

# RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

## COUNCIL MEETING 17 SEPTEMBER 2025



### 5. Councillor Question Time

#### Question from Councillor Makin:

There was an inquiry into Local Government funding and services commissioned by the State Government that was tabled in Parliament on 28 November 2024 and the Government response was tabled on 19 June 2025. Has there been advice back to the sector or to Council around the State Government progressing some of those recommendations, looking at the subject matter of cost shifting and funding?

#### Response:

Following the enquiry, in June 2025 the Victorian Government published their responses to the inquiry. The table below provide a summary of the Victorian Government responses specific to cost shifting:

| Item | Cost Shifting Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Response             | Agency                                      |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 30   | The Victorian Government should restore a shared funding agreement of 50/50 with local councils for the operation of public libraries.                                                                                                                                                             | Not Support          | Dept Government Services                    |
| 31   | That the Victorian Government ensure that funding for the School Crossing Supervisor program is reinstated at a 50–50 funding split with Victorian local councils.                                                                                                                                 | Under review         | Dept Transport and Planning                 |
| 32   | That the Essential Services Commission and Local Government Victoria engage with the local government sector, including individual councils, to discuss the best way to fund the provision of much needed community services such as public bin collection, street sweeping, and graffiti removal. | Support in principle | Dept Government Services                    |
| 33   | That the Victorian Government establish a fair and just funding arrangement with local councils regarding the management of legacy contaminated land sites, particularly those that have historically serviced wider local government areas.                                                       | Support in principle | Dept Energy, Environment and Climate Action |
| 34   | The Victorian Government should reverse the annual immunisation tax of \$6,000 and the \$2 fee per immunisation administered by local governments, and instead provide sufficient funding for this responsibility, which falls under the purview of the Victorian Government                       | Not Support          | Dept of Health                              |

\*Please note: Responses to any questions during Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were responded to during the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.

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|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |                                                    |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 35 | <i>That the Victorian Government should consider Crown Land and associated assets that are currently managed by a Committee of Management to be formally transferred to local government ownership, where requested.</i>              | <i>Support in principle</i> | <i>Dept Energy, Environment and Climate Action</i> |
| 36 | <i>That the Victorian Government ensure funding is provided to support agreements to maintain State Government assets or Crown Land.</i>                                                                                              | <i>Support in principle</i> | <i>Dept Energy, Environment and Climate Action</i> |
| 37 | <i>That the Victorian Government move towards re-instating a 50–50 funding split with Victorian local councils for maternal and child health services.</i>                                                                            | <i>Not Support</i>          | <i>Dept of Health</i>                              |
| 38 | <i>The Victorian Government should honour its commitment to fund 100% of its 'Free Kinder' program and the three- and four-year old kinder programs, and not cost-shift to local government enormous capital and recurrent costs.</i> | <i>Support in full</i>      | <i>Dept of Education</i>                           |
| 39 | <i>That Local Government Victoria work with the sector to develop a codesign process to ensure that the impacts of legislation on local government are considered.</i>                                                                | <i>Support in part</i>      | <i>Dept Government Services</i>                    |
| 40 | <i>That the Victorian Government should provide increased support and funding for weed and roadside management of State Government owned areas to assist local councils in maintaining safe and accessible road networks.</i>         | <i>Not Support</i>          | <i>Dept Transport and Planning</i>                 |
| 41 | <i>That the Victorian Government work with the sector to develop a co-design process to ensure that the impacts of regulation on local government are considered.</i>                                                                 | <i>Support in full</i>      | <i>Dept Government Services</i>                    |
| 42 | <i>That Local Government Victoria take a more prominent role in promoting knowledge of the Victorian State Local Government Agreement amongst Victorian Government departments and agencies.</i>                                      | <i>Support in full</i>      | <i>Dept Government Services</i>                    |
| 43 | <i>Local Government Victoria should report annually on the compliance of the Victorian departments and agencies in fulfilling their role as part of the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement.</i>                               | <i>Not Support</i>          | <i>Dept Government Services</i>                    |

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|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 44 | <i>That Local Government Victoria work with local councils and government departments and agencies to conduct a review to determine the nature and extent of cost shifting faced by Victorian councils.</i> | <i>Support in principle</i> | <i>Dept Government Services</i> |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

The full response from the Victorian Government can be accessed here à [Attachment D - Attachment 2 to Submission OVGR ParliamentaryInquiryLocalGovernmentFundingServicesMay2025.docx](#)

### Question from Councillor Cunsolo:

What is Council's approach to rough sleepers on bike paths, specifically around Beaconsfield Street and Fitzroy Street? Nellie Montague, Manager of Safety and Amenity advised that with any public areas in Port Phillip there is a local law that outlines that camping is not allowed on public land, with the exemption of people experiencing homelessness or have complex needs that Council will not enforce the local law through enforcement processes. Instead they will be connected with services to assist them Councillor Cunsolo followed up asking whether the obstruction on bike paths is exempted under the Local Law for people experiencing homelessness?

### Response:

*Local Law Clause 42 - Camping on Council Land does technically apply in bike lanes and any section of the roadway, as well as the exemptions for people experiencing homelessness or with complex needs.*

*However, if someone is found sleeping on a bike path or roadway, Council Officers will intervene due to the immediate safety risks. Officers will take steps to ensure the person does not remain in that location, including implementing safety measures, contacting Victoria Police if necessary, and staying on site until Police arrived to assist in relocating the individual to a safer area.*

*Under Clause 43 – Furniture and Other Items on Council Land, any bedding or personal belongings obstructing the bike path or road may be removed.*