

**Report to the Future Melbourne (Finance and Governance)
Committee**

Agenda item 6.7

Municipal Association of Victoria, State Council meeting, October 2019

17 September 2019

Presenter: Keith Williamson, Manager Governance and Legal

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to propose City of Melbourne representation in the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting that is being held in Melbourne on Friday 18 October 2019.
2. The MAV holds two State Council meetings each year with member councils having an opportunity to submit motions for consideration on matters which are of state-wide significance to local government.
3. Motions for the October State Council meeting are due by 20 September 2019.

Key issues

4. Following consideration by Councillors and management, it is proposed that a motion on the following subject be considered for submission on behalf of the City of Melbourne:
 - 4.1. Affordable and social housing crisis in Victoria
5. Details of the proposed motion and supporting rationale are included at Attachment 2.
6. The City of Melbourne will be represented at the State Council meeting by Councillor Rohan Leppert, Council's representative on the MAV.

Recommendation from management

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the motion outlined in Attachment 2 for consideration at the October 2019 MAV State Council meeting.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 3)
2. Proposed City of Melbourne motion for MAV State Council (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Finance

2. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In developing this proposal, no occupational health and safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Stakeholder consultation

5. No external consultation was undertaken in preparation of this report.

Relation to Council policy

6. The MAV State Council meeting provides Council with the opportunity of demonstrating leadership in local government by advancing key issues for consideration and contributing to discussion on matters aligned to the goals contained in the Council Plan.

Environmental sustainability

7. There is no sustainability implications associated with the proposal outlined in this report.

PROPOSED CITY OF MELBOURNE MOTION FOR MAV STATE COUNCIL**Motion title: AFFORDABLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING CRISIS IN VICTORIA****Motion:**

That the MAV:

1. Notes the continued and worsening homelessness and housing crisis across Victoria and that social housing stock has fallen to lowest levels ever across Australia.
2. Calls on all Victorian Local Governments to:
 - 2.1. evaluate and determine the social and affordable housing need across their municipality and advocate to the State Government for a consistent methodology for assessment
 - 2.2. develop a social and affordable housing policy, including social and affordable housing targets
 - 2.3. work collaboratively with State and Federal Government agencies to directly address local homelessness and housing issues.

Rationale:

Victoria is experiencing a significant and increasing shortage in affordable housing. A growing population without additional affordable housing stock will worsen the shortfall and co-ordinated State-wide action is needed.

In Victoria, analysis shows the following challenges:

- 82,000 people are on the public housing waiting list including 25,000 children (Dr Judy Yates, 2017, Victoria's Social Housing Supply Requirements to 2036).
- Only 648 new social housing dwellings were built in Victoria in 2017-18 (Victorian Parliamentary Enquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program, 2018).
- At least 1700 new social housing dwellings are needed per year to maintain the existing share of 3.5 per cent of stock in Victoria (Dr Judy Yates, 2017, Victoria's Social Housing Supply Requirements to 2036).
- \$83 per capita is spent on social housing in Victoria which is half the national average (Australian Productivity Commission, 2019, Report on Government Spending).

Preliminary analysis for Metropolitan Melbourne show:

- 231,238 households are currently in need of affordable and social housing. There is a gap of 182,260 affordable and social homes in current supply. Thirteen per cent of all households are in need of affordable and social housing.
- 20,429 people are experiencing homelessness.
- By 2036, 338,040 households will be in need of affordable housing reflecting a shortfall in current supply of 289,062 dwellings. This is an increase in demand for social and affordable housing by 106,802 over the next 20 years.

The City of Melbourne is committed to advancing work aimed at increasing housing stock by continuing engagement with State and Local Governments and other agencies on the following initiatives:

- Inter-Council Affordable Housing Knowledge Sharing Forum (led by the City of Melbourne).
- Inner Metro Partnership grant of \$50,000 to investigate housing needs and planning mechanisms for the inner region.
- Inner Melbourne Action Plan investigation of alternative housing models to increase uptake of voluntary affordable housing agreements.

The need for urgent action was also raised with the Prime Minister following the May 2019 meeting of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors.