

FinPro Member Update January 2021 (Edition 3, 2021)

Welcome to our weekly Member Update.

Another week of strange weather – hot days, wind, rain and sunshine, then a chill in the air! Much the same as our country's COVID situation at the moment – good one day, not so good the next! No masks one day - masks the next! Great numbers of office workers being allowed back onsite – less staff being allowed back on site....

These unpredictable times make it difficult to plan anything really, professionally or personally!

Thank-you to over 200 of our members (an amazing response) who came back to us this week with their feedback on how we should run our next Seminar on February 26, 2021. Although there were a few who were ready and willing to meet in person, the vast majority of our members told us that they are still more comfortable with meeting 'online', and for that reason, we have decided to only offer an online option for this seminar. Sorry to those who were really keen to meet up with other members.

We really appreciate the work done by our friends at Bendigo, Warrnambool and Latrobe in making tentative arrangements to host regional sessions. We hope that one day soon we will be able to use those venues to host members in person. Thank-you Nathan (Bendigo), Matthew (Latrobe) and David (Warrnambool). Both the South West Group and the North Central Groups have decided to run online regional meetings on the afternoon of Friday 26 February – for those in those groups – watch your inbox for an invite! For other regions, please, if someone would like to offer to organise a session for their area please [let us know](#) and we can assist.

Registrations are now open for our Seminar on 26 February from 10.00am – 12.30pm. This is a free event for all members who have subscribed to our Online PD Program.

Whilst the final details are still being sorted, we can confirm that the following sessions will be on the agenda:

- General FinPro Update
- Local Government Act Implementation, including:
 - Model Budget Launch
 - Model Financial Statements Launch
 - Long Term Financial Plan (final), and
 - Revenue and Rating Strategy (final)
- Economic Update
- [FinPro AGM](#) – including the election of the FinPro Executive for 2021 ([formal documents here](#))

[**Register NOW**](#)

Membership News

With Council's updating and renewing their membership for the coming year, we are very pleased and appreciative of the 78 Councils and 3 libraries that have renewed their membership for 2020/21.

We welcome the following new members to FinPro:

- **Dena Vlekkert** has joined the team at Alpine Shire Council as Manager Corporate Services.
- **Kaleena Cruickshank** has joined the team at Bass Coast Shire as Coordinator Finance
- **Joseph Kay** has joined the team at Bass Coast Shire and a Finance Business Partner
- **Ishan Weeratunga** has joined the team at Bass Coast Shire as a Graduate Accountant.
- **Anna Trembearth** has joined the team at Bass Coast Shire as a Revenue Officer, and
- **Mark Greening** has joined the team at Bass Coast Shire as a Specialist Revenue Officer

If you have any news to share with the FinPro membership please forward this to [Gab](#).

Membership Renewal information [available here](#)

Corporate Partnership information [available here](#)

We thank our 2020 Corporate Partners

- Commonwealth Bank
- CT Management
- MAGIQ Software
- LG Solutions
- VOTAR Partners
- Vision Super

For further information please contact Gabrielle Gordon on 0400 114 015 or at gabrielle@finpro.org.au

Electing our Executive for 2020/21

Notice is given that our AGM for the year ended 30 September 2020 will be held online on Friday 26 February 2021.

During the AGM we will be electing our FinPro Executive team for the year. Our constitution allows for up to 15 paid up FinPro Members to be elected. If you are interested in learning more about what is involved in being on the FinPro Executive then please contact either Bradley (0419 634 128) or Gab (0400 114 015) or reach out to any of the current Executive to find out more information.

Nominations close at midday on Wednesday 24 February 2021.

FinPro Technical Committee News / Updates

Local Government Act Implementation

The FinPro Local Government Act 2020 Working Groups are nearing completion on their respective projects:

- Model Accounts (for year-end 30.6.21)
- Model Budget (for year-end 30.6.22)
- Long Term Financial Plan (The Financial Plan), and
- Revenue and Rating Strategy

The Working Groups have just about finalised their respective draft documents. They will be available on the [engage.vic](https://engage.vic.gov.au) website mid next week for viewing and everyone is able to provide feedback to the working groups for a period of one week from the time they become available. We (FinPro) will advise all our members when they have been published on the web.

Following consultation, the Working Groups will review all comments and finalise the documents – in time for their launch at the FinPro Webinar on Friday 26 February 2021.

In order to keep up to date with the Implementation of the Local Government Act 2020 go to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020> for all LG Act information.

Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Update

The following information was distributed by the VLGGC on Monday 1 February 2021, and is shared with FinPro members for their information:

Circular 1 – 1 February 2021

Sector Information Session – March 2021

The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission allocates Financial Assistance Grants to support councils in delivering services to their communities.

In 2020-21, Victorian councils will receive a total of \$624.7 million in financial assistance grants:

- \$462.5 million in general purpose grants
- \$162.2 million in local roads grants.

These funds are provided annually by the Australian Government. All of this funding is “untied” i.e. councils can use the grants at their discretion. Grants are paid in quarterly instalments.

For more information on the Commission, visit the website

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-funding-and-grants/victoria-grants-commission>

In addition to an ongoing program of meetings with individual councils, the Commission holds a number of sector information sessions as part of its annual consultation program. These are open to council staff and councillors of all Victorian councils.

These sessions present an opportunity for the Commission to provide an update on the allocation of the financial assistance grants program and to discuss current issues and our upcoming work program.

Three information sessions were held in August and September 2020, and one of these is available online at <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-funding-and-grants/victoria-grantscommission/consultation-and-operations>

Following the Victorian council elections in October 2020 the Commission is offering two additional sessions, which will be specifically targeted towards new Councillors, Chief Executive Officers and council staff. These sessions will be held online on Monday 1 March at 2pm and Friday 12 March at 10am. These sessions will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and you are asked to complete and return the attached [registration sheet](#) (included in quick links) in order to receive an invitation for the session you have selected.

You will need to “Accept” the invitation to access the session. If possible, please return one registration form listing all expected attendees for your Council.

The completed form can be returned to Ms Nada Bagaric - nada.bagaric@ecodev.vic.gov.au Financial assistance grants are a vital component of revenue for Victorian councils and I strongly encourage your Council to be represented at one of these sessions.

I look forward to meeting with you at these sessions.

John Watson
Chairperson
Victorian Local Government Grants Commission

FinPro Professional Development

Upcoming Events

FinPro Professional Development Day – ONLINE - 26 February 2021 (incorporating the FinPro AGM)

Join the FinPro Team online for discussion on the following:

- Progress on the Implementation of the Local Government Act 2020 (Model Budget, Model Accounts, LTFP and Revenue and Rating Strategy), and
- Hear what is happening with the economy and how it will affect your councils.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions, take a break and make a coffee/tea and stretch your legs, and for you to vote in the next FinPro Executive Team for 2021!

REGISTER NOW

As always, if you have any ideas of speakers, or would be willing to lead any of the above discussions for your region please contact [Gab](#).

Further information about this event will be distributed towards the end of January 2021.

Funding for Women's Leadership Development Available now

Funding is available through Women & Leadership Australia to support the development of female leaders across Australia's local government sector.

The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to enable participation in one of three leadership development courses designed for emerging through to senior leaders.

The scholarship funding must be allocated by the end of March 2021.

Expressions of Interest

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to 19th March: <https://www.wla.edu.au/localgovernment.html>

Job Vacancies

FinPro is happy to place advertisements on our website for any finance related positions our members councils are advertising. Please send the details through to [Gab](#)

Current positions

Bank Reconciliation Officer

- City of Greater Geelong
- <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/896/ci/en/job/494372/financial-accountant>
- For further enquiries please email Kathy Fulton, Coordinator Financial Reporting on 03 5272 4613 or via email kfulton@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- Closing Date – 5.00pm Wednesday 17 February 2021

Management Reporting Coordinator (Temporary Full Time, until June 2022 (parental leave))

- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- <https://candidate.aurion.cloud/wangaratta/production/vacancies/2914247269605099~1/edit>
- For further details please contact Clair Barnes, Finance Manager on 0428 301 120
- Closing Date: 7 February 2021

Financial Coordinator (Permanent Full Time)

- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- <https://candidate.aurion.cloud/wangaratta/production/vacancies/2914247569156499~1/edit>
- For further details please contact Clair Barnes, Finance Manager on 0428 301 120
- Closing Date: 7 February 2021

FinPro Executive Team for 2020

Elections for the 2021 FinPro Executive will be held on Friday 26 February 2021 (postponed from December 2020 due to COVID).

If you are interested in finding out more about what is involved in taking on a role please contact the FinPro President Bradley Thomas or Gabrielle Gordon (FinPro Executive Officer) to find out more.

President – Bradley Thomas (Hepburn Shire Council) M: 0419 634 128

Executive Officer – Gab Gordon M: 0400 114 015

Vice-President: Chair Technical Committee – Tony Rocca (Maroondah City Council)

Technical Committee members:

- Danny Wain (Monash City Council)
- Kristy Stephens (Bass Coast Shire)
- Liz Rowland (Western Water)
- Mark Montague (Whittlesea City Council)
- Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo City Council)

Vice-President: Chair Professional Development committee – Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)

Professional Development Committee members:

- Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians Shire)
- Charles Nganga (Casey City Council)
- John Brockway (Surf Coast Shire) – also leads the FinPro Mentoring Program
- Kim Jaensch (Frankston City Council) – leads the FinPro Leadership Program