



**CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE**

Our Ref. D/17/25740 pam

30 June 2017

Municipal Association Act Review  
c/- Local Government Victoria  
PO Box 500  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3002**

Sent via email: [hannah.wood@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:hannah.wood@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Municipal Association Act Review Submission**

Corangamite Shire Council considered the Municipal Association Act Review Consultation Paper at its ordinary meeting on 27 June 2017 and resolved to make a submission.

Council acknowledges the important role the Municipal Association of Victoria plays in representing the interests of Local Government and the range of services it provides including insurance and procurement services. Council also acknowledges the MAV currently operates under an Act drafted in 1907, which does not necessarily reflect contemporary governance practices.

The majority of the reforms outlined in the Consultation Paper are generally supported by Council, as they seek to modernise the existing Act and ensure high levels of governance and accountability. However, some specific issues or concerns have been identified as outlined below.

*Independence*

It is critical that the MAV remains a strong and independent advocate for Local Government and that it should not be unreasonably constrained by State oversight or regulation.

Concern is raised about a number of changes to the Act that seek to direct MAV activity or require unnecessary Ministerial oversight. In particular, the following proposed reforms are noted.

Reform 1 – Sets out the broad role of the MAV. Included in the preamble is a requirement for the MAV to facilitate collaboration and shared services between councils. While this objective is laudable, it is questioned if this is a key role of the MAV. Decisions about shared services should remain the prerogative of each individual council.

**CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL**

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Reform 29 - Requires the approval of the Minister for provision of mutual liability insurance. This should be a business decision of the Board and should not be constrained by Ministerial approval.

*Board members and membership*

It is important that the reforms clarify that representatives to the MAV must come from that council. This reform should also clarify that only councils making a financial contribution are eligible and that each council should constitute the MAV, not the representative as set out in the Consultation Paper.

Reform 4 – The proposed reform should be amended to stipulate that only councils making a financial contribution can be members and that the council, not the representative, constitutes the MAV.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Municipal Association Act Review. Please contact me on 5593 7100 if you require further information regarding Council's submission.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Mason', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Mason

**Chief Executive Officer**