

6.3 MAV STATE COUNCIL MOTION - SCHOOL CROSSINGS SUPERVISION

OFFICERS' REPORT

Submitting Councillor: Stuart James

That Council:

1. *Supports the motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria June 2022 State Council requesting State Government support changes to the current funding model for school crossing supervision.*

The motion to be submitted is:

That the MAV seek a commitment from the State Government for a new funding model for school crossing supervision which does not impose costs on ratepayers and residents for a service that is unrelated to core Local Government functions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Current advocacy on this matter is being accommodated within existing Council resources and budget previously allocated by Council on this matter.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

There is no impact on internal resources beyond those considered and accepted by Council in this matter at its 29 March, 2022 Council meeting.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Motion relates to the following statements and actions from Council Plans and Strategies. They will form objectives and key actions for response by the feasibility study. (For ease of reference, the numbering used under each Plan/Strategy is taken from the relevant Plan/Strategy):

1. **Council Plan – 2021-2025**
Sustainable city

- Ensure an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable municipality.

Inclusive Services

- Deliver high performing services

Enhanced Places

- *Improve public spaces and local employment by revitalising our employment hubs, activity centres and neighbourhood shops.*

Good Governance

- Ensure a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable organisation
- Council will work broadly to meet community needs including advocacy and partnering with other levels of government, local organisations and community groups.
- Council will prioritise ensuring our services can run from well-maintained and contemporary facilities and infrastructure.
- Council will also stay focused on staying within our financial sustainability indicators.

2. Financial Plan 2021-2031***Service Performance Principles***

- Council provides quality services that provide value for money to the community. The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) is designed to communicate Council's performance regarding the provision of quality and efficient services.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

Council at its 29 March 2022 meeting resolved:

That Council:

1. Recognises that child safety is and remains the primary consideration associated with the School Crossing Supervision Program.
2. Notes that Council has written to the State Government and all Monash schools informing them that Council is seriously considering its future role in funding school crossing supervision as this is a service that relates to schools and the State Government's functions rather than local government functions, and outlining the reasons for this as per Council's resolution at its 30 November 2021 Council meeting, and invited feedback by 25 February 2022.
3. Notes that Council has written to the Mayors of all other Victorian councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria seeking their views on the question of the sustainability and appropriateness of local government funding for, and provision of, school crossing supervision services.
4. Notes the feedback received as detailed in this report and attachments 1 and 2.

5. Resolves that the Mayor, convene a meeting with:
 - (a) The MAV and Mayors and senior officers of the councils that provided a response to Council as well as an invitation to all other Mayors and senior officers from metropolitan councils (should they wish to attend) to explore:
 - i. the common ground on the School Crossings issue with a view to commencing an advocacy campaign to the State Government;
 - ii. a focus on full cost recovery (inclusive of on-costs) for the provision of the school crossing supervisor service;
 - iii. the opportunity (inclusive of cost) to investigate and, where appropriate, implement alternative traffic management arrangements at school crossings such as:
 - Wombat Crossing – raised pavement with line marking and signs;
 - Pedestrian crossing – Line marking with flashing lights; and
 - Pedestrian operated signals; and
 - iv. the opportunity appropriateness for schools to nominate and provide school crossing supervisors be they volunteers or otherwise.
 - (b) Relevant Ministers (at the appropriate time when the outcomes of the above points have been discussed amongst Councils and a way forward has been agreed) including the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and the Minister for Education, with a view to investigating alternative arrangements for the funding and provision of school crossing supervisors.
6. Makes available \$15,000 to give effect to paragraph 5 of this Resolution and provide for a facilitated session(s), understanding that Council will request a financial contribution from other participating councils to provide for any external advice and to facilitate any agreed outcomes.
7. Convenes a forum with schools within the Municipality to explore the opportunity for schools to nominate and provide school crossing supervisors at no cost to Council.
8. Notes that it will receive a report and update at the appropriate time regarding the progress and any outcomes of the discussions with other councils and the relevant Minister(s), any forum with schools within the Municipality and as needed.
9. Continues providing school crossing supervisors under the terms of School Crossing Supervision Contract No. 2022069 that has been awarded which provides for school crossing supervision services until 31 December 2022 with two six month extensions by which time the outcomes of the recommendations of this report will be better known.

Council is in the process of appointing a consultant and commencing work, including making arrangements for meetings with the MAV and other Councils to further discuss this matter and progress advocacy.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Nil