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I, Councillor Dick Gross, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 April 2018:

That Council submits to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council, the following motion:

1. That the MAV advocate to the State Government that basic police protection of the community should not be provided on a fee-for-service basis and Councils and communities should not be required to pay twice for day-to-day community services such as the maintenance of law and order.
2. That the MAV advocate to the Police Minister and Victoria Police that proposals of user-pays and fee-for-service models should not be used to attempt to influence Councils' policy debate and outcomes.

Supporting Information

Every summer thousands of Victorians access Port Phillip Bay. For Councils whose areas cover the Bay there is considerable additional costs associated with ensuring visitors are safe and are provided with amenities they need to enjoy their Bayside experience.

Victoria Police has advised they are considering a 'user pays' system for monitoring the Port Phillip Foreshore. This would require that Councils pay Victoria Police for day-to-day maintenance of law and order – a service currently provided without fee to the general community (as distinct from arrangements that may be reached in relation to large-scale permitted events).

Councils are concerned about the additional costs that may be imposed on Councils already under pressure due to rate capping.

More fundamentally, Councils are concerned about the privatisation of the policing whereby securing law and order could be provided on a fee-for-service basis. This is an unfair and unreasonable burden on communities and individuals, who already pay for policing through taxation and should not be asked to pay again through their rates for a basic community service.

In addition Councils note the statement in a letter from Inspector Jason Kelly of Victoria Police to the Mayor and CEO of the City of Port Phillip that "It is the view of Victoria Police that without alcohol restrictions on St Kilda Foreshore, a user pays system will be necessary to ensure community safety going forward." Councils are concerned by this statement because proposing to institute financial penalties on a Council carrying out its prescribed legislative function of setting local laws and policy is inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour from Victoria Police. Proposals of user-pays and fee-for-service models should not be used to attempt to influence policy debate and outcomes.