

MAV STATE COUNCIL 14 OCTOBER 2022

Motion Submission Form

Motions must be submitted by one council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion.

The Motion should be no longer than 250 words (1700 characters) and rationale no longer than 350 words (2400 characters).

1. Name of Motion

Increased Government Funding to Rural Councils required for Essential Sealed and Unsealed Road Maintenance

2. Motion (max 1700 characters)

Strathbogie Shire is committed to providing a safe environment for the residents and travelling public; however, our road infrastructure has sustained a significant increase of reactive road maintenance repairs over recent years.

The last three years of La Nina activity has seen increased rainfall has created a higher volume of maintenance activity on our roads and drainage network. Current funding is not sustainable and requires urgent and sustained State Government funding intervention.

Compared to their rate base and ability to generate revenue, small rural shires are an asset-heavy level of government. With the majority of revenue coming from rates and charges, the ability to raise rates has been significantly constrained by rate capping since 2016 which has not kept pace with actual costs required to construct, maintain and upgrade roads and other assets.

Strathbogie has managed its road maintenance responsibility prudently, considering the combined impacts of climatic conditions, rate capping and reduced government grants. Over time continued less than ideal investment in roads, maintenance and infrastructure renewal, will have long-term impacts on the quality and safety of local roads across Strathbogie Shire and the other 47 rural/regional councils in Victoria.

This motion calls for MAV to work in partnership with the State Government to:

- 1) Urgently request the Victorian Government to release road repair funding due to La Nina and climate change to rural Councils.
- 2) Call on the State Government to recognise that current levels of rural and local roads funding is not sustainable in a rate capped environment.

3. Submitted by (Council name)

Strathbogie Shire Council

4. Other supporting councils (please list councils that support this motion) (optional)

Nil

5. Please attach written confirmation from supporting councils.

6. Is this motion supported by resolution of council?

No

7. If yes, please insert date of resolution

8. Does the subject matter of this motion have state-wide significance to local government?

Yes

9. Does this motion relate to the MAV Strategic Plan 2021-25?

Yes

10. If yes, please select the primary MAV Strategic Plan Priority to which the motion relates (choose one):

Sector capability and good governance.

11. Is this motion identical or substantially similar to a motion submitted by your Council to State Council in October 2018, May 2019, October 2019 or May 2021.

No

12. Rationale for Motion

Relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. The rationale should be no longer than 350 words (2400 characters).

Over the past three years the Strathbogie Shire has seen a substantial increase in inclement weather such as high rain falls, localised hurricanes and increased wind. This has seen an increase in loss of vegetation, mainly larger trees, and significant level of our unsealed and sealed road network deteriorate at a higher rate than previously experienced. The increased deterioration is reflected in the DoT infrastructure, such as Hume Highway, Goulburn Valley Highway, Western Highway, Loddon Valley Highway and Heathcote Nagambie Road.

The sealed road infrastructure has seen an increase in pavement failure due to more than normal road pot holing. Under previous conditions our potholing work has lasted six months, however the amount of rain that we have received thus far has seen the same pothole been repaired up to three times a month. The potholes if not attended too in the required time frame, develop into a pavement failure which becomes an expensive rectification. Council has seen a large increase in pavement failures due to the rain penetrating the sealed surface. The current cost of sealed road major patching works in our Council area can be between \$85 - \$125 per square meter depending on depth of pavement.

The unsealed road infrastructure consists of roads which have a 150mm layer of manufactured material, typically a class 3 crush rock, and some instances NDCR which is widely used for sheeting. The heavy rain has seen the deterioration of these roads and in some instances the whole road base has been washed away. The current cost to lay and compact the material to the original condition is approximately \$65 per lineal meter laid at a 4.5 meter pavement width.

Currently we have 227.678 km of road that has been affected by La Nina requiring a re-sheet, equating to \$14,799,070.00 to restore our road infrastructure back to the original condition 3 years ago.

Continued less than ideal investment in roads, maintenance, and renewal primarily due to State Government imposed rate capping and reduced grant funding will have long-term impacts on the quality and safety of local roads across our Shire.