

# Cr Mike Symon

## Candidate for MAV President



I have nominated for the position of MAV President and seek the support of your Council so that we can improve the MAV services to member Councils and increase our level of advocacy with other levels of government.

As a 2 term Councillor, former Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Federal Member of Parliament I've been working since 2007 to advocate for funding and support that our communities need. I am keenly aware of the benefits that regional and state wide collaboration can bring in achieving these goals.

As the only current member of the MAV Board who is standing for election as President I bring a thorough understanding of the issues and concerns that confront our sector today and into the future.

Your Board has worked diligently to resolve the financial position of the MAV. Ensuring that our organisation is financially stable through good and bad times will be an ongoing priority for me as President.

I elected, I will work with the new Board and management to ensure that both MAV LMI and MAV WorkCare operations remain financially viable and good value products for your Council.

As your Council's MAV Representative you need a constant flow of current information about the sector as a whole and the issues arising from MAV policy and advocacy.

Council CEO's already receive a weekly bulletin from the MAV CEO and I will include MAV Reps in similar regular updates.

MAV Reps who visit the Collins Street office currently have no facilities to work in or rooms to hold small meetings in. With the move to new offices coming up, now is the time to plan to accommodate these facilities in our new offices.

The current MAV Rules were not written to facilitate virtual meetings. Last year saw the cancellation of our 2 scheduled State Council meetings, the Annual Conference and the Regional and Metro forums.

The MAV Rules are overdue for revision and need to be re-written to match the expectations of our membership.

I'm now in my 5<sup>th</sup> year as a MAV Rep and as the current Board member for the Eastern Metro Region, have greatly benefited from the regular meetings that bring our regional Rep's, Mayors and CEO's together to discuss the issues that matter in the Region.

As President I would encourage a similar model across all 12 Regions and I commit to travel to all of your Region's scheduled meetings, wherever in the State that they made be held.

Council finances have been smashed by the impacts of Covid-19 with income dropping across the board while expenses have risen way beyond our prepared budgets.

With rate capping seemingly here to stay our sector needs to advocate for solutions to fill this revenue gap with the State through either one off, or ongoing programs to repair the financial positions of all Councils.

Local Government also needs to work harder on improving our reputation with our residents and ratepayers across the State. We need to promote the public good that we do to get this message across.

As the level of government closest to the people we need to build on our relationship with both State and Federal governments by stepping up our sector advocacy and policy output so that we are proactive in championing our communities' needs.

A good working relationship with the State is vital to achieving this and my former occupation as an MP helps bring the contacts and networks that are needed to succeed in our advocacy.

By working together with all parties we can achieve better results for our communities.

If elected, I will work as your full time President, visiting every Council in the Eastern Metro Region at mutually convenient times, to see and hear first-hand the successes that you have achieved and the problems that need to be addressed.

As President, I will be here for you and will always listen and take genuine account of your Council's views and concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 0436 002 080 or email at [mike.symon@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:mike.symon@maroondah.vic.gov.au) should you have any questions or wish to discuss any matter regarding the MAV.

I look forward to your support.

### **About me**

I live with my wife Cheryl and 2 adult daughters in Heathmont, Melbourne's outer Eastern suburbs having grown up in the area before deciding to stay here and raise our family. I am a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors course and have a keen interest the financial performance and governance of our sector.

- 2 years as the MAV Metro East Board Member and MAV Audit and Risk Advisory Committee member, being elected for the current term in 2019
- 5 years as a Councillor at Maroondah including a year as a Deputy Mayor, and as Mayor
- 5 years as Maroondah's MAV Rep and on Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee
- 4 years as a delegate to the Metro Waste & Resource Recovery Group Forum
- 2 years as the Eastern Regional Group of Councils Deputy Chair
- 6 years in Federal Parliament as the Federal Labor MP for Deakin
- Over 25 years working as an A Grade licensed industrial and commercial electrician and Diploma level OH&S Coordinator

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**Maroondah City Council**

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