

MAV STATE COUNCIL 2023

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

1. Name of Motion

MAV to advocate to Victorian Government of behalf of rural and regional Councils to redirect funding previously allocated to the Commonwealth Games into critical road and infrastructure projects.

2. Motion (max 1700 characters)

This motion calls for the MAV to meet with the Premier and Minister for Local Government to urgently request a redirection of a significant portion of the funding previously allocated to the 2026 Commonwealth Games to critical roads and infrastructure projects in small rural and regional shires.

Rural shires like Strathbogie Shire have been devastated by the effect of ongoing wet weather and major flooding in October 2022. Not only have our roads been significantly impacted, but so too have the Victorian Governments Road network.

Strathbogie Shire now has road surfaces across the region which have deteriorated to a point they are impossible to navigate without significant reductions in speed. This is not just frustrating for the community; it is a safety concern.

Roads and infrastructure projects in rural and regional areas are not 'nice to have'.

Strathbogie Shire welcomes the Victorian Governments commitment to deliver a comprehensive **\$2 billion package** to regional Victoria and applauds the commitment of \$1 billion to social and affordable housing. While Council understands and wholeheartedly supports the significant benefits of sport in Strathbogie Shire and throughout Victoria, rural and regional communities need safe roads and bridges to get people there.

This motion calls for MAV to advocate to the Minister for Local Government and other relevant Ministers for a reallocation of funding earmarked for sporting upgrades, to critical roads and bridge projects in small rural and regional shires. Please make safe roads and bridges the lasting legacy for all Victorians.

2. Submitted by (Council name)

Strathbogie Shire Council

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

Nil

4. Please attach written confirmation from supporting councils.

5. Is this motion supported by resolution of council?

Yes

6. If yes, please insert date of resolution

August 15, 2023 (pending endorsement)

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Sector capability and good governance.

10. 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.

Similar

11. Rationale for Motion

Over the past three years the Strathbogie Shire Council has seen a substantial increase in extreme weather such as localised hurricanes, increased wind, increased rain events and a flood in October 2022.

The increase of rain due to three years of La Nina and the October 2022 flood event has seen the unsealed and sealed road network deteriorate at a higher rate than previously experienced.

Strathbogie Shire has 2,210km of roads – 1,465km unsealed and 748km sealed. Council also maintain and renew 521 bridges and major culverts. Maintenance and renewal of this extensive road network including culverts is a significant ask on a small rural Council, even when conditions are good.

Before the floods we had 227.68km of road that had been affected by ongoing wet weather requiring a re-sheet, equating to \$14,799,070 to restore it back to the condition it was three years ago.

Post flooding, we estimate the damage bill could be three times this amount – reaching as high as \$50 million.

Council officers are working around the clock, yet we are not keeping up.

We've been forced to enact the force majeure clauses in our Road Management and Tree Management plans. We simply cannot provide the service levels outlined in these plans.

The flood event also forced the closure of the historic Kirwans Bridge.

An engineers' report completed post flood has found the bridge is structurally compromised and not safe for use by vehicles.

The news has been devastating for the Kirwans Bridge community and users of the bridge. We know how important access across the bridge is to residents and visitors.

We're grateful that we've been working with a passionate group of residents, the Kirwans Bridge Community Panel, to identify the best long-term solution for the bridge.

Through this work, we have now identified, designed, and costed the preferred option that will ensure a long-term sustainable future for this essential bridge.

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However, we need funding from government to make this community driven solution a reality.

Roads and infrastructure projects in small rural and regional areas are not 'nice to have'.

Roads and infrastructure projects in small rural shires like Strathbogie Shire are critical.

We need funding to ensure our roads are safe, our bridges are useable and we are more resilient in the future.