

## MAV State Council Meeting – 23 October 2015

To submit a motion for consideration by State Council on 23 October 2015, please complete this form and email to [State Council](#), **no later than Friday, 25 September 2015**. Please note, deadlines are strictly observed.

### MOTION

Support for State Government's renewable energy target.

**Submitted by:** Surf Coast Shire Council

### MOTION:

That the MAV and the Local Government Sector formalise support for State Government's renewable energy target.

### RATIONALE:

Surf Coast Shire Council has strongly opposed unconventional gas exploration for several years. Council has used many channels to voice its opposition to unconventional gas exploration including a putting forward a motion that was carried at the MAV State Council Meeting in October 2014.

MAV's submission to the inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria in July 2015 opposed any exploration and production of onshore unconventional gas in Victoria pending definitive evidence of the following:

- that the social and environmental impacts of such activity will not be detrimental;
- there is an appropriate level of community support; and
- there is a best practice regulatory framework in place to ensure protection of the environment, local communities, industries and private property rights.

The MAV also called on the Victorian Government to focus its efforts on developing Victoria's renewable energy sector.

The Victorian Government has recently released a plan for the renewable energy industry, which includes a minimum state target, solar initiatives and a commitment for the government to buy renewable energy certificates as a way to encourage new wind energy projects.

Renewable energy is critical to the future of Victoria. There is growing community expectation that all levels of government invest in more sustainable energy options. Fossil fuel cannot remain our primary source of energy as it is a declining resource, pollutes Victoria's environment and contributes to climate change. Victoria has significant renewable energy resources including wind, solar, wave and geothermal. An invigorated renewable energy sector will produce new jobs and drive Victoria's economy forward.

The Local Government sector should play a lead role in supporting and achieving this renewable energy future.

*\*Note: 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. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***

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### MOTION

Recognising the differing needs of rural, regional and urban councils when finalising the rate capping framework

**Submitted by:** Surf Coast Shire Council

### MOTION:

That the MAV call on the Minister for Local Government and the Essential Services Commission to recognise the differing needs of rural, regional and urban councils and make allowance for these needs when finalising the rate capping framework

### RATIONALE:

Surf Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Victorian Government's commitment to implementing its rate capping policy. Council seeks to work constructively with the government and the Essential Services Commission (ESC) to establish a workable process and implementation approach that supports the current and future sustainability of Council and its communities.

Surf Coast Shire has encouraged the ESC to understand that each council's circumstances are different and must be accounted for in the development of its respective rating framework. Surf Coast Shire has a unique natural environment, is amongst the fastest growing Council's in the state, and is a premier tourist destination attracting over 1.8 million visitors a year. The shire population almost quadruples during the peak summer period. Other key points raised in Surf Coast Shire's advocacy to date on this issue include:

1. Councils should be encouraged to request a variation if needed
2. The variation process will only work if councils are willing and able to submit variation requests, and that the process adequately acknowledges unique municipal characteristics.
3. The State Government should make it clear that the cap is not an absolute and remove any stigma of applying for a variation
4. Supplementary rates need to be annualised
5. There needs to be an adequate transition period to assist councils to adjust to new circumstances
6. Councils should pursue efficiency gains without a mandatory efficiency factor
7. Significant increases in the State Government's Fire Services Levy at the same time of rate capping seems inconsistent and confusing and should be reviewed.

The Victorian Government is committed to implement its rate capping policy. The Local Government sector needs to work constructively with the government and the ESC to establish a workable process and implementation approach that supports the current and future sustainability of Council and its communities.

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