend recycled water study
- Development of a Water Sensitive City Plan for the municipality
- Elster Creek Catchment Partnership
- Development of an onsite stormwater detention policy
- Increase permeability on Council & private land.

The current nine-year agreement requests that Council “give 12 months written notice” of any decision to stop being a member, unless funding is not provided in the Council budget.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Economic Development Australia

**Brief Description:** National professional body for economic development practitioners in Australia. Provides access to research, events and training for Council officers.

**Annual fee:** $2,000  
**Next Payment date:** Feb 2019

**Background / Purpose:** Established in 2007, Economic Development Australia (EDA) is the peak national body for economic development practitioners, that aims to strengthen and promote economic development through state and national events, professional development, advocacy and member support.

**Officer comments:** Port Phillip is the only Victorian inner metro council EDA member. Officers have previously used EDA case studies on business engagement and guides for best-practice.

Membership provides a discounted rate to EDA events and professional development opportunities. However, not enough officers have needed these opportunities to warrant membership.

There is limited alignment with of Council priorities. Councillors and officers can still attend events and obtain journal articles on a user pay basis.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to not renew its membership (and engages on a “non-member”/user pays basis as required).
Green Building Council of Australia

**Brief Description:** An authority on sustainable buildings and communities (Green Star System).

**Annual fee:** $2,400  
**Next Payment date:** June 2019

**Background / Purpose:** Established in 2002, the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is the nation’s authority on sustainable buildings, communities and cities. Their vision is “to create healthy, resilient and positive places for people”. Their purpose is to lead the sustainable transformation of Australia’s built environment. Council joined GBCA in 2018.

GBCA rate the sustainability of buildings and communities through the Green Star system. Green Star certification aims to promote and improve environmental efficiencies in buildings, while boosting productivity, creating jobs and improving the health and well-being of communities.

GBCA membership includes:

- Discounts on education programs and training, including professional development activities for Green Star Accredited Professionals.
- Discounts on Green Star certification of buildings
- Promotion of Green Star certified projects to sector & wider community
- Access to research papers & updates and Green Star advisory groups

**Officer comments:**

Membership supports outcomes under Council Plan Direction 3 – We have smart solutions for a sustainable future and Direction 4 – We are growing and keeping out character.

Members receive a discount on Green Star certification (non-member = $40,000 + GST vs. member = $35,000 + GST). Council is likely to seek Green Star certification from GBCA for two upcoming projects, saving $10,000 (+ GST) in total.

The recently endorsed Fishermans Bend Framework & Planning Controls requires that all developments benchmark against a minimum Green Star rating. GBCA advocated to the State Government for this outcome. Fishermans Bend is mandated to achieve a Green Star Communities rating.

GBCA will be useful in training Council officers on Green Star requirements (including statutory, strategic planning officers & sustainability officers).

Three council officers are currently Green Star Accredited Professionals or Associates and one is seeking accreditation. Continued professional development is required to maintain this status.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum

**Brief Description:** Local government alliance that advocates on issues such as transport, environmental sustainability, liveability and planning policy and strategy.

**Annual fee:** $10,000 (approx.) and project contributions

**Next Payment date:** payments are quarterly

**Background / Purpose:** The Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum (ISMMF) comprises the Mayors and CEOs of the cities of Port Phillip, Bayside, Boroondara, Glen Eira, Kingston and Stonnington. The City of Yarra cancelled its membership in July 2018.

In May 2018, ISMMF released “Liveability Priorities”, which outlines advocacy initiatives under the following headings:

- Transport, Cycling and Walking
- Open Space and Sporting Facilities
- Waste and Sustainability

**Officer comments:** The “Liveability Priorities” document includes the following CoPP priorities:

- the Albert Park Lake Stormwater Treatment and Harvesting Scheme,
- Elster Creek Catchment – minimising flood risk and improving infrastructure,
- protection for Social and Cultural Heritage buildings,
- increased support for graffiti prevention and removal, and
- increased funding for councils for beach cleaning and critical projects in foreshore masterplans

Another ISMMF output in 2018 was an Infrastructure Scorecard and Gap Analysis report for the region (completed by AECOM Australia). The analysis, while highlighting areas for joint action, also illustrated several differences in needs between the municipalities (due to the differences in population density and proximity to the CBD etc).

While ISMMF’s advocacy and project work has had some successes, notably a joint graffiti pilot funded by the State Government, progress in other areas has been made using vehicles other than ISMMF. For example, the working group established for the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan.

ISMMF is traditionally a resource intensive Council membership. Until recently, each month the CEOs meet and every second month they are joined by Mayors. When the preparation, travel time and attendance are considered, ISMMF meetings can require between half-day to day of the attendee’s time. In addition, several officers across Council are involved in working groups, which requires preparing briefings, reviewing and delivering policy documents and attending meetings, that can be of peripheral relevance to the delivery of Council priorities.

On 8 February 2019, ISMMF CEOs and Mayors agreed that Mayors and CEOs should meet only four times a year and, at the start of each year, councils will agree which projects will be prioritised. Councils can elect to provide funding and other support to the prioritised projects.
Recommendation: That Council resolves:

A. to maintain its Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum membership, providing an opportunity to test recent changes to the governance arrangements to see if they deliver greater alignment of projects with Council priorities and reduce the current resource commitment from Council (financial and staff time), or

B. to not renew its Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum membership.
Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP)

**Brief Description:** Collaborative partnership between the Cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Maribyrnong, Stonnington and Yarra.

**Annual fee:** $95,000  **Next Payment date:** November 2019

**Background / Purpose:** IMAP is a section 86 Committee, set up under the Local Government Act 1989.

IMAP was established in 2006 to 'Make Melbourne More Liveable'. Shortly after its formation, the first Inner Melbourne Action Plan (2006-2016) was adopted in response to "Melbourne 2030", the State Government’s blueprint for managing sustainable growth and change across metropolitan Melbourne. In 2016 a new 10-year Action Plan (2016-2026) was adopted.

The five goals contained in the Action Plan (2016-2026) are:

- Goal 1: A globally significant, strong and diverse economy
- Goal 2: A connected transport network that provides real travel choices
- Goal 3: Diverse, vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities
- Goal 4: Distinctive, high quality neighbourhoods and places
- Goal 5: Leadership in achieving environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation.

Under these goals there are 27 regional strategies/actions.

Implementation of the Action Plan is overseen by the ‘Implementation Committee’ (Mayors and CEOs), supported by an Executive Forum (CEOs and Executives), working groups and project teams. The powers and functions of the Implementation Committee are to:

- develop and prioritise a rolling three-year implementation program of IMAP actions, to be updated and approved annually
- oversee implementation of the IMAP in accordance with the agreed three-year implementation program
- make recommendations to IMAP member councils on budget allocations to implement IMAP actions
- progress individual initiatives in accordance with the annualised three-year implementation program
- monitor and report annually to IMAP member councils implementation of IMAP actions.

**Officer comments:** In 2018 IMAP progressed eight of its joint projects, including the first joint StreetCount of people sleeping rough in Inner Melbourne and the formation of a “Think Tank”, to scan councils’ current and future environment to identify and assess the main disruption technologies and threats facing councils and communities in Inner Melbourne.

The $95k IMAP membership fee is higher than any other membership fee. IMAP has significant financial reserves and there may be opportunities to reduce the memberships cost by reducing reserves and reducing the number of IMAP projects.
IMAP is resource intensive, over 2017/18 there were four Implementation Committee meetings, five Executive Forum meetings and several working group meetings. Over 20 officers also led or contributed to joint projects.

To deliver IMAP’s 27 actions, IMAP maintains a rolling Three-Year Implementation Program, with short-term priorities and budgets. At the 30 November 2018 Implementation Committee meeting, the Three-Year Implementation Program was referred to the Executive Forum to assess:

- Current priorities and value for IMAP councils
- Overlap with other groups

An initial assessment by CoPP officers of the 27 IMAP projects found that a third of the projects contribute to Council priorities, and some of those could be better progressed outside of IMAP including through newly constituted State Government-led Metropolitan Partnerships.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves:

A. to maintain its Inner Melbourne Action Plan membership, subject to seeking improved governance arrangements, greater alignment of projects with Council priorities and a reduced resource commitment from Council (financial and staff time), or

B. to not renew its Inner Melbourne Action Plan membership.
International Association for Public Participation

**Brief Description:** A member association focused on advancing public participation and community engagement.

**Annual fee:** $1,800  **Next Payment date:** December 2019

**Background / Purpose:** International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) is an international member association incorporating individuals, governments, institutions and other entities that affect the public interest throughout the world.

IAP2 has three ‘Strategic Pillars’, Advocating for Engagement, Strengthening Engagement Networks and Advancing Professional Development. IAP2 offer:

- community and stakeholder engagement training around Australasia
- networking and professional development events
- case studies, engagement policies and conference presentations
- a consultancy registry
- industry news

**Officer comments:** IAP2 in-house training courses are discounted for members. Council officers received an ‘in house’ training in December 2017 and most relevant Council officers now have IAP2 certification.

There are limited benefits to Council from this current membership.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to not renew its membership (and engages on a “non-member”/user pays basis as required).
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Partnership Program

**Brief Description:** Leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future.

**Annual fee:** $2,700  **Next Payment date:** May 2019

**Background / Purpose:** The ICLEI Oceania Regional Secretariat is hosted by the City of Melbourne and serves local governments in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island Nations. ICLEI Oceania has been active in Asia region for over ten years and is focused on local sustainability and responsiveness and resilience to the impact of climate change.

ICLEI Members benefit from access to programs, frameworks and tools and the sharing of experiences through ICLEI’s regional and worldwide networks.

**Officer comments:** ICLEI membership includes the following:

- Free training & workshops for Councillors & staff
- ICLEI Oceania is the regional secretariat for the Global Covenant of Mayors
- Promotes actions & achievements to sector & wider community

ICLEI is creating a Melbourne metropolitan greenhouse profile and 32 individual local community greenhouse profiles. Officers see the greenhouse profile as a valuable tool which can be compared to CoPP’s 2016 profile.

Officers have recently attended the following workshops:

- Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories Accounting for Local Governments
- TAKE2 Local Government Climate Action Workshop

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Local Government Professional (LG Pro)

**Brief Description:** Peak body for Local Government professionals in Victoria.

**Annual fee:** $3,700  
**Next Payment date:** June 2019

**Background / Purpose:** LGPro is the ‘voice’ for people working in Local Government in Victoria.

LGPro was formed in 1996 following a merger of the Victorian branches of the Institute of Municipal Management, the Institute of Municipal Engineering Australia and the Victorian Municipal Community Services Association.

LGPro supports members by:
- Delivering sector specific professional development activities and services
- Facilitating communication with other levels of government and key stakeholders
- Providing Special Interest Groups for people to network, share best practice and learn about new developments
- Celebrate excellence in the sector through award programs.

LGPro is part of the Local Government Professionals Australia federation with offices in NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, and WA, and a national office in Canberra.

**Officer comments:** The benefits of membership include:
- Advocacy and representation to State and Federal Government from a Local Government perspective
- Opportunity for Council to have training programs delivered ‘in-house’
- Eligibility to participate in the LGPro Sector Secondment Program
- Eligibility to nominate for the Awards for Excellence
- Option of Membership to over thirty Special Interest Groups (SIG) (Age & Disability Services, Corporate Planners Network, Governance, Human Resources, Statutory Services, etc.)

CoPP officers participate in several SIGs that are well regarded as a source of information and collaboration across councils. For example, CoPP officers are active in the Governance SIG, which has considered the new Local Government Bill (likely to be reintroduced by the Victorian Government). The Governance SIG will allow coordinated development of new compliance documents required under the Bill.

LGPro advocacy efforts are currently focused on promoting women in senior LG roles and supporting council officers who are frequently subjected to abuse and sometimes assault while carrying out duties, such as local laws, animal control and parking officers.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Mainstreets Australia

**Brief Description:** Voice for traditional retail strips—main streets.

**Annual fee:** $550  **Next Payment date:** June 2019

**Background / Purpose:** Mainstreets Australia was established to provide a forum for information exchange, networking, advocacy and professional development for the people, businesses and projects in Australia’s traditional main streets and town centres.

Mainstreet Australia organises and facilitates:

- Annual Victorian Conference
- Main street Australia Awards every 2 years
- National Mainstreet Conference – every 2 years
- Professional development workshops
- Networking events
- Regular industry newsletters and email communications

In addition, Mainstreet Australia:

- Advocates to Government on the needs and aspirations of main street communities and businesses,
- Provides information, advice and support to main street businesses, associations and Councils regarding collective management and marketing of main streets,
- Promotes and supports main streets and builds the capacity of individuals and organisations.

**Officer comments:** Membership provides staff discounts to training, conferences and access to resources including guides and templates. Council CEO was guest speaker at national conference in October 2017, other officers attended. The next Victorian Conference is in March 2019.

Council became a member following a request from the local traders’ associations.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Metro Transport Forum

**Brief Description:** Advocacy group of Melbourne metropolitan local governments, associate members representing transport companies, participants from the State Government and environment groups.

**Annual fee:** $1,500  **Next Payment date:** July 2019

**Background / Purpose:** The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) is a local government interest group for transport in metropolitan Melbourne. It was established over 20 years ago.

Twenty-five metropolitan local governments are members. Each nominates a councillor and officer delegate. There are also twelve associate members from across the transport sector.

The MTF works towards effective, efficient and equitable transport in metropolitan Melbourne by providing a forum for debate, research and policy development, and sharing and disseminating information.

The MTF meets monthly to discuss transport topics of interest, distributes information across the sector, hosts events, makes submissions to government and conducts research to better inform policy. In addition, the MTF engages with state government agencies to represent local government, establish partnerships and improve project delivery.

**Officer comments:** MTF meetings provide access to State Government and private sector representatives. In 2018 notable speakers included Gillian Miles, (former) Head of Transport for Victoria, Michel Masson, CEO of Infrastructure Victoria and Monica Morona, Head of Public Affairs at MoBike.

According to the MTF website, the last project undertaken and completed was in 2016, it was a report titled: *MTF Level Crossing Removals - Learnings for Local Government*. The last MTF submission to State Government was directed at the 2013/14 State Budget and the last media release was in 2011.

With financial and officer support from CoPP, MTF hosted a State Election Transport Forum for the electorate of Albert Park in September 2018.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership.
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)

**Brief Description:** Legislated peak body for councils in Victoria

**Annual fee:** $79,400 **Next Payment date:** July 2019

**Background / Purpose:** The MAV was established in 1879 to protect and promote the democratic status, autonomy and efficient carrying out of local government. In 1907 the Municipal Association Act officially recognising the MAV as the voice for local government in Victoria. MAV is the Victorian listed member of the Australian Local Government Association.

The role of MAV is to:
- represent and advocate for local government interests
- build the capacity of Victorian councils
- facilitate effective networks
- initiate policy development and advice
- support councillors
- promote the role of local government.

MAV services include:
- specialist policy advice and information
- councillor development opportunities
- insurance protection including risk, legal and claims advice
- workers’ compensation scheme
- sector development
- CEO performance appraisal and recruitment advice
- governance support
- collaborative procurement.

The current MAV Strategic Work Plan (2017-19) identifies four key objectives:
1. Help councils achieve financial sustainability
2. Improve the reputation of local government
3. Increase sector productivity and efficiency
4. Increase innovation and collaboration.

**Officer comments:** Council sought MAV State Council support for action on issues including Health of the Bay, Dockless Share Bikes and Melbourne Metro 2.

In addition to Council’s MAV membership there are four fee based subscriptions; MAV Technology Group, Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) and Electronic Content Management (ECM) Step Program. The level of the MAV membership fee and some MAV subscriptions is set based on Council’s income from rates.

The MAV Technology Group, ($58,000 per annum), was established in 2004 with local government IT, digital and business transformation practitioners. 77 of Victoria’s 79 councils are members. Membership provides access to collaborative procurement opportunities and an online forum for discussion and idea sharing (a Yammer network). The Group hosts an annual conference and awards.
night to encourage and recognize innovation in ICT. Council uses alternative procurement portals and the forums are under-utilized.

**Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE),** ($6,000 annually), involves 26 Victorian councils committed “to the creation of a sustainable built environment within and beyond their municipalities”. CASBE applies Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system and undertakes joint projects and advocacy to support this initiative. CASBE support the implementation of member councils’ ESD Policy, processes and assessment tools.

A key achievement of CASBE is the development of the *Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process* (SDAPP) framework providing a streamlined and consistent methodology to request, receive and assess built environment sustainability outcomes through the planning process. CoPP implements the SDAPP framework to achieve more sustainable outcomes from the built environment.

The Act & Adapt Strategy includes operational and strategic actions to improve ESD outcomes in new developments, including investigating policy changes to increase vegetation, storm water management and permeability which will benefit from CASBE support.

The **Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool,** ($7,500 annually) is used by CoPP’s Statutory Planning and Environmental Sustainability departments as part of Council’s assessment of planning permit applications. The web-based BESS tool enables permit applicants to demonstrate how their proposed new buildings or alterations address sustainability criteria in the Planning Scheme, including energy and water efficiency, thermal comfort, and overall environmental sustainability. BESS covers all major sustainable design categories and can assess any building type (replacing the historic need for multiple tools). CoPP Officers contributed to the development of BESS through CASBE.

CoPP is on CASBE’s Steering Committee and the BESS Governance Board allowing CoPP to influence the development and application of sector standards. Officers in the Statutory Planning and Environmental Sustainability departments consider both CASBE and BESS of strategic and operational value to Council.

The **Local Government Information Governance Group,** ($3,200 per annum), supports council’s management of electronic content and promotes more digital business within local government. There are joint projects, advocacy, capacity and capability building programs. 64 Victorian Councils and 2 Water Authorities are subscribers. In 2013, the Group finalised a Business Classification Scheme providing a common language for documents, systems and processes. CoPP is on the ECM Committee which will consider necessary changes if the Local Government Bill is enacted.

The ECM Committee assists MAV in identifying policy changes. For example, the MAV sought legal advice on behalf of the Group on the Building Act requirement that records be maintained in original form, therefore preventing the scanning and destruction of records.

Officers see value in maintaining the subscription.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to maintain its membership of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), but does not renew its subscription to the MAV Technology Group.
Place Leaders Asia Pacific

**Brief Description:** Not-for-profit member organisation promotes leadership among place makers working in Australasia and the Asia-Pacific region. Offers training courses and seminars.

**Annual fee:** $4,500  
**Next Payment date:** 30 June 2019

**Background / Purpose:** Established in 2004, Place Leaders Asia-Pacific aims to ‘recognise leadership, foster global alliances and promote knowledge exchange for the creation and stewardship of successful public places throughout our region’.

Benefits of Membership to Place Leaders include:

- Place Leaders Networking, Events and Knowledge Base
- Participation in Place Leaders Asia Pacific Award Program
- Education
- Marketing, Communication and Sponsorship
- Working Groups and Committees

**Officer comments:** Limited current alignment with / contribution to delivery of Council priorities. Acting Manager of Place and Design recently spoke at a conference in Sydney.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to not renew its membership.
Resilient Melbourne

Brief Description: A City of Melbourne initiative, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, that forms strategies to help cities meet the physical, social and economic challenges of the 21st century.

Annual fee: $15,000  Next Payment date: 30 June 2019

Background / Purpose: Resilient Melbourne (RM) is sponsored by the City of Melbourne in collaboration with other Greater Melbourne councils and associated partners. The project is led by the Chief Resilience Officer who has been funded by the 100 Resilient Cities initiative (Rockefeller Foundation). The City of Melbourne provides the project team and additional investment.

RM exists to ‘embed resilience practice across Melbourne’s various levels of government, in ways that resonate with the communities’. RM coordinates the implementation of actions in the Resilient Melbourne strategy. Melbourne’s first resilience strategy was endorsed by the City of Melbourne’s Future Melbourne Committee on 17 May 2016.

Officer comments: The direct contribution of RM to the delivery of Council priorities is minimal.

Many of the RM actions/projects (that align with CoPP priorities) overlap work undertaken by other groups who are more directly involved.

RM duplicates successful projects across Victorian Councils, benefiting councils who are not at the forefront of ‘resilient’ development and practices. For example, the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP) driven by the Cities of Melbourne, Moreland, Yarra and Port Phillip, is now being used as a pilot for Resilient Melbourne’s Local Government Renewables Group Purchasing Project. The MREP project set up a partnership of organisations that will source electricity from a wind farm being built in regional Victoria.

Some projects led by RM could contribute to Council priorities. For example, the Metro Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy which focuses on protecting and increasing canopy and vegetation overage, promoting biodiversity and financing and funding to increase the urban forest. The deliverables of this Strategy could contribute to actions in Council’s Act and Adapt Strategy. One outcome of this strategy was to produce maps for each municipality, however licencing issues have meant that, at least in the short-term, these maps will not be made available to councils. (Note: DELWP have recently released maps that serve a similar function as those developed by RM).

Recommendation: That Council resolves to not renew its membership.
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance

**Brief Description:** One of eight regional alliances across Victoria, with nine councils in Melbourne's south-east focused on a regional response to climate change.

**Annual fee:** $21,500 (likely to increase)  
**Next Payment date:** 21 Aug 2019

**Background / Purpose:** The nine councils are Port Phillip, Kingston, Bayside, Casey, Cardinia, Dandenong, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Bass Coast & Baw Baw Shire.

**South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) offers:**

- Projects relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Collaborative advocacy to state and federal government and agencies
- Management of collaborative grant funding applications to benefit members

**Officer comments:** SECCA is developing and implementing a five-year plan to undertake strategic, regional, transformational projects. CoPP has recently become a member of the SECCA business development sub-committee.

The draft five-year plan details project which could contribute to the delivery of the Act and Adapt Strategy, many will require additional Council investment and will need to be assessed once more detail is available. These include:

**Included in membership fees**

- Advocate for access to household energy meter data – contributes to Action 7 of Act & Adapt, delivery of the Sustainable City Community Action Plan
- Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Matrix - assessment tool to influence design, material procurement and construction of Council buildings – Actions 9, 14 & 26 of Act & Adapt
- Contribute to Port Phillip region Climate Change Adaptation gap Analysis and Priority Setting, led by DELWP - Action 26 of Act & Adapt
- Develop a guide for building managers to convert gas to electric - Action 14 of Act & Adapt
- Green leasing - understanding of the status, barriers and drivers to including green leasing of council properties – Action 12 in Act & Adapt

**Additional contributions required**

- Eco Driver & Eco Driver Electric training – contributes to Council’s energy consumption & GHG goals, Action 8 of Act & Adapt and delivery of Fleet Strategy
- Asset vulnerability assessment – develop a web based platform which will enable councils to undertake vulnerability assessments of their assets based on asset type and climate risk - contributes to Action 26 of Act & Adapt
- Financial vulnerability assessment - assess the likely impact of climate change on councils’ services and income streams - contributes to Action 26 of Act & Adapt

The draft plan also includes the potential for non-members to access projects on a user-pays basis. A 20% premium for each project is being considered.
Since joining in June 2016, SECCA have delivered the following subscription and grant-funded projects:

- Residential efficiency scorecard & workshops – audits focussed on energy efficiency improvements for apartment dwellers, focusing on vulnerable community members
- Reviewed Council’s Health & Wellbeing Plan
- Engaged an expert to present on climate change governance, financial risk and financing opportunities
- Lead advocacy to Senate Inquiry on the current and future impact of climate change on housing, buildings and infrastructure. SECCA were invited to provide a submission to the inquiry. This invitation was not extended to individual Councils.
- Council contributed $7,500 to conduct a feasibility study for a Power Purchase Agreement (like MREP). In Port Phillip, this would focus on commercial properties and apartments – contributes to Action 18 of Act & Adapt

Continuing Council’s involvement in SECCA provides officers an opportunity to further align SECCA’s (final) five-year plan with actions and goals in Council’s Act and Adapt Strategy. Once the five-year plan is finalised, Council could reassess its involvement.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolve:

A. to maintain its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) membership, or

B. to defer its decision on its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) membership and request officers investigate alternative strategic membership organisations, which support Council’s position on climate change and contribute to Council’s climate change priorities, or

C. to not renew its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) membership.
Victoria Chamber of Commerce & Industry

**Brief Description:** Peak body for business in Victoria.

**Annual fee:** $6,200  
**Next Payment date:** TBA

**Background / Purpose:** The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) is the peak body for business in Victoria, more than 15,000 members, customers and clients around the State.

Advocacy campaigns centre on gains for Victorian business in areas including workplace relations, taxation, regulation, infrastructure and skills.

VCCI is a registered training organisation offering accredited courses, onsite training and briefings.

**Officer comments:** Membership provides discounted consulting, training and advice on industrial relations, human resources, OHS and equal opportunity issues.

Currently there is limited alignment between the VCCI policy and advocacy priorities and Council priorities. In the lead up to the 2018 State Election, the Victorian Chamber highlighted ten priorities ‘to keep business competitive and keep Victoria growing’. Of relevance to CoPP was ‘the delivery of key infrastructure projects’, including Melbourne Metro 2, and the development of a ‘Port Phillip Bay Plan 2050’, to examine opportunities to develop new shared commercial, recreational, event and tourism uses for the Bay into the future. Neither of these priorities were committed to by Labor, who formed the Victorian Government, although they continue to be VCCI priorities.

Tourism data received from VCCI is used for reporting purposes in the Council Plan. If Council does not renew its membership, this data will need to be sought directly from the Victoria Tourism Industry Council for $825.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves to not renew its membership.
Victorian Local Government Association

**Brief Description:** support Councils, Councillors and Communities in Good Governance.

**Annual fee:** $28,500  
**Next Payment date:** 3 April 2019

**Background / Purpose:** The organisation’s vision is that Victorian communities are inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, characterised by strong leadership and effective local governance.

In 2018 the VLGA launched a 5-year strategic plan that outlines four objectives:

- Advocacy and Policy - Protect, advance and advocate for the importance of the role of effective local government
- Local Government Support - Support and assist councillors to do their job well
- Good Governance Leadership - Provide resources, information, and education and undertake projects to support good governance and leadership
- Healthy and Sustainable Organisation - Be a sustainable, focused and values driven

The VLGA aims to protect, advance and advocate for the importance of the role of effective local government and continue to support and assist councillors to do their job.

**Officer comments:** In the 2017/18 Annual Report, the CEO stated that the VLGA had been ‘through a time of review, renewal and consolidation’.

While VLGA doesn’t publicise its membership, of the 79 Victorian councils, 19 were included in the November 2017 VLGA annual general meeting minutes (note: November 2018 meeting minutes are yet to be released). They were; Bass Coast Shire, Cardinia Shire, Banyule, Boroondara, Darebin, Greater Dandenong, Monash, Port Phillip, Wyndham, Yarra, Hobsons Bay, Manningham, Mansfield Shire, Maribyrnong, Mitchell Shire, Moonee Valley City, Moreland City, Surf Coast Shire and Whitehorse City.

A member council must give 6 months’ notice of its intention to resign.

VLGA members receive discounted training and event tickets, for example the Annual Mayors & Deputy Mayors FastTrack Leadership Program is $800 + GST for VLGA Members and $1,200 + GST for non-members.

There is limited direct alignment with Council priorities, however VLGA continue to advocate broadly on behalf Local Government, and made several submissions in 2017/18, including to the Local Government Bill and Planning and Environment Committee Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy.

**Recommendation:** That Council resolves:

A. to maintain its Victorian Local Government Association membership, or
B. to not renew its Victorian Local Government Association membership.