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Graeme Emonson
Executive Director
Local Government Victoria
PO Box 500
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the **Municipal Association Act Review** consultation paper.

The consultation paper was discussed with Councillors at a recent briefing and Councillors expressed overall support for the proposed reforms. They also expressed support for the MAV Board's submission.

The Councillors raised some additional issues some of which were outlined in the VAGO report "Effectiveness of Support for Local Government" and were not addressed in the consultation paper or MAV's submission. It is recommended that the following issues be considered in the review of the Act to strengthen the governance of the MAV:

- 1) half of the Board positions to be independent members nominated by the Governor in Council or the Minister;
- 2) inclusion of conflict of interest provisions in the Act or the requirement to include conflict of interest guidelines in a Code of Conduct;
- 3) provide for voting entitlements in the legislation rather than the rules to ensure that each participating council has the same voting rights regardless of financial contribution or size; and
- 4) provide for an independent review or oversight of the rules to ensure good governance and equity.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Roffey
Chief Executive Officer

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