



President and Board Elections 2025

Election of Director

Goulburn Ovens Murray 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.



WORTMANN, David

The MAV plays a key role as our peak body. Our region needs a strong voice at the table to ensure the issues of our councils are well represented and in turn the MAV serves us well. I am a primary producer and small business owner, and have been a Councillor at Towong since 2008, with six Mayoral terms. I believe I have the experience, knowledge and time to commit to this important role and be a strong advocate for our councils to ensure that the MAV effectively represents us. The challenges we face are complex, community expectations continue to rise and the need to do more with less is a constant. Our councils are grappling with financial sustainability, lack of State and Federal funding, cost shifting, the housing crisis, poor telecommunications, poor transport infrastructure, natural disaster response, emergency management, etc! It is critical that the MAV understands the issues we are facing and strongly advocates to both levels of government for the support and change regional and rural councils need. I will maintain regular communication with your council and work hard to ensure that I understand your issues and be a strong and effective advocate for you. Phone: 0428816657

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GOBEL, Michael

MAV needs to be an effective advocate for regional and rural Victoria. As the Mayor of Wodonga Council and as a Board Director of both private sector and government entities, I have a strong track record in effective advocacy and governance. Most significant of these was as Director of Hume Bank for 11 years, 6 years as Chair. Local Government is facing tremendous challenges, none more so than financial. With relentless cost shifting from State Government the problem is further exacerbated by cost inflation and rate caps. Regional and rural councils are feeling the pressure more so than our metro counterparts. We typically have larger geographies and smaller populations to help pay for these additional costs. The addition of the new Emergency Service Volunteer Fund levy will disproportionately impact regional and rural Local Governments with our rural ratepayers facing huge increases. The collection of this levy being imposed on Local Government will have both reputational and cost implications. In addition issues around loss of Local Government planning controls to influence developments objectionable to some of our communities needs to be addressed. I seek your support to advocate on these key issues.

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NICHOLAS, Sarah

If elected, as the MAV Director for the Goulburn Ovens Murray Region I will bring a strong and broad understanding of rural and regional issues. My Alpine Shire Council experience spans from 2016 and includes 4 years as deputy mayor. I am in my second, very constructive, year as Mayor. Previous involvement with the MAV includes membership of the Environment Committee and training opportunities. I have extensive experience as the North East Catchment Management Authority board Chair and member of audit and risk committees as well as representing local communities on State and Murray Darling based Ministerial Advisory Committees. I have undertaken diverse Australian Institute of Company Director and other relevant training. As an MAV director I will focus on exemplary governance, listening to concerns, ideas and vision from across the region and support Councils to be heard by the MAV and State Government. Working with the objectives and strategies identified by MAV State Council I will seek to guide sustainable change and growth balanced with environmental and farming needs. In the emerging economic landscape I will encourage collaboration to develop and implement innovative ways to achieve the best possible for our metro, regional and rural communities.