

**MAV State Council Meeting – 12 May 2017**

To submit a motion for consideration by State Council on 12 May 2017, please complete this form and email to **State Council**, **no later than 14 April 2017**. Please note, motions received by **6 April** (early motions) will be distributed to all MAV representatives on **7 April**. Submitters may amend their own motions up to 5pm on **21 April 2017**.

**MOTION**

**EXEMPT COMMUNITY CEMETERY TRUSTS FROM PAYMENT OF RATES**

*Submitted by: South Gippsland Shire Council*

**MOTION:**

That the MAV seek authorisation from the State Government to allow Council's to remove the payment of rates from Community Cemetery Trusts.

**RATIONALE:**

Meeniyen Cemetery Trust (the Trust) has been operating since June 2000 providing an essential service to the township and district of Meeniyen. The Trust is a voluntary service organisation however receives commercial payments for burials to finance the operations. The Trust members act as custodians of the cemetery, with the primary role to manage the cemetery efficiently, to provide a facility that the community can be proud of and preserve funds for its future maintenance.

The Trust was recently approached by the NBN to lease a proportion of land for a NBN Tower. A lease was signed which provides essential monies with which the Trust has hired a part time worker to carry out needed works.

Unbeknown to the Trust at the time of signing the lease, the leased land being commercial was subject to payment of rates and Fire Services Levy. The contract excluded the NBN from paying the rates.

On behalf of the Meeniyen Cemetery Trust (and other Victorian Cemetery Trusts in this position) this motion requests State Government to allow Councils to exempt Community Cemetery Trusts (as distinct from commercial business) from the payment of rates. If made exempt, the rates payment could then be transferred back into the cemetery maintenance program.

*\*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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