



# City of Port Phillip Membership Review 2022



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# Australian Network on Disability

The Australian Network on Disability (AND) brings together the experience and knowledge of hundreds of Australia's leading organisations who include people with disability as their employees and customers.

## About

### Membership:

The Australian Network on Disability's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic direction. There are three office bearers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and up to ten members of the committee.

### Area of expertise/priorities:

The Australian Network on Disability assists employers such as the City of Port Phillip in the following areas:

- Building knowledge and skills to create an accessible and inclusive workplace
- networking and connections across the sector

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

- Access and Inclusion Index: The AND have create an Access and Inclusion Index tool to help measure organisation's access and inclusion journey.
- Round Tables: The membership allows officers to participate in AND Roundtables are member sessions that cover important topics related to disability, accessibility, recruitment, employment and more. These events allow the AND network to network and discuss progress and challenges regarding disability inclusion in the workplace.
- Network of Champions: The General Manager of Community Wellbeing and Inclusion has been part of a network of champions (senior leaders in organisations), with opportunity to attend champion only forums.

### Staff Development and Training

Bronze membership provides a member rate for services such as disability confidence awareness training.

The Membership also provides opportunity for staff to stay up to date with contemporary developments and professional practice in relation to employment

of people with disability. This includes access to regular webinars.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan:

Inclusive Port Phillip: a city that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.

We will provide:

- delivery of services and programs that support inclusive and accessible activities including people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and people with disability.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$1,470 excl. GST
- Next Payment (22/23): \$1,470 excl. GST (anticipated fee for bronze level membership)
- Annual Officer Hours: ~15 hours

## Plans for 2022-23

The Australian Network on Disability will continue to provide sector-wide support to assist organisations with disability inclusion. This includes hosting at (online) network forums and roundtables, the next being scheduled in Melbourne on September 22. Council officers have indicated an intention to engage the Australian Network on Disability to facilitate disability confidence awareness sessions for council staff.

## More information

Website: [www.and.org.au](http://www.and.org.au)

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership to the Australian Network on Disability.

The membership for a small cost, enables council officers to stay up to date on professional and contemporary practice in disability inclusion in the workplace.

# Association of Bayside Municipalities

The Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) is "the voice of local government for Port Phillip Bay". The councils of the ABM work together to advocate on priority issues, share knowledge and directly influence regional and State programs and investment in the planning and management of the Bay.

## About

### Membership

The ABM is composed of all 10 councils situated on Port Phillip Bay, the Cities of Bayside, Frankston, Geelong, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula, Queenscliffe, Wyndham and Port Phillip.

The Association consists of appointed representatives of Member Councils, including one Councillor and nominated Council Officers.

Cr Tim Baxter (alt rep Cr Heather Cunsolo) and the Coordinator for Foreshore, David Hehir, represent the City of Port Phillip.

No other Council membership organisation focuses exclusively on issues and opportunities relevant to local governments situated on the Bay.

### Area of expertise/priorities

The Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) is an unincorporated association of the councils that have frontage to, and are affected by, the tidal influences of Port Phillip Bay.

The ABM currently operates under the auspices of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and is recognised as the key representative of local government in relation to the health and sustainable management 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 and leadership in coastal planning and practice.
- integrated, whole-of-bay outcomes for Port Phillip Bay.

In December 2021, Councillors met to develop a new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 that reflects the priority marine and coastal issues and opportunities for Member Councils. Priorities are:

- ecosystem protection – ecology and vegetation

- Traditional Owner engagement – cultural heritage protection
- coastal climate adaptation
- coastal assets – maintenance and management
- access and use | safety and amenity – foreshore and marine
- investment and funding.

A copy of the Strategic Plan has been provided to Council.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

ABM has undertaken a range of advocacy and projects this past year, including the CoastSnap Port Phillip Bay project. It has also redeveloped online resources.

#### Projects: CoastSnap – Port Phillip Bay Project

In partnership with the University of Melbourne, and funded through the Port Phillip Bay fund, ABM installed CoastSnap sites around the Bay, using \ citizen science as part of beach monitoring. This collection of community-led images will provide a record of the coastline as it evolves. The technology behind CoastSnap is capable of creating time-lapse videos and tracking the precise changes in the position of the coastline over time.

#### ABM website – new Members Portal

A budget allocation and priority for 2021-2022 was the redevelopment of the ABM website, including establishing a Members Portal. The new website provides a one-stop-shop for Member Councils, with access to current news, events and projects. The Members Portal also provides access to ABM's submissions, meeting minutes and summary reports from events. The website was launched in May.

#### Advocacy

ABM has made several submissions in partnership with all Member Councils, including the City of Port Phillip. These include:

- Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy submission

- Coastal and Marine Management Plan Guidelines submission
- Victorian Marine and Coast Strategy submission
- Draft position statement (in preparation) 2022 Victorian Election Advocacy Priorities.

### Staff Development and Training

ABM events offer Councillors and Officers professional development, knowledge sharing and capacity building opportunities. ABM has hosted several events in 2021-22 that have focused on key issues and opportunities for councils, including knowledge sharing with NSW and QLD councils about coastal climate risk management and adaptation.

City of Port Phillip Councillors and/or Officers attended nine of the 10 events.

Forums/Workshops held:

- Forum: Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy, Better Boating Victoria
- Briefing: Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy
- Forum: Coastal hazard adaptation and engagement – lessons learned from Noosa, QLD
- Forum: Improving the capacity of councils to adapt to coastal climate change – insights from the Whitsunday Coastal Councils Adaptation Taskforce (QLD)
- Event: Councillor Welcome (Induction) – boat trip
- Workshop: Victorian Marine and coastal strategy – local government response
- Workshop: ABM strategic planning forum
- Forum: Summer preparedness in Port Phillip Bay
- Workshop: VAGO Coastal Asset Protection Review
- Forum: Victoria's Resilient Coast Grant Program
- Forum: ABM Update

### Other Benefits

The ABM's targeted focus, specialised knowledge and skills all add to Council's understanding of the issues impacting its own municipality, coastline, and part of the Bay.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Sustainable Port Phillip: A City that has a sustainable future, where our environmentally aware and active community benefits from living in a bayside city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate resilient.

We will provide

- projects to support sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation as outlined

in the 'Act and Adapt Strategy' priorities within available budgets each year.

We will partner with

- the Victorian and Australian Governments to understand the risks of climate change and develop a long-term strategic response to adapt and protect the coastline of Port Phillip Bay
- other councils, Victorian Government departments and a range of other stakeholders to maximise our combined efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

Liveable Port Phillip: A City that is a great place to live, where our community has access to high quality public space, development and growth are well-managed, and it is safer and easy to connect and travel within.

We will provide

- an ongoing program of upgrades to foreshore infrastructure, marine assets, and public toilets to maintain, improve and expand these important community assets for future generations
- programs to ensure our foreshore, high-streets and public spaces are safer and cleaner including during times of higher visitation, particularly over summer.

We will partner with

- the Victorian Government, Parks Victoria and other key stakeholders to maintain and enhance all 11 km of foreshore for the benefit and active use by all Victorians.

### Act and Adapt – Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-28

A City that is adapting and resilient to climate change:

- Action 27. Assess recommendations from the State-led Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and develop an implementation strategy and action plan to help protect the City of Port Phillip against sea level rise and inundation
- Action 28. Develop concept design of blue-green infrastructure that protects against flooding and sea level rise and enhances the natural environment.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$10,115 (ex. GST)
- Next Payment (22/23): TBD (ABM Executive Committee is meeting before June to determine 2022/2023 Membership Fees). Fees have remained at \$10,115 for the past five years without increase, with the Association managing a small but effective operational

budget. Invoices will be sent to Council in June 2022

- Annual Officer Hours: ~ 50 hours

## Plans for 2022–23

ABM Strategic Priorities 2022–2025 include advocacy and submissions to government to ensure the needs and concerns of local government are heard and addressed.

Below is a snapshot of some of the ABM's areas of focus:

- ecosystem protection: coordinate advocacy, information sharing and resources to support action on foreshore vegetation / tree loss, illegal removal, monitoring and enforcement. Build capacity to implement nature-based solutions, including partnership projects to support a suite of case studies in the bay
- Traditional Owner engagement / cultural heritage protection: coordinate two-way capacity building to support relationship building between Traditional Owner Groups and Council. Establish partnership projects to support improved cultural heritage assessment, protection and management
- Coastal climate adaptation: Support completion and effective dissemination of a Coastal Hazard Assessment for Port Phillip Bay, including communication and community engagement. Advocate for risk assessment and hazard response planning to support the Coastal Hazard Assessment. Facilitate ministerial-led planning scheme amendments / overlays where applicable. Build knowledge and capacity in coastal climate adaptation for Councillors and Officers. Drive improved funding support and co-investment for adaptation planning
- Coastal asset maintenance and management: advocate for urgent action to address current high-risk coastal asset issues associated with degraded, unsafe aging infrastructure, including removal of red tape to respond effectively after extreme events. Collaborate with government agencies to improve support for councils managing key assets e.g., heritage assets, boating/fishing facilities, jetties and piers. Partner with Melbourne Water to establish coastal erosion advice function
- Access and use / safety and amenity: partner with Maritime Safety Victoria and Parks Victoria to improve shared use zoning and safety issues

due to competing use. Continue advocacy to improve personal watercraft (such as jet skis) licensing, education, monitoring and enforcement during summer peak. Work with EPA Victoria and Melbourne Water to improve water quality in the Bay, including monitoring and reporting of Bay health. Partner to support integrated water management and water sensitive urban design in coastal areas and contributing waterways to the Bay (including litter reduction and stormwater management). Coordinate resources and knowledge to support councils to manage pressure and risks on coastal areas at peak times.

- Investment and funding: advocate for funding to support local government coastal climate adaptation planning and implementation. Partner with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to determine beach renourishment priorities including opportunities for natural approaches to renourishment. Advocate for improved funding support for beach cleaning services. Coordinate funding bids and investment opportunities with new and existing partnerships, such as, Coast Care, Port Phillip Bay Fund, Victoria's Resilient Coast. Advocate for urgent funds/ grants to deal with immediate priority issues that are not addressed by existing funding programs. Provide advocacy support for Member Council project proposals aligned to ABM strategic priorities.

## More information

Website: <https://abm.org.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership to the Association of Bayside Municipalities.

The membership saves Council time and resources by sharing project delivery responsibilities. By acting collectively, ABM enhances advocacy outcomes and provides valuable training forums for staff.

If Council withdraws from the ABM, this will result in increased demand for council time and resources as Port Phillip would be working in isolation from all other Councils around the Bay and State agencies. This would also increase project delivery costs and responsibilities, reduce advocacy outcomes, and reduce access to training and support to Council.

# Australian Library and Information Association

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) provides library and public-sector advocacy, training, and development as well as supporting community engagement, learning and participation.

## About

### Membership

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the national peak body for library and information services.

ALIA has over 5000+ members including libraries, information services, library and information professionals, people who work in libraries, industry partners, educators, students and retired members.

The Association is a not-for-profit company, governed by an elected Board of Directors. The 11 Advisory Committees and 40+ special interest groups within the Association enable Members to be closely involved. City of Port Phillip has an organisational membership, rather than supporting any individual memberships.

ALIA is connected across local, state and federal government and also works across departments, for example Education, Health and Regional Development.

### Area of expertise/priorities

ALIA is unique in providing support across all library sectors – public, academic, specialist (for example law and health) and private, individual memberships, with professional development options for library and information workers.

ALIA works across a range of areas, including:

- advocacy: to increase public awareness of the value of libraries and information
- education: working with academics and researchers to ensure that library and information science courses produce graduates equipped for the modern workplace
- literacy: helping people develop the literacy skills they need for school, work and in everyday life
- training and transformation: training to share best and next practice
- reservation: preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and ensuring access to information.

ALIA offers the following services to its members, the library and information sector, and the people who work within it and who use it:

- accreditation of education and practice standards
- professional development through training, conferences and a formal professional development scheme
- advocacy for issues of professional concern at local, national and international levels
- opportunities to develop professional networks through groups and events
- research and publications informing members and the sector
- an awards program to recognise achievement
- public campaigns to promote the value of libraries and library professionals
- a unified voice when advocating for the sector to governments and organisations
- publications to keep up to date – a professional journal, the Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association, INCITE magazine and newsletters.

## 2022 Achievements

ALIA supports and coordinates nationwide campaigns and initiatives including:

- Cyber-safety
- Children's Book Week
- Australian Reading Hour
- National Simultaneous Storytime
- Indigenous health and literacy outcomes
- Public access to information.

Council's involvement includes running events and initiatives.

ALIA has also supported the sector through COVID-19 by providing:

- online resources
- professional development opportunities
- online story time for children in libraries
- advice on COVID-19 related issues, such as book quarantine rules
- disaster planning and support
- recognition of excellence within the sector.

ALIA has commenced a new program focused on professional pathways, which aims to improve the quality of courses for new talent in the library sector as well as building a framework to help members of

the existing professional workforce to enhance their skills. As we have a mix of experienced qualified staff and young people new to the sector, this program is timed ideally to assist Port Phillip.

### Staff Development and Training

ALIA runs staff development workshops, online webinars and skills-based tutorials aimed at up-skilling library staff, particularly in digital skills and online resources.

It offers many training courses for members as well as e-newsletters for professional development and up-to-date resources. Approximately 15-20 council staff attend ALIA training/professional development each year.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan:

Vibrant Port Phillip: A City that has a flourishing economy, where our community and local businesses thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne's cultural and creative hubs. The importance of action in this area is emphasised by Council declaring an Economic Emergency in 2020.

We will provide:

- high-quality library spaces and collection services that provide opportunities for people to connect and learn, and deliver on key actions outlined in the Library Action Plan
- programs, services and spaces that promote community participation and engagement in arts, culture and heritage.

### City of Port Phillip Library Action Plan 2021 -2026

Belong: Help people to participate in Port Phillip life, with a focus on the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We will provide:

- new partnerships and exploration of co-location opportunities with organisations such as public and non-profit agencies, community groups, schools and businesses to increase outreach activities that take the library into the community, with a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable communities and individuals.

Connect: Connect people with each other, services and resources, and the world around them.

We will:

- participate in State-wide library sector resource-sharing initiatives to increase cost efficiency and improve outcomes for our community.

### Cost

- Current payment (21/22): \$1,245 (ex. GST)
- Next payment (22/23): \$1,131.82 (ex. GST) due on 31 August 2022
- Annual Officer Hours: ~55 hours

### Plans for 2022-23

ALIA has a range of annual events and new initiatives planned for 2022-23, including:

- extension of training courses via the ALIA Moodle
- National Simultaneous Storytime
- Library Information Week
- increased exposure for job advertisements in the sector and at its National Conference 2022.
- continued support to Council staff working within the Library and Information Science (LIS) sector and advocacy for recognition of skills and dedication of service
- further development of the Professional Pathways program.

### More information

Website: <https://www.alia.org.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership to the ALIA.

ALIA provides a range of national events for the community, advocacy for the sector and direct support for library staff, including advice and communications.

If Council withdraws from ALIA, our community will lose access to the events described above and Officers would lose access to professional development opportunities. It would also create a disconnect between our library service and the wider profession.

# Committee for Melbourne

The Committee for Melbourne (CfM) is an independent, broad-based member organisation which advocates and undertakes activities to support Melbourne's economy and development.

## About

### Membership

Committee for Melbourne has more than 150 members from Greater Melbourne's business, academic and community sectors to shape Melbourne as a leading global city in the Asia-Pacific. The Cities of Port Phillip and Melbourne are Foundation Members.

The Committee has an elected board (14 members), and focuses on future economy, liveability, urban optimisation, infrastructure and sustainability.

Peter Smith, CEO of City of Port Phillip, is on the Liveability and Urban Optimisation Standing Committee.

The Committee has a broad membership base and brings together stakeholders to progress council priorities.

### Area of expertise/priorities

The Committee for Melbourne contributes to a range of public policy discussions on Greater Melbourne's future economy, liveability, infrastructure and urban optimisation consistent with the purpose of Shaping a Better Future for Melbourne.

CfM works across three policy areas - Liveability and Urban Optimisation, Future Economy and Infrastructure and Sustainability.

Since its inception, the Committee has advocated to the Victorian and Australian Governments on a range of projects relating to the City of Port Phillip, including

- improved planning for Fishermans Bend
- the internationalisation of Melbourne Airport
- the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, Western Bypass and Citylink projects
- the establishment of Infrastructure Victoria report to Parliament
- Integrated transport, housing mix and a greater focus on suburban Melbourne planning.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

### Advocacy:

Examples of advocacy work undertaken by CfM in 2021-22 that align with City of Port Phillip advocacy priorities include:

- **Transport:** CfM called for the design and implementation of a comprehensive, integrated transport plan that incorporates land use and economic development planning
- **Housing:** In its Delivering Affordable Housing report, the Committee developed recommendations for increasing the supply of a mix of housing. The Liveability and Urban Optimisation Standing Committee continues to advocate for housing targets and policies to address supply of a mix of housing - and looks forward to the release of the Victorian Government's 10-year Social and Affordable Housing Strategy.
- **Climate change and energy:** CfM recently called for greater emissions reduction ambition to 2030 and the implementation of a national energy plan. CfM also advocates for initiatives such as zero emissions vehicles, renewables and transition away from gas.

### Road to Recovery:

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CfM developed a Road to Recovery Taskforce and Strategy. Under its Road to Recovery Taskforce, the Committee advocated for and published on several initiatives that supported the City of Port Phillip, including:

- visitor economy, international students and arts and culture forums with published recommendations to government for all these critical sectors for our economy and standing
- acceleration of the development of Fishermans Bend
- a call for an Integrated Transport Plan for Greater Melbourne.

### Benchmarking Melbourne Report

The CfM produced its first Benchmarking Melbourne Report, which measures Melbourne's all-round performance against 20 peer cities. The report highlights the need for greater collaboration between business, institutions, government, entrepreneurs and residents to ensure a Greater Melbourne with a Greater Future.

## Staff Development and Training

The City of Port Phillip currently has 48 active staff/council members on the CfM membership database with 19 subscribed to the fortnightly Committee Communique newsletter and 36 receiving event invitations.

The Committee offers multiple areas for engagement for members including 50+ events and forums for City of Port Phillip Staff and Councillors including:

- Fishermans Bend
- e-scooters
- Electric vehicles
- Meeting Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg
- Meeting Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas.

The City of Port Phillip has been featured in the CfM Industry Communique and received CfM social media coverage of its placemaking and place management activities.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Well-Governed Port Phillip: A City that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

We will partner with:

- educational institutions, start-ups, business, other councils and not-for-profits to provide access to and make best use of Council's data, develop innovative ways to deliver services and to support our Clever Port Phillip Action Plan.

We will facilitate and advocate for:

- other levels of government to recognise and be mindful of the impact on local government when making policy and legislative changes.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$7,500. This was the result of a 50 per cent reduced fee Foundation Membership offered to introduce Councillors to CfM and assist engage with CfM events over the budget year.
- Next Payment (22/23): CfM has two council memberships tiers: Foundation Membership (\$16,000 plus GST); Corporate Membership (\$8,000). The City of Port Phillip and the City of Melbourne are Foundation Members, while councils such as City of Greater Dandenong and Hume City Council are Corporate Members. The annual fee is due 30 days post-June 30.
- Annual Officer Hours: ~120 hours

## Plans for 2022-23

The CfM will continue to advocate on key priorities identified via its various standing committees, including:

Standing Committee on Liveability and Urban Optimisation – CEO of City of Port Phillip, Peter Smith, is an adviser on this Standing Committee:

- A city that leads in the experience economy including arts, culture, events and a visitor economy
- A city that is inclusive, diverse and supportive of people and the community and also has the foundations for equity
- A city with a strong brand, image and influence
- A city where social and affordable housing strategies are clear.

Standing Committee on Future Economy:

- A future-proof city which effectively manages health and economic challenges concurrently
- An innovative and productive city where investment, productivity, supply chain resilience and entrepreneurialism thrive

Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Sustainability:

- A connected city underpinned by an integrated transport plan that includes land use and economic development planning, effective and efficient digital connectivity and an infrastructure spending plan that includes social infrastructure such as housing
- A city where freight and people can move efficiently and effectively
- A city that delivers positive environmental outcomes for future generations
- A city that is a smart city and a leader in technology

The CfM has upcoming events scheduled including meeting federal and Victorian ministers, shadow ministers and members and discussing housing affordability, underground infrastructure, place making and AI.

### More information

Website: <https://melbourne.org.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership to the CfM. The CfM runs a range of advocacy campaigns, events and training of interest to Council Officers. In 2021-22, Councillor and officer engagement with the CfM has risen.

The advocacy opportunities that CfM presents to support Council advocacy opportunities during a Victorian election year are desirable.

# Green Building Council of Australia

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is a national authority on sustainable buildings, communities and cities, with links to the World Green Building Council. It provides advice and direction to the development industry through Green Star assessment tools.

## About

### Membership

Membership consists of over 600 organisations across Australia. GBCA has 29 local government members, representing 26 per cent of Australia's population as well as 23 Victorian government departments and land organisations. Members also include private companies, small enterprises, universities, property developers, planners, architects and engineers. At City of Port Phillip, the membership is used by Council Officers within our City Planning and Sustainability team.

The diversity of membership provides a national platform for industry professionals to work together to improve sustainability outcomes in built form.

### Area of expertise/priorities

GBCA plays a key role educating industry and government, promoting green building programs and practices and advocating for policies and programs that support sustainable design outcomes.

The GBCA is the only organisation in Australia offering Green Star certification. The certification rates the sustainability of buildings, fit outs and communities. Members receive a discount of up to \$5,000 off the certification fee per project.

The Green Building Council of Australia leads the sustainable transformation of the built environment through the following actions:

- rating the sustainability of buildings, fit-outs and communities through Australia's largest national, voluntary, holistic rating system – Green Star.
- educating industry, government practitioners and decision-makers, and promoting green building programs, technologies, design practices and operations
- advocating for policies and programs that support our vision and purpose.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

There are currently two projects underway within the City of Port Phillip that will undergo Green Star certification.

- GS-5562DA St Kilda EcoCentre – registered
- GS-4684I St Kilda Town Hall – registration process is underway

With membership, current Green Star registrations will receive a \$5000 discount per registration.

### Staff Development and Training

Council's membership allows Council Officers access to tools, support and education that supports sustainable design outcomes in construction projects and to improve outcomes in new developments in the city through the planning process.

As part of the membership, members have access to the following training and development opportunities:

#### Engagement

- member briefings and industry updates
- member relevant courses and training activities
- member social networking functions and events
- introductions to global GBCs, providing an international approach to sustainable building practices.

#### Green Star

- technical workshops for projects (+\$10m)
- ability to nominate Green Star certified assessors
- Option to nominate representatives for advisory groups and reference panels
- free submission guidelines
- Six City of Port Phillip employees have attended courses and events in 2021-22.

### Other Benefits

Council Officers are required to maintain knowledge of Green Star rating tools and requirements to assess planning applications and engage with developers to influence the sustainable design of new developments in Fishermans Bend. Council's membership of GBCA enables a discount of up to \$250 per person on GBCA course registrations.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Sustainable Port Phillip: A city that has a sustainable future, where our environmentally aware and active community benefits from living in a bayside city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate resilient. The importance of action in this area is emphasised by Council declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019.

We will provide:

- investment in upgrades to Council properties and streetlights to improve their quality and energy efficiency as well as reducing emissions and utility costs for Council
- projects to support sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation as outlined in the 'Act and Adapt Strategy', prioritised within available budgets each year.

We will partner with:

- other inner Melbourne councils to explore options that may facilitate greater access and awareness of renewable energy options for renters, apartment dwellers and businesses in our municipality (subject to feasibility assessment)
- other councils and the Victorian Government to strengthen requirements for new developments to improve sustainability outcomes, reduce emissions, increase vegetation, better manage water and waste and adapt to climate change
- with other councils, Victorian Government departments and a range of other stakeholders to maximise our combined efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

### Act and Adapt, Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-28:

A greener, cooler, more liveable City:

- Action 6. Encourage and enforce sustainable, climate resilient buildings through the planning process by applying environmentally

sustainable design planning policy guidelines and by providing clear, accessible information to the community

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$2,450.00 (ex. GST)
- Next Payment (22/23): \$2,550.00 (ex. GST)
- Annual Officer Hours: ~50 hours

### Plans for 2022-23

GBCA plans to engage with councils about how to best implement Green Star at the inception stage in their local areas. GBCA is also working on the Green Star for Communities tool to align with current strategic trends and global trends.

### More information

Website: <https://new.gbca.org.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership to the GBCA.

The GBCA provides training and advocacy and is the only Australian organisation providing Green Star certification that rates the sustainability of buildings and communities. This is particularly important to Fishermans Bend, where new developments are required to achieve a minimum Green Star rating.

The membership also saves councils on Green Star certification, including projects such as the EcoCentre and St Kilda Town Hall.

If Council withdrew from GBCA, staff would lose access to the training and development opportunities, and full price must be paid for any projects requiring Green Star Certification.

# Inner Metro Partnership

The Inner Metro Partnership (IMP) is a local advisory group established by the Victorian Government to engage with councils and local community.

## About

### Membership

IMP membership includes nine local community and business representatives, the CEOs of the Cities of Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip and a senior Victorian Government executive.

The Inner Metro Partnership is administrated by members of the Office of Suburban Development. The IMP also manages the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund (MPDF), which provides Victorian Government funding for projects across IMP municipalities. The Inner Metropolitan Partnership is in its second term, with the current membership appointed in August 2021.

Melbourne's Inner Metropolitan Region extends from the Flemington Racecourse and Kensington to the coastline of Port Phillip Bay at Port Melbourne and St Kilda. The Partnership is unique in that it was established by the Victorian Government (Office of Sustainable Development) and has Victorian Government representation

### Area of expertise/priorities

The Inner Metropolitan Partnership is an advisory group established by the Victorian Government. The Partnership is a way for local communities to engage directly with the Victorian and local governments and advise the Victorian Government, including the Minister for Sustainable Development, of the top priorities across the region. This advice ensures a community voice in government decision-making.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

#### Funded Port Phillip Summer Sessions

IMP provided, via the MPDF, \$95,000 for the City of Port Phillip Summer Sessions project, which focused on activating public spaces and creating precinct-based placemaking activities in key activity centres in the city to support creative industries and economic and social recovery from COVID-19. Over the summer months, the City of Port Phillip was able to organise 30+ activations to support local retail hubs in St Kilda, Ripponlea and South Melbourne.

#### Organised Events and Engagements

Council Officers have attended Partnership working groups to scope out future projects for funding

regional priorities as well as attending flagship engagement events focused on the Inner Metro region's recovery from the pandemic.

For example, the Partnership held three online engagements to address key issues facing all Melburnians:

- Melbourne and the suburbs: Recovery, resilience, and our re-imagined future
- Jobs and skills: Emerging economies and pathways to employment for young and old
- Inclusive and diverse communities: Learning and supporting social cohesion.

More ore about these engagements, and recordings of the panel discussions, are on the 2021 [Flagship Engagements webpage](#).

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Well-Governed Port Phillip: A city that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

We will partner with

- other inner metropolitan Melbourne councils to share best practice, knowledge and to identify opportunities to adopt common policies and practices to provide consistency
- other councils, the Victorian Government and other entities to share better practices in procurement and contract management and to collaborate on major procurements to achieve best value.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): NA – the IMP does not have a membership fee.
- Next Payment (22/23): NA – the IMP does not have a membership fee.
- Annual Officer Hours: ~100 hours

### Plans for 2022-23

IMP will continue to operate a collaborative forum that provides advice to Minister for Suburban Development on local priorities.

The Inner Metropolitan Partnership will again deliver projects under the MPDF to address regional priorities and provide advice to government. Council has a role in scoping and voting on these

potential projects, with the likelihood of Council delivering one or more. Members also provide formal advice to Government about the region's needs and priorities, through the Minister for Suburban Development.

### **More information**

Website:

<https://www.suburbandevlopment.vic.gov.au/metropolitan-partnerships/inner-metro-partnership>

### **Recommendation**

That Council resolves to maintain its membership of the Inner Metropolitan Partnership.

The IMP offers a unique opportunity to work directly with the Victorian Government and local community leaders. Participation also provides the opportunity to submit projects for consideration for funding by the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund.

Council's position on IMP is a standing position. Withdrawing would mean no access to MPDF funding or benefitting from the relationships and engagement to community leaders and the Office of Suburban Development.

# LGPro

LGPro is the peak body for local government professionals in Victoria.

## About

### Membership

LGPro is a member association for people working in local government.

LGPro has two tiers of membership, a Council Subscription and individual membership for people working in local government.

The LGPro Board comprises 10 people elected from financial LGPro Fellow, Professional and Young Professional members. The current Board began in December 2020 and will serve until December 2023.

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

Council is a part of other organisations such as the MAV and VLGA which advocate and undertake work in the local government space. However, LGPro provides a unique perspective with its focus on professional development.

### Area of expertise/priorities

LGPro is the only membership that represents local government officer interests at federal and state government levels.

LGPro also provides access to over 30 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to network, share best practice and learn about new developments in areas including communications, arts and culture, biodiversity, customer service and corporate planning. The SIGs also contributed to submissions about new legislation and policies to other levels of government.

LGPro objectives include:

- advocacy on behalf of local government professionals on all professional matters
- representation of local government professionals in Victoria in inter-governmental relations and decision-making and policy direction
- networking and communication among local government professionals
- developing partnership mechanisms which recognise both the separate and combined values, needs and opportunities for policy and program development in strengthened relationships between local government professionals, councillors, councils and related organisations.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

LGPro has continued to advocate on behalf of people working in the sector and their interests while developing a concerted advocacy agenda for the next five-year period linked to the strategic direction of the organisation and the priorities of local government at large.

This includes:

- quarterly meetings with Local Government Minister Shaun Leane, which was used as an advocacy opportunity to extend the Women Building Surveyor Program that saw State support given for female participation in an otherwise male-dominated profession with a skills shortage needing to be filled
- responding to instances of the Victorian Government breaching its duty to consult with local government on issues directly affecting the sector by briefing the Minister on the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement 2014 (VSLGA) which outlines the mutual agreement on respectful consultation
- working with education consultant and community engagement expert Shankar Kasynathan, Amnesty International and the Western Bulldogs in developing a diversity and inclusion workshop pilot series to build workplace harmony and tackle racism which began this year
- introducing Indigenous scholarships for its Emerging Leaders Program, beginning with two announced in 2022.
- formally contributing to the Victorian Government's Local Government Culture Review Project via a submission on avenues for improvement of the relationships between elected members and officers.

### Staff Development and Training

In the last financial year, 80 Port Phillip Council staff were registered in LGPro conferences, webinars, SIG meetings, programs and workshops. Addition, 97 are registered with the Special Interest Group Network and have access to online resources as well as other members of the network to keep abreast of sector initiatives and best practice.

LGPro delivered 28 workshops in-house for councils, had 1,030 webinar registrations from all 79 councils, 270 participants across 15 single day workshops, 117 participants across seven leadership programs and

held five conferences. All of these opportunities positively impacted Port Phillip staff.

- the webinar series continued to provide regular professional development opportunities to local government professionals across the full spectrum of the sector in 2021. This accessible model is now central to professional development offerings, increasing engagement and support from metro Melbourne through to Victoria's regional and rural areas
- leadership programs were adapted to the online format with a refreshed structure and renewed content to reflect the challenges related to the changes in expertise and expectations on leaders in the sector
- Sixty-four Special Interest Groups meetings were held throughout 2021 and three new groups were established: The Community Facility Management, Circular Economy and Heritage SIGs. Taking into account many of these highly engaged professionals have played an active role in multiple groups, the total count on group participation grew to 5,470. Council Officers report that LGPro's Special Interest Group Network continues to be a vital and valued resource for networking and information on issues affecting the sector across subject and profession niches.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Well-Governed Port Phillip: A city that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

We will partner with

- other inner metropolitan Melbourne councils to share best practice, knowledge and to identify opportunities to adopt common policies and practices to provide consistency
- other Councils, the Victorian Government and other entities to share better practices in procurement and contract management and to collaborate on major procurements to achieve best value

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$4017.27 (Ex GST)
- Next Payment (22/23): \$4017.27 (Ex GST)
- Annual Officer Hours: Staff engagement with LGPro is significant and difficult to quantify due to the range of officers and projects involved.

## Plans for 2022-23

LGPro will continue to advance their advocacy program. LGPro will continue to advance the capacity and capability of the sector through the Special Interest Group Network, conferences, leadership programs, workshops, webinars, awards and publications.

In addition to the organisation's regular activities LGPro will:

- support and administer the Women Building Surveyors Program
- support the sector with professional development to continue implementation of the principles-based Local Government Act 2020
- support the sector by addressing the skills shortage – to date it has developed a discussion paper on Job Creation Opportunities, developed and submitted a proposal to Jobs Victoria to provide support to upskill job seekers to secure a position within local government and is, convening a roundtable to identify solutions to address current skill shortages in the sector
- continue to support Indigenous professionals with Emerging Leaders program scholarships
- Roll-out the Cultural Exchange workshop sector-wide in the second half of 2022. This program aims to create awareness around race, racism and discrimination, discuss the impacts of racism, build skills in allyship and support councils to increase cultural inclusion in workplaces
- continue to support the sector with professional development around gender equity and bias.

## More information

Website: <https://www.lgpro.com/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership of LGPro.

LGPro is one of the few memberships supporting officers working in local government. LGPro runs a range of important programs and training, including supporting women's representation at senior levels. Council officer participation is high through the SIGs, which offer important networks and resource sharing platforms. If Council withdrew from the membership, Officers would need to pay for individual memberships to continue to engage with LGPro.

# M9

Melbourne 9 (M9) is an alliance of nine inner Melbourne councils which work cooperatively and collectively advocate for issues and projects of mutual interest.

## About

### Membership

The M9 group is organised into three tiers, officer working groups, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) meetings and mayoral forums.

The M9 Mayors Forums, chaired by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, include the Mayor and CEOs from the Cities of Melbourne, Stonnington, Port Phillip, Yarra, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Moreland, Hobsons Bay and Darebin.

The City of Port Phillip is the lead council for the officer working groups on Transport and Affordable Housing and is an active participant in the Advocacy working group.

The M9 represents the inner city and is a coalition of the nine inner councils. It seeks to be a major influence on Victorian and Australian Government policy and funding, as it represents 18 per cent of the Victorian population, or almost 1.2 million people.

### Area of expertise/priorities

The objectives of M9 agreed upon as part of the MoU are:

- to undertake strategic, evidence-based, targeted and effective advocacy campaigns
- to engage strategically with key decision-makers to advocate on priority areas and build genuine partnership with government representatives
- to enable best practice to be shared across Greater Melbourne Councils
- to undertake joint partnerships and collective action, particularly where there are market failures and/or policy gaps.

Key strategic issues include:

- waste and circular economy
- affordable and social housing
- climate change and renewable energy
- economic recovery
- active transport and community resilience.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

Establishment:

2021-22 was M9's first year as an organisation, so much of the preliminary work was to establish the

membership's administrative infrastructure. This included M9 Mayors and CEO's attending monthly meetings to establish the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and develop strategic priorities. The M9 issues, identified above, each have endorsed papers that identifies advocacy priorities.

To support the establishment of M9, a website was created with information including outlining M9's advocacy priorities and providing a means for residents and other stakeholders to contact M9 – [m9.org.au](http://m9.org.au).

### Advocacy

M9 Mayors met with the Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane, to formally introduce M9 and outline its advocacy priorities. The Minister shared his desire to champion M9 in the Parliament of Victoria.

M9 advocacy played a role in successfully enabling the following:

- from 15 December 2021 onward, fully vaccinated international students were able to travel to and from Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption
- The Victorian Government introduced a pilot scheme providing up to \$230 million in cover for events cancelled or held in a reduced capacity due to government imposed COVID-19 restrictions
- The Victorian Government announced \$34.2 million in Jobs Victoria funding to place 1500 jobs across the hospitality, warehousing and logistics, tourism and food processing sectors
- The Victorian Government funded a \$100 million voucher scheme to rebate Victorians for entertainment, dining and travel. This included a \$10 million round of Melbourne Money
- The Victorian Government not proceeding with the proposed Social and Affordable Housing Contribution (SAHC) and Social Housing Rates Exemption policies.

In addition, M9 commissioned a study to investigate options to better manage Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO), glass and recycling processing and residual waste for the M9 Councils. As a result of the findings of the study, M9 Councils commissioned further work on the feasibility of

waste shared services to address market failures in all three streams of waste.

### Staff Development and Training

The officer working groups allow officers to collaborate and network closely with officers from other M9 councils.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Well-Governed Port Phillip: A city that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

We will partner with

- other inner metropolitan Melbourne councils to share best practice, knowledge and to identify opportunities to adopt common policies and practices to provide consistency
- other councils, the Victorian Government and other entities to share better practices in procurement and contract management and to collaborate on major procurements to achieve best value.

### Council Advocacy Priorities

Council officers will work with M9 to advocate on shared priorities, particularly Council's State advocacy priorities relating to policy changes or the inner metro region.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): Council agreed that Inner Melbourne Action Plans (IMAP) unexpended funds would be rolled over to establish M9.
- Next Payment (22/23): Funding arrangements for 22-23 are yet to be confirmed. Council

officers recommend allocating \$10,000 for next year for project related expenses.

- Annual Officer Hours: ~120 hours

### Plans for 2022-23

M9 will continue to advocate on key priorities identified within the advocacy papers. This includes projects and campaigns and a Waste Business Case.

The Communications and Public Relations (CPR) consultancy has been engaged to support organising the M9 launch, scheduled for Thursday 18 August 2022.

### More information

Website: <https://m9.org.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its M9 membership.

M9 presents a unique opportunity for the inner metro councils to advocate to key Victorian and Australian Government stakeholders on shared priorities. As an advocacy body, M9 is able to quickly respond to issues and announcements. This will be particularly valuable during a state election year.

M9 members seeking to leave the group need to advise the Committee in writing and are required to give six months' notice.

# Metro Transport Forum

The Metro Transport Forum (MTF) is an advocacy group of Melbourne metropolitan local governments with associate members from transport companies, the Victorian Government and environment groups.

## About

### Membership

The MTF is composed of 26 Melbourne councils and is a forum for information-sharing, projects and advocacy for better transport solutions.

Each of the 26 metropolitan local government members nominates a councillor and officer delegate – there are also 12 associate members from across the transport sector. Councillor Katherine Copsey and Che Sutherland, Manager of Partnerships and Transport, represent Port Phillip as councillor and executive representatives.

The MTF is the only member organisation that focuses on, and specialises in, transport infrastructure, services, and outcomes.

### Area of expertise/priorities

The MTF has a three-pronged strategy – Active Transport, Buses and Choices. Each of these areas are highly relevant to Port Phillip and our community.

- Active Transport - promote and support active forms of transport, primarily walking and cycling
- Buses - lift bus patronage through more competitive services, better infrastructure and co-ordination with other public transport and active transport
- Choices - commitment to giving all Melburnians competitive alternatives to private cars as the transport mode of choice for commuting, leisure and education.

MTF has relationships with others in the transport sector including the Municipal Association of Victoria, regional local government transport groups such as the Eastern Transport Coalition and Western Transport Alliance, and state-based groups such as the Department of Transport and Infrastructure Victoria. Most meetings include a presentation from an industry or government expert on topics related to the advocacy priorities.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

The MTF has delivered a number of projects over 2021-22, including,

- a new Strategic Plan outlining key strategic direction for 2021-22 advocacy about Active Transport, Buses and Choices, including for the State election
- organised speakers on all three major themes, including overseas speakers, leading researchers and senior transport department officers
- delivered the 2021 Bus Advocacy Forum which included presentations from Department of Transport
- Victoria's Bus Plan, a PhD candidate presentation on the transition to electric buses and a bus advocacy panel discussion with councillors from Mornington Peninsula, Wyndham and Geelong
- the 2022 Cycling and Federal Election Forum including presentations and discussions with Senator Janet Rice, Andrew Giles MP, Monique Ryan and Kevin Andrews MP.

### Staff Development and Training:

The MTF meets monthly to discuss transport topics of interest, distributes information across the sector, hosts event, makes submissions to government and conducts research to better inform policy. These meetings are attended by council officers.

These meetings also provide the opportunity to coordinate transport advocacy across Melbourne LGAs and for networking opportunities with other councillors and Council Officers.

In the past 12 months, the MTF has held two forums, the Bus Forum (2021), and Bike Forum (February 2022). City of Port Phillip Officers attended both these events.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Liveable Port Phillip: A city that is a great place to live, where our community has access to high quality public spaces, development and growth are well-managed, and it is safer and easy to connect and travel within.

### Move, Connect, Live – Integrated Transport Strategy

The MTF supports several of Council's Integrated Transport Strategy actions, including our focus to partner on delivering reliable, accessible and more frequent public transport.

### Council Advocacy Priorities

The MTF supports Council's advocacy on priorities such as 109 Tram Terminus upgrades, Metro 2 and the early delivery of the Fishermans Bend Tram.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$2000 (ex. GST)
- Next Payment (22/23): \$2,500 (ex. GST - to be confirmed at meeting in August)
- Annual Officer Hours: ~50 hours

### Plans for 2022-23

MTF priorities are established in the Strategic Plan endorsed by members. The major activity for 2022/23 will be to hold Town Hall Events to provide a mechanism for candidates for the State election from the major parties to present their transport platforms in key seats to the community. The events are conducted in partnership with interested council members. In past years, these events have attracted strong interest from the community.

The City of Port Phillip has submitted an expression of interest to host an event in the lead-up to the November 2022 State election, with support from MTF.

### More information

Website: <https://mtf.org.au/>

### Recommendation

Council maintains its membership in the Metro Transport Forum (MTF)

The MTF is the only council membership focusing exclusively on increasing transport options, which are becoming increasingly important to maintain liveability in our densely populated community.

The MTF saves Councillor and Council Officer time by allowing us to collaborate with other LGAs (Local Government Areas) on key transport priorities and exchange information with them easily.

If Council withdraws from the membership, Officers will lose access and input into MTF advocacy for bike riding and bus improvements, which support the actions identified in Council's Move, Connect, Live Strategy.

# Municipal Association of Victoria

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria.

## About

### Membership

Membership of the MAV is voluntary and all 79 Victorian councils are members.

The Board and president are elected by member councils every two years. Twelve regional board members are elected by their region. State Council is the MAV governing body, made up of representatives from each of the member councils.

Cr Tim Baxter is the City of Port Phillip representative.

The MAV is also a member of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the national representative body for local government, representing 537 councils across the country.

### Area of expertise/priorities

The MAV offers diverse business services to its council members including specialist policy and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance, and procurement services.

### Governance

The MAV supports the development, adoption and implementation of governance processes, protocols, conduct and relationships across the local government sector. Its work includes providing sector-wide advice and support on governance issues and assisting councils on a broad range of internal and external governance matters.

### Advocacy:

MAV advocates on local government interests across a broad range of council areas of responsibility. The advocacy priorities are set by the Board Advisory Committees, with input from officers via forums.

As part of the ALGA, MAV advocates to the Australian Government on local government issues of national significance.

### Liability Mutual Insurance

The Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) scheme delivers a public liability and professional indemnity insurance product to the local government sector, including the City of Port Phillip. The scheme provides coverage for claims of up to \$600 million under public liability and professional indemnity policies. The scheme also provides services, including legal advice, appraisals and risk management assessments, best practice forums,

conferences, and seminars. Currently all 79 Victorian councils participate in the LMI scheme.

### Procurement

MAV Procurement is a not-for-profit unit focused on achieving better procurement outcomes for local government. MAV Procurement's core service is an aggregation service which invites tenders on behalf of the sector and develops pre-approved supplier panels in a range of categories. It also provides procurement, probity, development and training opportunities for the sector.

MAV Procurement facilitates the MAV Leap program which is a sector-wide benchmarking and improvement model. The program supports a strategic procurement approach and helps identify opportunities for collaboration.

MAV also has specialised add-on memberships, such as the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE). CASBE is mentioned further down in this report.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

#### Governance

MAV delivered a series of MAV Councillor Leadership Conference to the sector and has continued to assist with sector-wide advice and support, and workshoping of governance processes, protocols and conduct matters, as Councils continue to implement the Local Government Act 2020.

#### Advocacy

In the lead up to the Federal Election, the MAV worked in alignment with ALGA to develop the 'Don't Leave Communities Behind' campaign. The City of Port Phillip met with ALGA and passed a resolution endorsing the campaign, and co-advocated on areas of mutual interest, such as the circular economy, infrastructure, climate change and housing.

MAV launched its MAV Transport Advocacy campaign. City of Port Phillip officers were involved in the consultation process to develop this campaign.

MAV also made several submissions to the Victorian Government on a range of diverse topics over 2021-22, including:

- draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children
- Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's Planning Framework
- Local Government Culture Project Discussion Paper
- opportunities for the 2022 Victorian Budget
- Inquiry into Commonwealth support for Victoria
- Draft Land Use Framework Plans
- Parliamentary Inquiry into Housing Supply and Affordability
- MAV-Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) submission to Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy
- MAV-ABM submission to draft Marine and Coastal Strategy
- Sex Work Decriminalisation Discussion Paper
- Victorian Government waste to energy framework

#### Procurement

MAV Procurement provides a key service to the sector including the benefits from procurement aggregation, streamlining procurement processes, probity and compliance, and helping to ensure value for money objectives are met. The expenditure profile with MAV contracts for 2021-22 is approximately \$10 million involving 38 projects across the organisation.

The benefit to Council of accessing MAV procurement contracts has been significant. By leveraging the combined purchasing power of councils, MAV achieves better value on products and services. Working through MAV allows Council to reduce procurement costs, simplify processes and improve services. The implications of not maintaining this procurement stream would have significant impact throughout the organisation.

#### **Staff Development and Training**

The MAV has an annual conference, State Council meetings and provides e-learning and training materials. 126 Port Phillip Officers and councillors participated in 46 MAV events in 2021-22 including

- State-wide MCH (Maternal and Child Health) Conference - 22 October 2021
- Understanding Council Finances
- Victoria's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and Community Road Safety Grants
- Enhanced MCH - Professional Development
- MAV Local Government Supporting Carers as we move to "COVID Normal"
- how to navigate social media and the High Court ruling
- Collaborative Procurement Forum - Victorian LG Sector
- ESD Roadmap workshop hosted by the MAV with DELWP

- ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Professional and Leasing Services (ES8111-2021) - Council Briefing
- improving first and last kilometre access
- library management solutions for local government
- managing the CEO Employment Cycle for HR and Governance Officers

The MAV councillor development program offers councillors professional development options, from introductory skill development workshops and sessions, to accredited higher-education pathways.

City of Port Phillip was successful in a grant application to participate in a work experience program for people with disability (funders/sponsors: Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program and Office for Disability in Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

A paid internship program was designed to empower interns and tertiary students living with a disability, mental, physical health condition or injury to aspire, develop and thrive in internship and entry level employment. Council partnered with GradWISE on the program, with the City Planning and Sustainability team hosting two interns in September.

## **Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities**

### **Council Plan**

Well-Governed Port Phillip: A city that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

We will provide:

- improved procurement and contract management practices to deliver best value and embed corporate social responsibility outcomes

We will partner with:

- other inner metropolitan Melbourne councils to share best practice, knowledge and to identify opportunities to adopt common policies and practices to provide consistency
- other Councils, the Victorian Government and other entities to share better practices in procurement and contract management and to collaborate on major procurements to achieve best value

We will facilitate and advocate for:

- other levels of government to recognise and be mindful of the impact on local government when making policy and legislative changes

### Advocacy Priorities

ALGA's federal advocacy supports Council's advocacy on issues relating to infrastructure, transport, climate change, circular economy and housing. MAV's Transport Advocacy Campaign supports several of Council's State Advocacy priorities relating to transport and infrastructure.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$63,568 (ex. GST)
- Next Payment (22/23): \$63,568. (ex. GST) Due 30 June 2022 (this includes access to procurement panels, but does not include Council's LMI scheme)
- Annual Officer Hours: Council Officers engage MAV at a range of levels, including meetings, conferences, working groups and procurement panels. Over 50 Officers and Councillors attended MAV events during the year. The Governance team regularly engages with MAV and Council's Insurance Officer connects weekly with MAV.

### Plans for 2022-23

The MAV is working to their 2021-25 Strategy. The Strategy sets out objectives and actions in line with the key themes of:

- economically sound councils
- healthy, diverse and thriving communities
- well-planned, connected and resilient built environment

- changing climate and a circular economy
- sector capability and good governance
- effective and responsive MAV.

### More information

Website: <https://www.mav.asn.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its membership of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

MAV membership provides a range of business-essential services to Council across a range of areas, including governance, advocacy, insurance, and procurement. Membership to MAV saves Council time and resources by sharing project delivery responsibilities. In particular, the savings generated through access to the procurement panels, offset much of the membership fee.

Access to advocacy and governance support and trainings is valued by Officers.

Withdrawing from MAV would have significant ramifications for Council's procurement systems and process (many of which are integrated with One Council), and opportunities to influence MAV advocacy. Access to the LMI scheme is currently not dependent on MAV membership, however Council Officers understand this may be reviewed.

# Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment

The Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) is an association of Victorian councils committed to the creation of a sustainable built environment within and beyond their municipalities.

## About

### Membership

CASBE is an independent alliance of councils in Victoria, operating under the auspices of the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The CASBE consists of 31 local governments. Representative councils account for 71 per cent of the Victorian population and 65 per cent of Victorian planning and permit activity.

Each member council holds a position on the CASBE Steering Committee, which meets three times a year. Port Phillip is a founding member of CASBE.

The CASBE helps local governments improve environmental outcomes through the planning system. No other organisation provides this service.

### Area of expertise/priorities

#### CASBE

CASBE provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas on innovation and best practice in Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD).

CASBE's focus is to apply ESD principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system. This coordinated program of formal and consistent measures is called the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) Framework.

CASBE helps councils develop and implement planning policy and improve processes to inform the design of private developments to minimise energy use, water and waste, improve environmental outcomes and amenity and reduce ongoing running costs.

CASBE assists Council to provide a streamlined and consistent methodology to request, receive, and assess built environment sustainability outcomes through the planning process. CASBE membership includes access to two full time staff with a background in strategic planning and sustainable design.

These in-house skills mean the CASBE is positioned to engage with the Victorian Government on key issues relating to sustainable development.

The Port Phillip Planning Scheme includes Local Planning Policies relating to Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). CASBE provides support to implement the ESD and WSUD policies.

#### BESS

CASBE implements the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool. The BESS provides planning applicants free access to a policy compliance tool which makes it easier and faster for Council Officers to assess planning applications and provides clear and consistent information to the development community.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

#### CASBE

CASBE has delivered a range of strategic and operational outcomes in 2021-22.

Strategic:

- Elevating Targets: One of CASBE's primary projects, this has involved facilitating collaboration between councils seeking to progress new standards in the planning scheme, such as zero carbon buildings. CASBE has brought together 31 member councils, many of which are declaring climate emergencies, to focus on a consistent approach to effecting change in private development
- ESD policy support: Ongoing facilitation of the ESD Local Policy group; liaison between ESD Policy, councils and DELWP regarding a translated version of ESD Policy for the Planning Policy Framework.
- Sustainable Subdivisions Framework: CASBE supports the SSF trial which is running across 31 Victorian councils.

Operational/Advocacy

- stakeholder engagement: CASBE continues to actively engage in stakeholder activities and advocate on issues relating to sustainability in the built environment
- CASBE prepared 16 formal submissions during the 2020–2021 financial year.

#### BESS

In April 2021, BESS was upgraded to Version 1.7, the largest upgrade since its 2015 launch. The key changes involved new non-residential credits for Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ) and building profiling to improve energy inputs. Significant backend improvements have made BESS faster and more stable. The BESS Report has been re-purposed to speak directly to the BESS users, providing improved results feedback on water, energy and IEQ calculations.

A recent audit of BESS by an independent software consultant confirmed that “BESS is a successful project, delivering environmental and economic benefits to Victorian citizens. Given its budget and staffing levels, it’s also quite efficient, punching well above its relative weight”.

Note: The CASBE 2021/2022 Annual Outcomes report will be issued in August 2022. This will present a complete summary of the outcomes from the 2021-22 financial year.

#### **Staff Development and Training**

##### Forums

CASBE holds many forums during the year for councils. They provide an opportunity for councils to share experiences, learn about CASBE and contribute to programs and initiatives. Short presentations from key industry stakeholders are included at most meetings.

##### Steering Committee

As a member of CASBE, Port Phillip Council plays a direct role in its strategic direction through the CASBE Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets three times a year in February, June and October. Each member council has a representative that sits on the committee. The Steering Committee oversees and approves the CASBE budget and projects, including the direction of the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) framework and the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS).

##### Working Groups

CASBE has a number of Working Groups, which Council Officers attend, including

- Referrals Working Group – for council ESD Officers, including a Verification Working Group
- ESD Policy Groups – for councils pursuing a local ESD Policy
- WSUD Working Group

- Circular Economy Working Group – elevating waste and material targets

#### Projects

- Current CASBE member projects include:
  - Elevating ESD Targets Planning Policy Amendment
  - CASBE Mentoring Program – for aspiring Council ESD Officers.

## **Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities**

### **Council Plan**

Sustainable Port Phillip: A city that has a sustainable future, where our environmentally aware and active community benefits from living in a bayside city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate resilient. The importance of action in this area is emphasised by Council declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019.

We will provide:

- investment in upgrades to Council properties and streetlights to improve their quality and energy efficiency as well as reducing emissions and utility costs for Council
- projects to support sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation as outlined in the Act and Adapt Strategy, prioritised within available budgets each year.

We will partner with:

- other inner Melbourne councils to explore options that may facilitate greater access and awareness of renewable energy options for renters, apartment dwellers and businesses in our municipality (subject to feasibility assessment)
- other councils and the Victorian Government to strengthen requirements for new developments to improve sustainability outcomes, reduce emissions, increase vegetation, better manage water and waste and adapt to climate change
- other councils, Victorian Government departments and a range of other stakeholders to maximise our combined efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

### **Act and Adapt – Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018–28**

A greener, cooler, more liveable City:

- Action 6. Encourage and enforce sustainable, climate resilient buildings through the planning process by applying environmentally sustainable design planning policy guidelines and by providing clear, accessible information to the community

## Cost

Current Payment (21/22): CASBE Membership - \$8,000 (ex. GST) + BESS Subscription - \$10,000 (ex. GST)

Next Payment (22/23): CASBE Membership - \$8,000 (ex. GST) + BESS Subscription - \$10,000 (ex. GST)

Annual Officer Hours: ~50 hours

## Plans for 2022-23

CASBE's goals for 2022-23 relate to achieving sustainable outcomes in the built environment. CASBE supports and enables the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process Framework in Port Phillip.

CASBE's strategic goals for 2021-23 include

- elevate environmental standards for new development
- build compliance with sustainability requirements in planning
- advance precinct scale Environmentally Sustainable Development
- foster strategic partnerships for effective advocacy

- Share knowledge to build capacity
- sustain CASBE's influence.

## More information

Website: <https://www.casbe.org.au/>

## Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its memberships to CASBE and BESS.

CASBE helps councils develop and implement Planning Policy and improve processes to inform the design of private developments to minimise energy use, water, and waste, improve environmental outcomes and amenity and reduce ongoing running costs.

The BESS tool provides planning applicants with free access to a policy compliance tool. The tool makes it easier and faster for council officers to assess planning applications in relation to our planning policy and provides clear and consistent information to the development community.

# South East Councils Climate Change Alliance

The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) is one of nine regional alliances across Victoria helping councils to achieve their emissions reduction and climate resilience goals. All councils in Victoria are currently members of a regional climate change/greenhouse alliance.

## About

### Membership

SECCCA membership consists of nine local governments in the south east region of Melbourne. They cover Port Phillip, Bayside, Kingston, Greater Dandenong, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Casey, Cardinia and the Bass Coast local government areas.

A Councillor Advisory Group, set up in 2019, captures councillor perspectives and guides collaborative advocacy efforts. Cr Katherine Copsey represents the City of Port Phillip on the Advisory Group.

SECCCA has a Management Committee consisting of senior officers across member councils. Renae Walton, Senior Sustainability Policy and Strategy Advisor, represents Port Phillip on this Committee.

SECCCA is an incorporated association with only local government members. These members are all committed to reducing carbon emissions and creating more resilient communities.

### Area of expertise/priorities

SECCCA focuses on delivering projects which support member councils and communities to achieve their carbon emission reduction and climate resilience goals and to reduce risks associated with climate change by leveraging the benefits of working regionally.

SECCCA provides:

- economies of scale by enabling councils to undertake projects collaboratively, sharing costs, resources and knowledge
- a network to share effort and knowledge – this translates to improved access to information, research and best practice approaches
- opportunities to strengthen Council's influence on state and federal government policy.
- opportunities to access external funding and partnerships for projects tailored to the South East Region for which individual councils would not be eligible to apply.

SECCCA advocates to all levels of government for action on carbon emission reduction and climate change resilience. In the lead-up to the federal and state election, advocacy and communications efforts are considered an important priority.

## 2022 Achievements

### Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip

#### Asset Vulnerability Assessment (AVA) Project and Toolkit

This project modelled the impact of climate change on Council buildings, roads, and drains. Officers can now view the latest climate data overlaid on Council assets to evaluate the impact and vulnerability of these assets which will support future planning and maintenance.

The toolkit component of this project produced a 'how to guide' that steps through how to complete this process for additional asset classes.

#### City of Port Phillip Elwood Foreshore Case Study

This project used the data from the AVA project to calculate high level financial and economic costs of various site-specific adaptation options. The case study examined the preliminary draft masterplan, which is seeking to take a holistic approach to the precinct by protecting key built and non-built assets while enhancing visitor experience.

#### Small Business Energy Saver Program\*

SECCCA is facilitating this program on behalf of Sustainability Victoria. Small businesses can receive a \$2,000 rebate to upgrade their outdated appliances to more energy efficient and cost-effective products. SECCCA has engaged with 90 businesses in Port Phillip to date, with a target of 150 to be reached by the end of June. So far, six businesses have taken up the offer and a further 39 have begun the process to access the rebate.

#### Climate Resilient Councils\*

SECCCA worked with the other metro greenhouse alliances to develop an understanding of the costs and benefits of adapting community assets and

infrastructure to be resilient to climate change. The project developed a cost-benefit analysis framework for each major asset class and a robust methodology for assessing and prioritising adaptation options.

#### Electricity Distribution Price Review

SECCCA co-wrote the submission by all Victorian Alliances to this review, supporting recommendations in the areas of public lighting, demand management, climate resilience and stakeholder engagement. The recommendations were all adopted to varying degrees and, for our Council, the decisions made in late 2021 will result in operating savings (2021-26) of \$53,269 and regulated asset base savings of \$68,821.

#### Planning for a safe climate

SECCCA partnered with CASBE and the greenhouse alliances to commission the investigation of barriers and opportunities within the Victorian planning and building systems to ensure all relevant decision makers are mandated to incorporate climate change action in their decisions. This information is now being used to develop an advocacy platform to initiate reforms to Victoria's planning system to enable a safe climate, a sustainable built environment, and a resilient community. The project is timed to target the Victorian Election.

#### Additional Advocacy

SECCCA responded to the Victorian Government Gas Transition roadmap by addressing issues raised in consultation and urging acceleration to zero carbon energy options. SECCCA also leveraged experience in residential energy efficiency projects to respond to the Victorian Government's Environmentally Sustainable Development Roadmap. The submission argued that achieving energy efficient and zero carbon residential homes is achievable, and most importantly, affordable. It would also reduce the number of owners and tenants locked into living in inefficient homes.

#### **Staff Development and Training**

SECCCA runs workshops and training events for council staff to increase capacity to respond to climate change, including:

- presentation to the Councillor Advisory Group by Hansen Partnership on a report commissioned by Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, Climate Change and Planning in Victoria - 'Ensuring Victoria's planning system effectively tackles climate change'
- factsheets and talking points are currently under development as part of the SECCCA Advocacy Plan to support councillors with agreed advocacy positioning

- City of Port Phillip environment and assets staff attended training provided by consultants Spatial Vision as part of the AVA Project in the use of the QGIS Climate Viewer of council assets (roads, drains and buildings)
- City of Port Phillip staff attended the launch of the AVA Climate Vulnerability Guide detailing the outcomes of the project and use of the guide.
- annual leaders breakfast including keynote speakers – Chief Operating Officer of the Insurance Council of Australia, Executive Director of Local Government Victoria, and Director of Climate Change from DELWP.

#### **Other Benefits**

Externally funded projects highlighted with \* were only available to SECCCA, not individual councils. Council's involvement was only possible through involvement with SECCCA.

SECCCA facilitates a network of sustainability and climate change specialists across the region. Through the projects being delivered, it has also assisted in creating stronger connections within Council. The projects being delivered are supporting Officers to deliver the Council's Act and Adapt Strategy at a fraction of the cost of direct employment. This is a real benefit of working regionally.

## **Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities**

### **Council Plan**

Sustainable Port Phillip: A city that has a sustainable future, where our environmentally aware and active community benefits from living in a bayside city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate resilient.

We will provide:

- projects to support sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation as outlined in the Act and Adapt Strategy priorities within available budgets each year
- leadership in environmental sustainability and climate adaptation and mitigation in Council operations including, as part of Council's Corporate Responsibility program, seeking sustainability outcomes in leasing, capital works, procurement, and Council financial investments (where feasible and practical).

We will partner with:

- The Victorian and Australian Governments to understand the risks of climate change and develop a long-term strategic response to

adapt and protect the coastline of Port Phillip Bay

- other inner Melbourne councils to explore options that may facilitate greater access and awareness of renewable energy options for renters, apartment dwellers and businesses in our municipality (subject to feasibility assessment)
- other councils, Victorian government departments and a range of other stakeholders to maximise our combined efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

We will advocate for:

- increased Victorian and Australian Government support to drastically reduce carbon emissions and to deliver policies and projects to enable community members to reduce their emissions.

SECCCA delivers projects that support Council to respond to the Climate Emergency and that deliver on the objectives of the **Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018–28** and **Asset Management Plans**.

#### **Council Advocacy Priorities**

- investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- commitment to urgent action on climate change
- in addition to supporting Council's own advocacy, SECCCA has partnered with consultants Collective Position to develop and deliver a strong advocacy campaign on behalf of the region in the lead-up to the state and federal elections.

#### **Cost**

Current Payment (21/22): In 2021/22 Council chose to join on an annual membership at a cost of \$44,898 (Ex GST).

Next Payment (22/23): A two-year membership, which includes a 10% fee

- 22/23 - \$42,185
- 23/24 - \$43,659 OR

an annual membership, which includes a 20 per cent fee, is \$46,020 in 2202/23. Payments are due in July.

Note: Membership of SECCCA is generally for a four-year period. Councils wishing to join on an annual or bi-annual basis and not commit to the MOU period are required to pay an additional fee to cover the longer-term operational costs – the fee quoted above includes that premium.

SECCCA also offers non-members the opportunity to participate in projects on a user pays basis, with a 40 per cent premium for non-members.

Annual Officer Hours: ~90 hours

#### **Plans for 2022–23**

##### Resilient Communities Project\*

This project will help prepare communities in the city for current and future climatic changes by improving community preparedness. Using a process of co-design, communities will be involved in developing climate resilience programs specific and meaningful for them. Participants will be empowered with information and access to new or improved services, enabling them to make individual decisions to prepare for climate change. It will also provide Council with access to climate impact and vulnerability data for their communities and will assist Council to respond to the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan requirements to tackle climate change and its impact on health. This project will run over two years and is fully funded by the Minderoo Foundation (\$1 million).

##### Business Resilience Project\*

The project will assist businesses in the City of Port Phillip understand their climate change and associated supply chain risks and develop adaptation responses to improve their resilience and reduce economic impact. SECCCA will engage with businesses to assist them to understand their level of vulnerability to climate change impacts, run through scenarios and develop high-level adaptation options.

It is focused on small to medium businesses and will build on the success of the Small Business Energy Saver Program. This project is fully funded by DELWP.

##### Regional Carbon Sink Project

Through an investigation of carbon sequestration opportunities across the SECCCA region, members will understand how their council and community can invest in initiatives that contribute to emissions reduction targets, achieve net positive emissions, and produce secondary socioeconomic benefits in the local region.

For the City of Port Phillip, this project will identify various options available to purchase carbon offsets and comparison of the co-benefits. This project could also identify opportunities that could lead to the direct funding of a regional carbon sink project to enable local benefits.

##### Guide for Conversion of Gas Assets to Electric

As councils implement zero emission targets, they also need to transition council-owned buildings away from gas. This project will provide a 'how to'

guide on converting council buildings to operate with 100 per cent renewable electricity.

[Zero Emission Commercial Program \(and industrial for other SECCCA members\)](#)

SECCCA's plan is to support stakeholder groups and businesses in the commercial sector to reduce emissions by providing capacity to support engagement in opportunities that can deliver a reduction in emissions in areas including energy efficiency and clean energy uptake.

More information can be found in the [SECCCA Strategic Plan](#)

### **More information**

Website: <https://www.seccca.org.au/>

### **Recommendation**

That Council resolves to maintain its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance membership for a further 24 months (2022/23 and 2023/24).

SECCCA facilitates Council partnering with other levels of government and private organisations and is available to access funding that would otherwise not be possible, to support projects that deliver outcomes in Port Phillip. Importantly SECCCA also advocates on behalf of Council to advance the Government's response to climate change and zero emissions.

SECCCA assists Council in the delivery of its sustainability goals. Projects such as the Resilient Communities Project and Business Resilience Project potentially offset some of the membership costs.

If Council withdrew from SECCCA, there would be reputational risk of being the only Victorian Local Government which is not a member of a Greenhouse Alliance. Council would not be able to receive the benefits of the funded projects, without paying a 40 per cent premium for each individual project.

# Victorian Local Governance Association

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) supports councils, councillors, and communities in good governance

## About

### Membership

The VLGA is an independent (non-partisan) governance organisation supporting councils and councillors in achieving the highest standards of governance on behalf of their communities.

The Board is the governing body of the VLGA and sets long-term strategy and policy for the organisation. Board members are elected representatives from member councils.

The VLGA seeks to strengthen and support good governance that will enable/ promote/ facilitate trust and confidence in the sector. VLGA seeks to complement councils' engagement with other stakeholders in the sector to support optimal outcomes for communities.

### Area of expertise/priorities

The VLGA provides opportunities for councillor networking, professional development and information exchange and actively engages with key policymakers and broader stakeholders to inform, influence and lead conversations that determine the priorities for the local government sector in Victoria and support good governance at the local level.

The VLGA Constitution is framed to support the organisation to:

- be a peak body for councils
- protect, advance, and advocate for the importance of the role of effective local government
- to support and assist councillors to do their job well
- to provide resources, information, and education, and undertake projects to support good governance and leadership
- be a sustainable, focused and values driven organisation

The VLGA's overriding value is to strengthen and support good governance in local government that will enable/promote/facilitate trust and confidence in the sector.

The VLGA creates value in the following ways:

- thought leadership for the sector across a wide variety of topics

- panels of professionals, agency leaders and senior bureaucrats and ministers in areas relevant to the sector
- facilitating discussions on complex issues which are readily accessible to all
- advocating and representing the position of local government to other levels of government
- being engaged (and sought after) as a peak body - the independent local government governance organisation - to participate in forums, think tanks, advisory committees convened by government, academic institutions, and other lead agencies
- providing resources, information, professional development, and education and undertaking projects and events that support good governance and leadership
- delivering funded programs which meet the strategic priorities of the government of the day
- advocating for participation in local democracy that is inclusive and represents the diversity of the community and delivering programs that build the capacity of candidates and councillors

As a peak body for local government, the VLGA represents and advocates on behalf of its membership in policy and stakeholder working groups including but not limited to:

- Local Government Act 2020 Project Control Board
- Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions (DJPR) COVID-19 Local Government Roundtable
- COVID-19 Response CEO Forum
- Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Steering Committee
- Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability's Reference Group
- Ministerial Gender Equality Advisory Committee.

## 2022 Achievements

**Projects and advocacy that have benefitted the City of Port Phillip**

### Advocacy/Submissions to Government

Over the past year, the VLGA also made submissions on:

- Decriminalisation of the Sex Industry
- Draft Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021–2026
- Determination of Allowances Payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors
- State Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into Protections Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Review to Examine Cultural Issues in Local Government.

VLGA also participated in consultations with a range of agencies across issues affecting local government and communities (such as Reconciliation, waste, climate, environment, integrity, and land use planning).

### Victorian Local Government Women's Charter:

The VLGA-administrated Victorian Local Government Women's Charter promotes the principles of gender equity, encouraging diversity in representation and participation, and women's active citizenship.

In 2018, the Charter celebrated its 21st year. Seventy-three of Victoria's 79 councils (including Port Phillip) have become signatories to the Charter, affirming their commitment to improving the representation of women as elected representatives in Victorian councils.

The Annual Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together ('HART') Awards were delivered on 4 June 2021 in 'Reconciliation Week' to celebrate and honour initiatives by local governments and community organisations that are advancing reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In the 2020 awards, Port Phillip, as finalists, received an 'Acknowledgement for Continued Leadership in Reconciliation' for its We-Akon Dilinja project. The 2022 Awards are currently in planning.

### Online Resources

In response to COVID-19, the VLGA has established VLGA Connect – a series of interviews with prominent people in the sector and beyond. Since the last membership review, a further 100 episodes have been produced, resulting in a total of 268 episodes across the collection since its inception in early 2020.

In the past year, guests included

- Federal and State Ministers for Local Government and their shadow ministry counterparts
- Victorian Commissioners for Equal Opportunity and Human Rights, LGBTIQ+ Communities, and Gender Equity

- Co-chair of the First Peoples Assembly
- the Auditor-General
- representatives of the Committee for Melbourne, Melbourne School of Government, Victorian Planning Authority, Local Government Victoria and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

### Local Government News Round-Up

VLGA has collaborated with Chris Eddy to present the twice weekly Local Government News Round-Up, featuring local, national, and international local government news. The News Round-Up has had over 10,000 downloads since its inception and is currently tracking at more than 2000 downloads per month.

### Leadership for Mayors and Councillors

The VLGA continues to offer development opportunities for councils and councillors and this offering will be refined over the life of the council. For example, in recent months it introduced Land Use Planning for Councillors including high level oversight of the role of the council and councillors, integrated with good governance implications.

### **Staff Development and Training**

#### Events

City of Port Phillip Councillors and Officers attended a range of VLGA events, including:

- Councillor Briefing: Gender Equality Act 2020
- Leading the Agenda: Audit & Risk Committees: What you are too afraid to ask
- Building Community Wealth: VLGA & LGiU Australia Global Live Panel Forum
- LGV, FinPro, VLGA Connect Live Panel Discussion: Debt – Another Resource for Councils to Consider
- International Women's Day 2022 – Morning Tea.

Cr Louise Crawford also appeared as a panellist at the FastTrack 2022 event.

### The VLGA Governance Advisory Network (GAN):

The GAN was established to seek regular VLGA member councillor and officer input into:

- local government governance policy development and implementation.
- sector advocacy in relation to governance; and
- support and networking opportunities for councillors and council staff with responsibility for governance.

Member councils are able to nominate a councillor and an officer with governance responsibilities to attend. There are six meetings per year, alternating between 'councillor and officer' and 'officer only' meetings. Agendas are framed around the relevant governance issues of the day, consistent with the

above terms of reference. Key to the success of the GAN meetings is the mutual trust, respect and discretion between participants, and the willingness to share resources and experiences with colleagues. Port Phillip has been regularly represented by its Governance Team.

## Alignment to Council Plan, Core Strategies and Advocacy Priorities

### Council Plan

Well-Governed Port Phillip: A city that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

We will partner with:

- other inner metropolitan Melbourne councils to share best practice, knowledge and to identify opportunities to adopt common policies and practices to provide consistency
- other councils, the Victorian Government, and other entities to share better practices in procurement and contract management and to collaborate on major procurements to achieve best value.

### Cost

- Current Payment (21/22): \$28,905.35 (ex. GST)
- Next Payment (22/23): \$28,905.35 (ex. GST)
- Memberships due for 2021/22 on July 1, 2022. The 'Rules' (Constitution) of the VLGA provide that six months' notice of resignation is required.
- Annual Officer Hours: ~50 hours

### Plans for 2022-23

#### 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

The VLGA is currently undertaking its 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Consultation process, with the aim of finalising the Plan by the AGM in November 2022.

An invitation for Port Phillip councillors and officers to participate in the process will be circulated imminently.

#### ARC Linkage Application

The VLGA is a Partner Organisation in an application led by Professor Carolyn Hendricks of ANU in an application for an ARC (Australian Research Council) funded linkage project - 'Strengthening public policy through community-led problem-solving.' The application is to investigate 'citizen-initiated volunteerism,' including through the lens of the relationship with local government.

VLGA notes that "in a diverse and active community such as Port Phillip we see rich opportunities arising from this research for investigation and application on related issues including drivers for community

action, factors for success of community action, co-dependence and cooperation between community groups, and effective practices in council interventions and supports."

#### Candidate Support

In the coming year, VLGA will start developing programs to support candidates (including existing councillors) for the 2024 elections. The materials assist citizens who are deciding whether to stand for council. This also contributes to a wider understanding through communities of the role of councillors and councils, essential to building positive cultures within council organisations.

#### Broader Priorities

Priorities identified by the VLGA for the short to medium term include:

- Inclusion & Diversity program – a continued role in supporting women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and young people to take up leadership roles with possible pathways to local government
- continued innovation and improvement in local government, including supporting the implementation of values-based and positive-action legislation (such as the, Local Government Act 2020 and Gender Equality Act 2020) through workshops, briefings and advisory committees and showcasing examples of excellence or best-practice policy and service delivery in local government
- strengthened relationships with stakeholders (including ministers), extended networks
- networking support to councils further refining their responses to the Local Government Act 2020.

### More information

Website: <https://www.vlga.org.au/>

### Recommendation

That Council resolves to maintain its Victorian Local Governance Association membership.

VLGA provides opportunities for councillor networking, professional development, and information exchange.

The VLGA provide a range of valuable supports and resources to Council's Governance Team, as well as programs promoting women's participation in local government.

VLGA requires a six-month notification to withdraw from the membership.