

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

4 June 2015

Charter Review Secretariat
Level 24, 121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

To Whom It May Concern,

SUBMISSION TO THE 2015 REVIEW OF VICTORIA'S CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 (the Charter)

I am pleased to provide this submission on behalf of the Municipal Association of Victoria; the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 councils. Formed in 1879, we have a long and proud tradition of supporting councils and councillors.

Since its implementation, Victorian councils have overwhelmingly supported the Charter. After seeking and receiving contributions from councils, our submission to the 2011 review advised that councils had not found it resource intensive and in fact urged for the Charter's retention. Further, once the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (the Committee) released their report, our governing body passed a motion to call on the State Government to not only support the Charter's objectives, but to retain and strengthen the Charter itself. This position has not changed.

As the level of government closest to the people, councils have a significant role in developing resilient communities that respect human rights. The Charter is a catalyst to ensure that human rights are better protected, better understood and, importantly, better reflected in government operations and decisions. Victorian councils have been enhanced by the Charter, and accept their responsibility to lead by example.

We call on the government to renew its support of the Charter, and look forward to its continuation.

Yours sincerely



ROB SPENCE
Chief Executive Officer