



14.5 CITY OF PORT PHILLIP STRATEGIC MEMBERSHIPS
REVIEW 2021

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the outcome of the review of Council's strategic memberships.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Council is currently a member of 12 organisations (strategic memberships) that provide knowledge sharing, advocacy, policy development, policy implementation and other support.
- 2.2 In March 2019 and May 2020, Council reviewed its strategic memberships and determined to cease 4 memberships in 2019 and 4 memberships in 2020.
- 2.3 Officers assessed each membership against criteria previously endorsed by Council. **Attachment 1** is Council officers' review of each organisation based on the review criteria.
- 2.4 The review drew on a range of sources, including information provided by the organisations, publicly available information, and advice from Council officers.
- 2.5 The review prioritises memberships that help to deliver specific Council priorities included in its strategies and in the draft Council Plan, save officer time and Council funds and improve advocacy outcomes.
- 2.6 If all recommendations are endorsed, savings on memberships are estimated to be approximately \$5,997 per year, not including savings in staff costs.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Maintains memberships of:
 - 3.1.1 Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM)
 - 3.1.2 Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA)
 - 3.1.3 Inner Metro Partnerships (IMP)
 - 3.1.4 Local Government Professionals (LG Pro)
 - 3.1.5 M9
 - 3.1.6 Metro Transport Forum (MTF)
 - 3.1.7 Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) including Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS)



- 3.2 Maintains membership of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) for one year
- 3.3 Does not renew membership of the Committee for Melbourne (CfM)
- 3.4 Does not join Climate Emergency Australia (CEA)
- 3.5 Resolves to:
 - 3.5.1 Maintain membership of the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA)
 - OR**
 - 3.5.2 Not renew its membership of VLGA.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Background:

- 4.1 Council's 12 strategic memberships do not include operational memberships (copyright access) or professional memberships (staff accreditation and professional development).
- 4.2 In March 2019 and May 2020, Council reviewed Council's strategic memberships and withdrew from 8 organisations.
- 4.3 Council priorities are identified in the draft Council Plan and core strategies, including: Move, Connect, Live, Act and Adapt, Art and Soul and Don't Waste It. The draft Council Plan includes working with partners to develop, implement and evaluate projects, programs and policies that deliver our vision and improve the health and wellbeing of our people and places.

2021 Membership Review:

- 4.4 For the 2021 Review council officers considered the 11 existing memberships and the invitation to join Climate Emergency Australia.
- 4.5 Council officers have not considered organisations that are not progressing beyond the end of the financial year (IMAP and Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC)). Funding from Monash University for CRCWSC ends on 30 June, a new operating model is being developed and Council may be asked to join the new organisation. By resolution of 5 May, Council agreed to disband IMAP and join M9.
- 4.6 Council officers have reviewed Council's membership of strategic organisations using the following criteria that were endorsed by Council during the 2020 Review:
 - 4.6.1 Criteria 1: the alignment of each membership with Council priorities in the Council Plan and core strategies.
 - 4.6.2 Criteria 2: where there is more than one membership dealing with a Council priority, which organisation(s) is best placed to deal with the issue?
 - 4.6.3 Criteria 3: the demonstrated outcomes (benefits) of being a member of the organisation. This considers completed and ongoing projects, advocacy work on behalf of council, and development opportunities for staff including training, events, and forums.
 - 4.6.4 Criteria 4: the cost of membership and level of Council engagement (staff time) required to maintain each membership.



- 4.7 In addition, for this year's Review, council officers have included information on the impact of COVID-19 on memberships, and information on membership priorities and projects for the 21/22 financial year.
- 4.8 The outcome of the review (Attachment 1) is that Council officers recommend that Council:
- 4.8.1 maintains membership of Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM)
 - 4.8.2 does not join Climate Emergency Australia (CEA)
 - 4.8.3 does not renew membership of the Committee for Melbourne (CfM)
 - 4.8.4 maintains membership of Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA)
 - 4.8.5 maintains membership of Inner Metro Partnerships (IMP)
 - 4.8.6 maintains membership of Local Government Professionals (LG Pro)
 - 4.8.7 maintains membership of M9
 - 4.8.8 maintains membership of Metro Transport Forum (MTF)
 - 4.8.9 maintains membership of Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) including Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS)
 - 4.8.10 Maintains membership of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) for one year
- 4.9 Council officers have not made a specific recommendation for the VLGA. Given VLGA is largely a Councillor orientated organisation, many of the benefits of membership flow to Councillors. For example, the VLGA offers a range of services, including training, support, and orientation for Councillors. It is therefore recommended that Councillors resolve whether to maintain or withdraw from the membership.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 As part of the review, 30+ council officers and the Executive Leadership Team were consulted.
- 5.2 Organisations (except M9, IMAP and CEA) were contacted to provide submissions, via a questionnaire. All 11 organisations provided responses. These responses have been provided to Councillors.
- 5.3 Organisations have been advised of the Council Report date and informed of their ability to participate in the Council meeting as per the process.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Council officers will provide the required notice to each organisation if a decision is made to not continue a membership.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 See **Attachment 1** for the estimated annual membership fees and staff costs of each Strategic Membership.
- 7.2 Strategic Memberships can be resource intensive. The total cost of strategic membership fees for 20/21 is over \$180,000. This does not include Councillor and officer time and additional financial contributions for specific projects.



7.3 If all recommendations are endorsed, savings on memberships are estimated to be approximately \$5,997 (total membership cost for 2021/22 \$175,366), with additional savings in staff costs.

7.3.1 This figure assumes:

- Not joining CEA (\$3,000)
- Membership fee increases to four memberships total \$3,598 from 20/21 levels (MTF, CASBE, BESS, and SECCCA)
- Withdrawing from CRCWSC and CfM
- VLGA being renewed for 21/22 with a fee increase of \$405. If VLGA is not renewed the savings increase to \$20,450 (VLGA membership fee is \$28,905 minus the required six months' notice period).

7.3.2 This does not factor:

- IMAP/M9 funding, which will be rolled over from IMAP reserves (~\$75,000).
- SECCCA offers a tiered annual membership fee, with discounts for joining for multiple years. (One-year membership is recommended as detailed in **Attachment 1**.)

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Several of the organisations pursue actions that support the environment. These are identified in **Attachment 1**.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 **Attachment 1** identifies for each organisation any community impact.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

10.1 **Attachment 1** includes as Criteria 1 the alignment of each Strategic membership to the Council Plan/Priorities.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 See **Attachment 1**, for upcoming renewal dates for each Strategic Membership.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 Where appropriate, Council officers will notify the strategic membership organisations of the outcome of the Council meeting.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS 1. Strategic Membership Review 2021 FINAL