



City of Port Phillip Strategic Membership Review 2024



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Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM)

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

The Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) is "the voice of local government for Port Phillip Bay". The ABM is made up of nine Port Phillip Bay Councils, including Hobsons Bay City Council, Bayside City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, City of Greater Geelong, Frankston City Council, Kingston City Council, Borough of Queenscliffe, Wyndham City Council and Port Phillip City Council. The ABM works to create understanding within councils of the issues impacting their municipalities, coastline and part of the 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.

ABM's priorities include:

- 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

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

ABM has been focused on the release of the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment including media messaging and advocacy for a state led planning scheme amendment. Member updates are provided via e-newsletter, as well as community facing updates being provided via the ABM website.

The ABM have also delivered a variety of events and projects that have been supported the City of Port Phillips officers, including:

- Summer Preparedness Forum
- Port Phillip Integrated Management Forum
- Nature of Change series webinars and site tour
- ABM Member advocacy meetings
- Nature of Change in Port Phillip Bay
- Partnership program with Life Saving Victoria and Victorian National Parks Association to deliver an event series about the impacts of climate change around the bay (funded by a Coastcare grant).
- Partnership project with University of Melbourne's National Centre for Coasts and Climate, Parks Victoria as well as Councils and community groups around Port Phillip Bay to assess and reduce impacts of night-time lighting on marine and coastal animals (funded by the Port Phillip Bay Fund).

Staff Development/Training:

ABM offers regular events for Councillors and officers in professional development, knowledge sharing and capacity building opportunities.

This has included:

- Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment ABM Member Catch Up
- Forum: Summer Preparedness in Port Phillip Bay
- ABM Member Meeting
- ABM Walk & Talk Field Trip

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

The membership aligns with the 'Sustainable Port Phillip' and 'Liveable Port Phillip' strategic directions.

- *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.*
- *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.*

There is further alignment with:

- *Act and Adapt - Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-28.*

Cost:

24/25 fees are still being considered. The MAV (who host the position) have circulated an options paper to Councillor representatives regarding a fee structure. In 23/24 fees were \$11,039.75 + GST in 23/24.

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

The projects / priorities of the ABM are determined by the Member Councils and outlined in the ABM Strategic Priorities 2022-2025.

The ABM is working to:

- Build capacity to implement nature-based solutions, including partnership projects to support a suite of case studies in the bay.
- Advocate for and coordinate partnerships in adaptation planning and public consultation
- 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.
- Advocate for state-led planning scheme amendments / overlays where applicable.
- Build knowledge and capacity in coastal asset management approaches such as nature-based defence, ecoengineering, etc.
- Continue advocacy to improve personal watercraft (e.g., jet ski) licensing, education, monitoring and enforcement during summer peak.
- Advocate for funding to support local government coastal climate adaptation planning and implementation.
- Coordinate funding bids and investment opportunities with new and existing partnerships e.g., Coast care, Port Phillip Bay Fund, Victoria's Resilient Coast.

More Information:

<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. Collectively, ABM enhances advocacy outcomes and provides valuable training forums for staff.

If Council withdraws from the Association of Bayside Municipalities, this will result in increased demand for Council's 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.

Committee for Melbourne (CfM)

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

The Committee for Melbourne (CfM) is a not-for-profit, member funded entity that is politically independent and impartial and advocates for a range of important issues within Melbourne. With more than 150 members from major corporations, small and medium business, academic institutions, local government and not-for-profit entities, CfM works with organisations in shaping Melbourne as a leading global city in the world's fastest-growing region, the Asia-Pacific.

The Committee has an elected board (10 members), and focuses on future economy, liveability, urban optimisation, infrastructure and sustainability as its primary pillars of focus. The organisation works to ensure Melbourne's challenges and opportunities are addressed to keep Melbourne vital, inclusive, progressive and sustainable.

Current Council members include:

- Foundation Members: City of Port Phillip, City of Melbourne, Moonee Valley City Council
- Corporate Members: Hume City Council

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

The Committee for Melbourne has held many opportunities for engagement with leading political figures, and industry leaders, which have been attended by the mayor and council officers. This has enabled the City of Port Phillip to raise relevant advocacy priorities and undertake greater stakeholder engagement.

In particular, the Committee for Melbourne has worked to highlight opportunities to develop Fishermans Bend with the preparation of a Fishermans Bend event. The CfM wrote a submission on Fishermans Bend to the Developer Contribution Plan to assist the City of Port Phillip's contribution. CfM work closely on many aligned agenda items and continue to advocate for priorities including infrastructure investments (e.g., the MM2), transport in Fishermans Bend. Council is currently working with the Committee in the organisation of a forum on Fishermans Bend, with the expectation that this will be held in June 2024. This forum will include the opportunity to talk about the future of Transport Infrastructure in Fishermans Bend, housing growth in the precinct and the Developer Contribution Plan and the critical function it plays in funding the future.

The CEO of City of Port Phillip participates on the Liveability & Urban Optimisation Standing Committee. The Liveability and Urban Optimisation Standing Committee continues to advocate for housing targets and policies to address supply of a mix of housing and are now involved in the development of Plan Victoria in conjunction with the Victorian Government.

Staff Development/Training:

The CfM facilitate 30+ events for members each year across the 3 key pillars of focus, which are attended by council officers.

At an additional cost, the CfM also host a Future Focus Group program and Annual Dinner, however the Council have not part-taken in either of these opportunities.

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

Membership with Committee for Melbourne aligns with the 'Well-Governed Port Phillip' strategic direction.

- *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.*

Cost:

Foundation membership (for major international and national organisations): \$16,500 (plus GST).

Corporate membership (for small and medium businesses): \$8,200 (plus GST)

The key differences that the Foundation Membership offers over Corporate Membership are:

- Voting rights in the organisation
- Two invitations to the State Budget briefing with the Treasurer
- Committee's Foundation members' Annual Parliamentary Drinks
- 2x tickets to the Future Melbourne Summit
- Foundational members receive priority consideration for positions on panels and hosting events (i.e., FB Forum).

Membership fees are due July 2024.

Further information on membership benefits can be found at: <https://melbourne.org.au/membership/>

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

The Committee for Melbourne's three pillars and areas of focus are: Future Economy, Infrastructure & Sustainability, Liveability & Urban Optimization.

Each year the Committee produces a Benchmarking Melbourne Report, which compares Melbourne against 20 global peer cities. The report highlights areas where greater Melbourne requires focus, such as Housing Affordability, Infrastructure & Transport and Connectivity.

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:

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

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to maintain a membership with the Committee for Melbourne. The Committee continues to offer benefits through a collaborative approach to important issues for the City of Port Phillip. The Committee also offers opportunities for direct and regular engagement with Senior Ministers and key leadership figures.

Given the differentiation between membership offerings is minor, Council officers are recommending an ongoing membership as a Corporate Member. This change in membership level will not impact the CEO's position on the Liveability & Urban Optimisation Standing Committee.

M9

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

M9 is an alliance of nine inner-metropolitan councils who work collectively to advocate for issues and projects of mutual interest.

M9's Council members include Darebin City Council, Hobson's Bay City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, City of Melbourne, Merri-bek City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, City of Port Phillip, City of Stonnington and City of Yarra.

The M9 objectives are to:

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

M9's strategic priorities are active transport, affordable housing, economic recovery, community resilience, waste and circular economy, and renewable energy.

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

M9 has been working on the M9 Circular Economy Project, including further advocacy around support for local FOGO processing options and other innovative projects that enhance the circular economy, drive local markets and divert material out of the landfill stream.

Considerable work has been done in the housing space including the development of a draft regional agreement and submission on the draft social affordable housing compact.

M9 recently applied for the Federal Government's Disaster Ready Fund, submitting a joint grant application for the 'Resilient Asset Management Investment' project. The outcome will be known in the second half of 2024.

M9 has recently appointed an Executive Officer to drive and support the group's work. A formalised schedule has been developed for 2024 and the M9 Advocacy Strategy has recently been developed.

Staff Development/Training:

M9's Council CEOs meet once every 2 months. Mayors and CEO meetings are held 6 times a year.

These meetings have included guest speakers, along with providing a regular opportunity to CEO's and Mayor's for dialogue around relevant and timely advocacy areas.

M9 members will have the opportunity to host an event at Parliament House in 2024 to meet with Minister's and MPs for all sides of politics.

Council Directors and/or Managers are also actively engaged in a series of working groups relating to a range of advocacy areas including waste, housing and planning. These working groups operate to drive M9s advocacy platform but also provide an opportunity for knowledge sharing.

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

Membership with Committee for Melbourne aligns with the 'Well-Governed Port Phillip' strategic direction.

- *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.*

Cost:

\$0 for 2024/25 (anticipated to be \$10,000 in future years).

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

M9 will continue to focus on developing position papers, providing inquiry submissions and research projects where appropriate.

M9's key priorities for 2024 are Waste and Sustainability; Housing and planning; and Transport. Lead councils have been allocated for each priority area.

Port Phillip will take the lead role for housing and planning. The group will work to contribute to the State Government's new Plan Victoria and continue to advocate for the region in relation to planning matters.

The group will also look at additional advocacy in relation to Infrastructure; Climate emergency; Governance and leadership; and Community resilience.

In addition to the group's advocacy work, a major project for M9 is the Circular Economy Project which aims to drive change in the waste and recycling sector.

Post local government elections in October 2024, M9's strategic plan will be reviewed, and a set of goals will be established for the new council term.

More Information:

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

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to retain its membership of M9.

M9 has provided regular opportunity for the Mayor and CEO to engage with other Metropolitan Melbourne council areas, creating shared advocacy outcomes and collectively working to advance these with key State and Federal Government stakeholders.

Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF)

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

The Metropolitan Transport Forum is comprised of 26 metropolitan member councils, a collaborative professional development and advocacy forum.

The membership meets monthly to provide opportunity for Councillors and transport officers to listen to speakers on transport related subjects including trains, trams, accessibility, bicycles, walking, and buses. Working with senior strategic transport planners, engineers and invited transport experts, MTF provides an opportunity to understand the greater transport network impacts and develops advocacy opportunities for Councils interested in transport outcomes.

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

The MTF meet monthly from February to December.

Benefits of MTF's priorities for Port Phillip are:

- Opportunities for direct engagement with international transport experts and advocates, Gender Equality and Transport Accessibility Advocate, academic researchers, industry experts, and local government officer panels.
- Advocacy for improved public and active transport outcomes through the State Budget process.
- MTF has advocated for the need for further investment to retrofit existing assets.
- Council has participated in the MTF's Love Buses campaign focusing on our goals to improve bus network connectivity, coverage, and frequency. The City's presence in this space is important as Victoria heads towards its upcoming statewide bus network reform, and leverages opportunities to improve cross city connectivity and coverage to Fishermans Bend.
- The MTF also provides a forum for aligning with other local government areas to continue to advocate for a business case for Melbourne Metro 2 (MM2). This proposed cross city rail infrastructure project is essential to provide the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area with the transport connectivity it needs to ensure it is liveable and well-connected addition to Port Phillip.

Staff Development/Training:

The MTF's monthly meetings allow active participation from member attendees and these presentations are also available online after the event.

In October 2023, the MTF held a seminar entitled 'MTF Loves Buses' and at the last State election, MTF held a Town Hall Forums (in conjunction with City of Port Phillip), providing an opportunity for community members to meet the candidates and ask questions concerning transport policies.

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

Membership of MTF aligns with the '*Liveable Port Phillip*' strategic direction.

- *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.

There is further alignment with:

- *Move Connect Live – Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028*.

Cost:

\$3000 (TBC in August 2024). Membership fees are due 30 September 24.

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

MTF's three strategic areas are *Active*, *Buses* and *Choice*:

- On **Active** Transport, the top priority is securing State government funding to implement the Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28.
 - This benefits the council through including active transport in the scope of investment of major projects occurring in the municipality (for example, St Kilda Road).
- For **Buses**, the focus is on lifting bus patronage through better services, and additional state funding of buses to support their own ambitious patronage goals.
 - This benefits council by pushing DTP to progress bus reform, a policy development which will provide significant strategic guidance on the future of bus investment in Port Phillip (and in particularly Port Phillip communities only served by buses: Fishermans Bend, Garden City, and Elwood). Council can further leverage off its membership to MTF to improve services in these areas.
- On **Choices**, the MTF remains committed to giving all Melbournians competitive alternatives to private cars as the transport mode of choice [for commuting, leisure and education].
 - As an inner-city municipality connected by state arterial roads and highways, reducing Melbourne's car dependence will have a benefit on Port Phillip's amenity, ensuring visitors and workers from outside the municipality are not adding to pressures on our parking and local road networks.

Additionally in 2024/25 the MTF will:

- Have Council representative ambassadors for Walking, Cycling, Trains, Trams and Accessibility. The Ambassadors aim to improve the links to other organisations with similar focus. (e.g., Walking - Victoria Walks).
- Continue to conduct further seminars with subject matter experts.
- Continue to submit to DTP on major upcoming state strategic pieces including Plan Victoria, Fishermans Bend Tram Link Business Case, and Bus Reform updates.

More Information:

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

Recommendation:

That Council resolve to retain membership of Metropolitan Transport Forum.

This membership is important for the ongoing delivery of transport strategy outcomes and to provide officers and Councillors a resource and platform to leverage better transport outcomes for Port Phillip.

Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

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

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

MAV takes a leadership role on advocating for issues impacting the sector, providing training opportunities for Councillors, and building networks between Councils. They also provide policy and strategy advice and hold regular workshops for officers.

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

MAV has continued its policy advocacy, procurement and insurance services, and sector support throughout the 2022/23 years.

Advocacy highlights have included work on emergency management and disaster recovery funding, continued spotlight on MCH services, the Older Not Alone campaign and the implementation of the Local Government Guide to Preventing Family Violence.

Over the last few years, MAV has held conferences and events including 'Smart Urban, Rural and Regional Planning' and its twice annual MAV State Council. Port Phillip attended MAV State Council in May 2023, October 2023 and May 2024.

Membership with MAV also includes MAV Procurement which is a not-for-profit unit focused on achieving better procurement outcomes for local government in Victoria by leveraging the combined purchasing power of councils to achieve better value on products and services.

MAV has continued to represent member Councils through engagement with Ministers and their offices and State and Federal Departments. Its advocacy can be seen through media and social media channels.

Additionally, MAV advocates through regular submissions to inquiries and discussion papers including the 'Parliamentary Inquiry into securing the Victorian food supply' and the 'Parliamentary Inquiry into the Rental and Housing Affordability Crisis'.

The complete list of submissions that MAV has made over recent years can be found at:

<https://www.mav.asn.au/news-resources/publications/submissions>.

Staff Development/Training:

Council officers and councillors have participated in many events and training opportunities.

Council has regularly attended the twice annual MAV State Councils.

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

Membership with MAV aligns with the 'Well Governed Port Phillip' strategic direction.

- *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.*

Cost:

\$65,380 + GST. Membership fees are due 30 June 2024.

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

The MAV board, executive and staff have undergone a process to relaunch the Strategic Plan 2024-2027.

MAV's Strategic Plan 2024-2027 provides an outlook on the organisation's direction moving forward. The Plan is underpinned by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and includes the following enabling priorities, or areas of focus, to shape future actions:

- Active local democracy
- Connected places
- Health & wellbeing
- Sustainable economy
- FutureGen
- First Peoples local government relations
- Climate & regenerative design
- Diversity, equity & inclusion
- Resilience & recovery
- Intergenerational infrastructure

More Information:

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

Recommendation:

That Council resolve to maintain membership with MAV.

Councillors and Council officers have received benefit from attending MAV workshops, and the twice annual MAV State Council provides a key opportunity to advocate for Port Phillip priorities.

MAV's Governance network has contributed to effective planning for the 2024 local government elections.

Incoming Councillors will benefit from utilising MAV credits to participate in professional development opportunities that will enable them to succeed on Council.

South East Council's Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

The South East Council's Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) is a local government organisation made up of nine councils located in Melbourne's south east. City of Port Phillip forms part of the regional collaboration that SECCCA facilitates.

SECCCA is solely owned and managed by its council members, through a governance structure with the Management Committee developing and overseeing the implementation of SECCCA's strategic plan.

For the past 20 years, SECCCA has helped its member councils address climate change risk by undertaking mitigation and adaptation projects to deliver outcomes for councils and communities.

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

SECCCA has delivered 23 of the 26 projects listed in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan with other projects expected to be completed in 2024.

Key Projects completed in 2023/24 include:

- 'Enhancing Community Resilience' - developing tools to identify and visualise the community services, demographics, locations, and communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, funded with \$1M from Minderoo Foundation.
- A comprehensive Zero Carbon Roadmap for the South East Melbourne region, in partnership with GSEM, detailing the cost-effective opportunities and timeframes for all sectors to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.
- A Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit for Small Businesses in the region.
- A Carbon Sink Study investigating the carbon sequestration opportunities for the south east Melbourne region.
- an online Electrification Guide for Local Government, to help councils replace gas appliances with electric in council buildings, as well as costs and savings.
- an updated 'BriefEzy' tool to develop a brief for the sustainability requirements of council projects for tender documentation.

Staff Development/Training:

SECCCA supports Council officers in the development and delivery of projects. The annual SECCCA Leaders Breakfast in August 2023 launched its new Strategic Plan and advocacy platform to senior Council executives, Councillors and regional politicians.

SECCCA co-organised the annual Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Conference in August 2023. SECCCA has developed toolkits for Council officers, such as 'POWERING UP: A Guide for Conversion of Council Assets from Gas to Electric'. Training and capacity building are being embedded into future projects beyond funded delivery to increase the utilization of project outputs and maximise value for member Councils.

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

Membership with SECCCA aligns with the 'Sustainable Port Phillip' Strategic Direction.

- *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.*

There is further alignment with:

- *Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-28*

Cost:

The SECCCA Strategic Plan 24-28 has a new membership fee model, which has membership (\$40,000) and project components (\$75,000), to a total of \$115,000. Membership fees are due August/September 2024. As SECCCA had instituted a new fee structure model, Council approached SECCA with a reduced fee alternative. At the time of writing this proposal was not accepted.

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

SECCCA's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 includes 9 priority projects, including:

- Phase 2 of the Asset Vulnerability Assessment tool project, to assist members with capacity building to understand how buildings, roads and drainage will be impacted by climate change and ensure the value of this tool is maximised.
- Developing a Community Resilience Communications Plan template to support community awareness and increase preparedness to climate change.
- Workshops for senior Council managers to raise awareness of the need for councils to respond to climate risk.
- Developing and trialling a Residential Resilience Ratings Pilot tool to assess and rate a home's ability to withstand climate impacts, such as fire, floods, heat and storms along with recommendations for improvements.
- Direct support to Small Businesses to prepare for the impacts of climate change, including practical guides, tools and resources to embed the Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit.
- Further investigation of regional opportunities for carbon sequestration.
- Intensification of SECCCA's advocacy and communications efforts - SECCCA will build upon the delegations and relationships built with key state and federal stakeholders over the last 2 years.

More Information:

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

Recommendation:

SECCCA offers access to a range of valuable tools and resources, used by council officers.

The *SECCCA Strategic Plan 24-28* has a new membership fee model, which has membership (\$40,000) and project components (\$75,000), to a total of \$115,000.

Officers recommend allocation of \$38,000 for projects (in addition to the \$40,000 membership fee) to be drawn from the Act and Adapt Budget for SECCCA projects that align with the delivery of Act and Adapt projects. SECCCA are yet to confirm if this model is an acceptable outcome. Officers do not recommend payment of the \$40,000 and the \$78,000.

Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)

About Membership/Area of Expertise:

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) is an independent governance organisation supporting councils and councillors.

VLGA provide opportunities for councillor networking, professional development and information exchange and actively engages with key policymakers and broader stakeholders to inform, influence and lead the 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.

Achievements:

Projects and advocacy that have provided benefit to the City of Port Phillip:

The VLGA has positioned itself as a key organisation to support governance across local government. It has offered VLGA Connect - a series of interviews with prominent people in the sector and beyond, including the highly subscribed Local Leader series which comprises interviews with VLGA member Mayors and CEOs. It has also offered the weekly TGU – The Governance Update program.

Staff Development/Training:

Over the past two years, the membership has held regular stakeholder engagement opportunities.

This has included:

- Building Community Wealth: VLGA & LGiU Australia Global Live Panel Forum (attended by Councillor Sirakoff)
- Victorian Local Government Women's Charter Afternoon Tea (attended by Councillor Crawford)
- LGV
- FinPro
- VLGA Connect Live Panel Discussion: In Conversation with Victoria's Local Government Policy and Integrity Agencies (attended by Councillor Crawford)
- International Women's Day 2022 - Morning Tea (attended by Councillor Cunsolo and former Councillor Copsey)
- FastTrack 2022 - Trust - The Foundation of Your Leadership Journey (attended by Councillor Baxter)
- Global Executive Panel: Harmonious council decision making – Setting up councils for success (attended by Councillor Nyaguy)
- FastTrack: Civility in Local Government (attended by Councillor Crawford)

Alignment to Council Plan and Strategies:

This membership aligns with the 'Well Governed Port Phillip' strategic direction.

- *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.*

Cost:

\$30,146.00 plus GST. Membership fees are due on 1 July 2024.

Clause 13 of the 'Rules' (Constitution) of the VLGA provides that a resignation from a member Council does not take effect until 6 months after it is received by the VLGA.

Plans and priorities for 2024-25:

The VLGA released its Strategic Plan 2023-27 at FastTrack 2023, held in March 2023.

This Plan aims to address some of the challenges faced by councils and indicates a commitment to provide programs, support and guidance to ensure good governance and make decisions which optimise community success. Priorities identified by the VLGA for particular attention in the short to medium term include:

- a continued focus on governance, including responses to the review into culture to build community confidence in government and governance development (e.g., community leadership and staff new to local government) pre-election candidate and councillor induction training.
- continued innovation and improvement in local government, including supporting the implementation of values-based and positive-action legislation (i.e., Local Government Act 2020; Gender Equality Act 2020) through workshops, briefings, and advisory committees; and highlighting examples of excellence or best-practice policy and service delivery in local government.
- 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 community leadership roles, creating potential pathways to local government.
- strengthened relationships with stakeholders (including Ministers), extended networks; and
- development of councillors seeking to deliver effective outcomes for their communities in increasingly complex environments.

More Information:

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

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to retain membership of the VLGA for 2024/25.

VLGA has provided independent advocacy, engagement, and networking opportunities. The organisation has provided a level of understanding and guidance around significant changes in the governance space, including legislative reform.

As this is an election year for Local Government across Victoria, membership with VLGA will continue to support 'good governance' throughout the LG environment. This is critical to continued public trust and delivery of the important outputs of councils.

