



## **President and Board Elections 2025**

**Election of  
Director**

### **Metropolitan East Region**

Voting instructions,  
candidates' statements  
and photographs

**NOTICE:** The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.



**SIMPSON, Kieran**

The MAV plays a vital role in shaping and supporting our communities. In the coming years, Councils will face significant challenges. The MAV must lead, partner, plan, facilitate, and empower the Local Government sector. It should proactively shape policy, set the agenda, and drive meaningful change. I am committed to building on the MAV Strategic Plan 2024–2027 to create thriving, resilient cities, regions, and towns, especially in the face of climate change. As an engineer, I take holistic approaches to problem-solving, recognising that solutions extend beyond local government alone. Strong collaboration with State and Federal governments is essential to translating policy into tangible outcomes that benefit our communities. Advocacy will be key to ensuring our communities' voices are heard and presenting policy solutions that align with local needs. If elected, I will work closely with Councils in the eastern region to represent our collective interests on the MAV Board. By leveraging our combined knowledge, experience, and ideas, we can achieve meaningful results for our region. It would be an honour to represent the eastern region on the MAV Board and contribute to a stronger future for our local communities and all Victorians.

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**SPEARS, Kylie**

I am honoured to nominate for the MAV Board, representing the Metropolitan East region. I want to ensure our sector is seen as a trusted and valued partner by the community and a strong collaborator across community and all levels of government. If elected, I commit to having regular face-to-face meetings, rotated across each council in our region. This will ensure all councils have an equal voice and will support collaborative decision-making that benefits the entire region. Guided by MAV's Strategic Plan, I am committed to promoting good governance, financial sustainability, and innovation in service delivery. Additionally, I will promote and support the priorities of the Eastern Region Group of Councils. By fostering transparent communication and building strong partnerships, we can enhance public trust and deliver outcomes that meet the evolving needs of our communities. I will ensure timely and clear information is shared so that every council feels included and empowered. I bring experience, dedication, and a passion for strengthening local government. I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow councils and stakeholders to build a resilient future for all communities within the Metropolitan East region. I respectfully seek your support for my nomination. Vote 1 Kylie Spears  
M:0436003660

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**JAMES, Stuart**

During my two years on the MAV Board, I have built a strong internal reputation and was recently appointed MAV Deputy President, and to the national ALGA Board. With these leadership positions and my strong relationships with Mayors, Councillors and CEO's in our region, I believe I am the best candidate to deliver for our region. My top priority remains fighting against cost shifting and freeing up Council budgets to provide critical core services for our community. The Board has made an exceptional appointment as CEO which has assisted in making the voice of our sector heard by State MPs and Ministers. We recently adopted an ambitious 4-year strategic plan, and I am keen to see that through. We are all acutely aware of the dire need for increased housing of varying types across the State, however we first need to ensure adequate infrastructure to support population growth: roads, transport, schools and hospitals – and this is where the State needs to be held to account. I have a track record of delivering for our region, have actively engaged with ERG bimonthly, and met with all Councils individually to garner their views. I seek your support to continue on the Board.