

Description of Council Service	Estimated Cost for MVCC excl. cost shifting	Actual Grant Funding 2022/23	Cost Shifting Costs	Total Actual Cost 2022/23	Officer comment
Waste Services (landfill levy)	\$ 906,900.00	\$ -	\$ 3,700,900.00	\$ 4,607,800.00	Council pays a landfill levy on every tonne of waste disposed at landfill. The purpose of the landfill levy is to incentivise waste reduction and fund waste prevention initiatives in Victoria. Councils have not seen a commensurate re-investment of this money back into local resource recovery. Further, Councils understand that this funding has been invested in the establishment of regulatory bodies, supporting EPA and other state government agencies, rather than on ground, sector-based action. The cost to Council for State Government Landfill Levy was \$3,700,962, and the total cost to Council to send waste to landfill (including the landfill levy) was \$4,607,795. Therefore the State Government Landfill Levy accounts for almost 70% of the cost of sending waste to landfill.
School Crossing Supervision (reduction in grant funding)	\$ 1,163,000.00	\$ 502,000.00	\$ 159,000.00	\$ 1,322,000.00	The School Crossing Supervision Program was introduced in 1975 under a joint funding arrangement between the State (Department of Transport formally VicRoads) and Councils. Although at the outset of the program, the funding contribution of the State Government was higher, the funding has diminished over a number of years and has dropped to approximately 30% in recent years. A recent injection of funding has brought the funding back to an expected (approximate) 50/50 split although there is no commitment that this funding level will be maintained in future years. Under the program Councils were required to appropriately staff the funding crossings. For 2022/23, MVCC currently has 65 funding school crossings. Over the years Council's cost have significantly increased due to pay conditions and cost of hiring contractors, due to a workforce shortage. For 2022/23, the Victorian Government is contributing \$502,316 (38%) of the \$1,322,943 expense for the service, leaving a cost to Council of \$820,627 (62%). However, this does not include many of the indirect service costs such as Senior Management support and heightened recruitment needs.
Electrical Line Clearance (MVCC cutting branches under power lines that MVCC doesn't own)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 517,244.00	\$ 517,244.00	Tree pruning around powerlines is required by Councils in accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 which were introduced by the State Government in response to bushfire concerns. The extent of pruning depends on the voltage and the type of lines regardless of whether they are within High Bushfire Risk Areas (HBRA) or Low Bushfire Risk Areas (LBRA). This approach results in excessive pruning in LBRA around Low Voltage (LV) conductors and requires extensive additional resourcing given the extent of mature tree canopy cover. It is considered that applying this approach around LV in LBRA is overly simplistic and requires a considerable amount of tree pruning to remain compliant, irrespective of the actual risk of electrocution, fire, or power outages. The electrical line clearance regulations should be reviewed to allow the pruning requirements around LV conductors to be based on a site and scenario specific risk assessments. The trees at Moonee Valley within the vicinity of overhead conductors are currently pruned by our contractors on a 2 year cycle. In 2022/23 the cost of these works has been \$477,389 plus the cost of auditing of these trees which amounted to \$39,855. So the total cost for complying with the regulations is \$517,244.
Urban Planning (out of pocket costs for staff providing advice on matters where MVCC is not the responsible authority)	\$ 408,000.00	\$ -	\$ 21,430.00	\$ 429,430.00	The fees and charges available to Councils for Planning Applications provides only a small proportion of the cost to deliver the full suite of planning services to the municipality. As an example, planning permit application fees are set by the State Government. Planning reform has reduced the involvement of Council as primary decision maker in some types of applications, but still expect Council to undertake work in a referral capacity— there are no fees or funding for this. The additional, unplanned pressures placed on the urban planning teamstem from the team being assigned tasks that do not align with their regular services, which are traditionally funded through the collection of fees.
Building Services (out of pocket costs for staff providing advice on matters where MVCC is not the responsible authority)	\$ 190,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	Since the initial deregulation of the building industry in the early 1990's there has been an incremental shift in responsibility to Councils as part of the building system. This has come about primarily from legislative change which has resulted in greater inspection and oversight for Municipal Building Surveyors (MBS) including in relation to Essential Services Inspections, Swimming Pool and Barrier Compliance and combustible cladding reviews. Council has however, been given additional tasks in relation to Pool Safety regulations. These changes resulted in additional tasks and responsibilities for Councils regarding pool safety and fences. The concerns regarding cladding, enforcement, Orphaned Building Permits etc. are therefore very evident and Moonee Valley Council will be under pressure to maintain expected levels of service. The pool safety work has required an increase of approximately 10% to the overall workload of the Building unit.
Libraries and Learning Centres (reduction in grant funding)	\$ 4,040,061.50	\$ 844,934.00	\$ 2,350,193.50	\$ 6,390,255.00	It has been reported that 1975, public libraries were funded 50:50 by the Victorian Government and Local Government. Victorian Government funding to MVCC has since declined to just 13 per cent of public library operating costs, with council now contributing 87 per cent of the total cost.
Maternal Child Health (reduction in grant funding)	\$ 2,019,730.00	\$ 907,210.00	\$ 205,310.00	\$ 2,225,040.00	Local Governments and the State Government have an agreed partnership to that is intended to be a 50:50 split of costs to deliver the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Service. MVCC is currently contributing 64% of the costs of service delivery in our municipality. This is due to the funding model not keeping pace with increased costs of service delivery, that relate to increasing vulnerability and family complexity in all communities, and funding being based on historical demand for the service rather than projected population.

Kindergartens Central Registraion Scheme (reduction in grant funding)	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 178,000.00	The Kindergarten Central Registration Scheme provides a one stop shop for families to enrol in multiple kindergartens across the municipality. Council administers a central registration scheme for 14 Council and 4 non-Council, not-for-profit kindergartens in Moonee Valley. Cost shifting is experienced due to the funding model not being reflective of the extent and scope of the program: •Funding is based on the maximum enrolment places the scheme can offer, rather than the actual number of registrations received to compete for those enrolment places. Where a council receives more registrations for kindergarten places than the number of children it can enrol, this results in a shortfall of funding. •The base rate per registration is inadequate. •Council is required to process all registrations received regardless of how many registrations become enrolments. This is to ensure an equitable opportunity for all residents and to maintain sustainable services should families change their preferences or drop out of the scheme.
Immunisation (reduction in grant funding)	\$ 179,960.00	\$ 84,960.00	\$ 10,040.00	\$ 190,000.00	The Immunisation Service provides vaccines in accordance with the National Immunisation Schedule including: •Childhood (six weeks to four years old) immunisation program for the community. •School age (year 7 and year 10) immunisation program. •Vaccines for population groups identified as more vulnerable to infectious diseases for example, Influenza vaccines for pregnant women and people over 65 years of age. Funding received covered approximately 48% of the actual budget, resulting in a shortfall of \$99K to Council. Overall, the growing funding gap means that Council is responsible for additional funding in order to maintain service levels, otherwise the level of service would need to be reduced.
Emergency Management (MVCC out of pocket expenses for climate emergencies i.e. flooding)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	
Total	\$ 9,022,652	\$ 2,365,104	\$ 7,101,118	\$ 16,123,769	