

6.3 MAV STATE COUNCIL MOTION - SCHOOL CROSSINGS SUPERVISION

Submitting Councillor: Stuart James

MOTION:

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.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of my motion is to seek Council endorsement to submit a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) June 2022 State Council (see Attachment 1) requesting a commitment from the State Government for a new funding for school crossing supervision that does not impose costs on ratepayers and residents for a service that is unrelated to core Local Government functions.

BACKGROUND

Council has passed a number of previous resolutions on this matter, including at its 30 November 2021 and 29 March 2022 Council meetings.

DISCUSSION

The ongoing provision of school crossing supervision as an important service, but one that ought to be fully funded by the State Government as part of its responsibilities for funding education services in Victoria (a broad responsibility which should include getting children to and from school safely).

Council has a responsibility to its residents and ratepayers to regularly consider its spending priorities and it has previously and continues to express concerns that the share of funding contribution to school crossing supervision costs to Council's has increased by more than 50% since 1975 while the proportion of funding contributed by the State Government has almost halved.

With rate capping in place, it is increasingly difficult for Council to continue to simply provide the same level of services from year to year in circumstances where there is significant new emerging challenges which are deserving of Council funding consideration.

Council is keen to work collaboratively with the State Government and schools to transition to a new operating and 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 and services.

This is an issue that affects all Councils and is worthy of submission and support to the MAV State Council in June 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Current advocacy on this matter is being accommodated within existing Council resources.

CONCLUSION

There are many services that are provided by Council on a daily basis and with increasing demands on Council's budgets and rate capping, Councils the question of cost shifting of services to Councils is and remains a significant issue. One of these historic services that continues to place a significant financial burden on Councils with declining financial support from the State Government is the provision of school crossing supervision.

There is an urgent need for the State Government and Schools to work with Council's to relieve this financial burden, and to stop working on the assumption that Councils have the ability, capacity and financial capability to continue to support services such as this which are no Local Government Core business.
