



## **President and Board Elections 2025**

**Election of  
Director**

### **Gippsland 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.



**HALSTEAD, Rochelle**

The primary issue facing our region is the financial sustainability of our sector, particularly the disproportionate impacts on regional and rural councils due to limited revenue-raising capacity. This challenge is compounded by the need to provide additional services because of the expansive geographic size of our municipalities and service gaps in our rapidly growing communities. This was starkly highlighted in the Local Government Funding and Services Inquiry from 2024. Additionally, there are increasing requirements for natural disaster response and community preparedness, deteriorating current assets, further asset investment needs as well as industry diversification. There is a critical need for investment in our regions and smaller towns to support economic activities such as tourism, small business, manufacturing, and agriculture. These are vital to the long-term health and wellbeing of our population. As our elected Councillors work tirelessly and locally for their communities' needs, it is essential for the representative organisation of our sector to effectively communicate the significant community and financial pressures we are experiencing. With a background as a graduate of the Australian Institute for Company Directors and experience as a two-time Mayor, I seek your support and commit to delivering outcomes on the ground.

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**HERSEY, Nathan**

It has been an honour and a pleasure to have served on the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Board as the Gippsland representative for the past two years. I am proud to have contributed to positive change in the way that MAV responds and advocates on issues impacting local government. It's clear that the offering of support, training and services by the MAV to member councils has increased dramatically and I am proud to have actively participated and engaged in these improvements and the strategic direction of the organisation. Importantly, I have been a strong advocate at Board level for the issues that impact Gippsland, having taken matters directly to the Board and supported State Council motions raised by councils in Gippsland. I hold a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma in Business Management and Human Resources Management and am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. My qualifications are complemented by significant experience in Government, plus real-life experience in business and community. I humbly seek your support to be returned to the Board, for a further two years, to continue the work that is well underway and to ensure consistency and strong representation for our Gippsland region.

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**GIBSON, Sharon**

Dear Councillors, I would like to ask for your support on being the Gippsland representative for the MAV Board. I believe that we need to work together better and have a collective view of what we as Gippslanders need for our area. To date this has not occurred as well as I believe it could or should. We know that we have great challenges now and into the future, united we stand a chance in addressing these, divided, less so. To me I would be going in as the mouthpiece for Gippsland, by working with you all on what needs to be pushed or disagreed with. To enable that to occur we need to have frequent dialogue with one another, be it in person or via zoom. This is not to be a 1 man band, this is for a collective voice. I believe I have the ability to do this, as I have the experience, now into my 5th term as Councillor, twice Mayor during major disasters and Deputy Mayor 5 times. I have a wealth of knowledge about what has and hasn't worked within the sector and with your support we can use this to help our Gippsland.