

FinPro Member Update – Edition 7, 2022

President's Message

It's April 1 already - isn't the year just flying along? 30 March marked the final day for Councils to submit their Gender Equality Action Plans (GEAPs). GEAPs will build upon the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020, and effective GEAPs will focus on the people who are part of your workforce and will result in reduced gender inequality over time – measured through workplace gender audit results.

At FinPro we are always on the lookout for opportunities to improve gender equality within our membership. We currently have a 50/50 split in our Executive team, are always mindful of gender diversification of our speakers, and are thrilled to see more and more females attending FinPro PD's and taking on senior roles within the sector. Over the last 5 years the split of females v males attending our Leadership Program has been 56% Female / 44% Male – a fantastic achievement for the future of our sector.

Next Thursday, 7 April we will hold a really interesting webinar on Gender Equality, with a local government lens. We are very lucky to have Dr Niki Vincent, Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner, as our keynote speaker. Dr Vincent will be joined by Ali Wastie, CEO Bass Coast Shire and Evan King, CEO Ballarat City Council for this important conversation. Make sure you [register for this webinar](#) – 7 April from 11.30am – 12.30pm.

Last week we met with LGV, which we do on a regular basis, to discuss with them both challenges and opportunities our members are experiencing. Two projects we are currently working on that will have long term impact on the sector are:

1. Financial Sustainability: FinPro has partnered with the MAV to review Councils Financial Sustainability; and
2. Skills Shortage: I am part of the Victorian Local Government Skills Roundtable, which will meet in mid-May to unpack the issues and develop solutions to our current, and on-going job vacancy and skill shortage crisis.

We will keep you updated about both key projects.

I hope you enjoyed your Tuesday night, and for those financial or political nerds out there, watched the Federal Budget – we have included some key information in this week's members update.

For those Footy fans out there, I was lucky enough to find myself on the field at the SCG last Friday Night to celebrate Buddy's 1,000th goal – being a big Swans fan it was fantastic! This weekend sees the Preliminary Finals for the AFLW with Melbourne v Brisbane and Adelaide v Fremantle, with the games being played at the MCG and the Adelaide Oval respectively. It is really fantastic to see these key venues being used for the AFLW.

Enjoy your weekend.

President's Message



Cheers, Bradley

Bradley Thomas
President – FinPro and CEO, Hepburn Shire

Membership

We welcome the following new members to our FinPro family:

- **Josh Robins** has joined the team at Greater Geelong CC as a member of their Financial Planning Analysis team,
- **Jonathon Davidson** has joined the team at Mount Alexander Shire as Financial Accountant,
- **Jacqueline Leung** has joined the team at Moonee Valley CC,
- **Yamini Patel** has joined the team at Greater Dandong CC,
- **Luke Stephens** has joined the team at Golden Plains SC as Management Accountant,

Member moves:

- **Nick Welsh** has moved to Northern Grampians SC as Senior Accountant. Nick was previously at Colac Otway Shire, and
- **Glenn Kallio** has moved to Pyrenees SC as Manager Finance. Glenn was previously at the City of Ballarat

Professional Development

Upcoming Webinar (registration for our webinars is free for all FinPro members)

FinPro Webinar - Gender Equity

Thursday 7 April 2022, 11.30am – 12.30pm

REGISTER HERE

- **Dr Niki Vincent, Gender Equality Commissioner for the Public Service**
- **Ali Wastie, CEO Bass Coast Shire, and**
- **Evan King, CEO Ballarat City Council**

We are aware than most Councils are just gearing up in this area and determining the impacts it has on every part of council life and activities.

Join us online to learn more about what Gender Equity means for you and for councils.

Upcoming Live events

Friday 3 June 2022 from 9.30am – 3.00pm - FinPro Seminar –at Melbourne Entertainment & Convention Centre

Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 October 2022 - FinPro Conference –at RACV Cape Schanck

FinPro AGM – Friday 2 December at Leonda by the Yarra. **Keynote Speaker – Dylan Alcott AO**

Technical Updates

Local Government Act Implementation Update

The new Local Government Act 2020 is the most ambitious reform to the local government sector in over 30 years. The Act will improve local government democracy, accountability, and service delivery for all Victorians.

[Link to LGV Local Government Act 2020 Website](#)

Asset Plan

Information available on the LGV website - [Sector Guidance: planning and reporting](#)

LGV Meet and Greet

Last week we met with representatives of LGV, as we do on a quarterly basis and spoke about a whole range of topics. We expect more details in future member updates, topics included:

- Rating review, and hardship policy development
- Resourcing and sector skill shortages
- Inter-relationships between key government agencies and peak bodies.
- Financial sustainability

Grants Commission Timing

A number of members have enquired as to the timing of the of the Grants Commission Payments. Based on the budget statements we believe there is a likelihood of a brought forward payment of 75% and to be made before the Federal election.

We have reached out to the Local Government Victoria, who are working through the details and announcements and as soon as they have further details, will send a circular to all councils.

We are also waiting to hear more details about the Governments announcements of increased Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding, and will share that with members once we have that information.

LGV Update: 2022-23 Planned Loans Survey

The following information was sent to councils earlier this week, and is shared here for member information:

Following an announcement by the Victorian Government last year, councils now have access to low-interest loans financed through the Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV). For further information on the TCV loans framework please visit

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-innovation-and-performance/treasury-corporation-of-victoria-loans>.

As part of the TCV loans framework, Local Government Victoria is conducting a survey of all councils to determine the total value of proposed loans (new and refinanced) during the 2022-23 financial year. This information is required for planning and budgeting purposes at the State level.

The survey should be completed by an appropriately qualified council officer and is due back by close of business on Friday 8 April 2022. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Please direct any queries to Daniel O'Shea, Program Manager Finance and Reporting, on daniel.oshea@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Julie Reid, Executive Director, Local Government Victoria

Steps for First Nations People and Local Councils

Last week (23 March 2022) the Victorian Government released a new guide for Victorian councils when engaging with Aboriginal communities.

The press release read as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is prioritising relationships with First Nations Victorians with a new guide for Victorian councils when engaging with Aboriginal communities.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams this week released the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy (VALGS) 2021-2026, building on the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Action Plan from 2016.

The Strategy, developed following a thorough consultation process over 20 months with Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal organisations, provides practical advice for councils when developing reconciliation action plans.

Elected Aboriginal local government representatives and Aboriginal staff employed within the local government sector also contributed to the strategy.

The VALGS recognise the key role local government plays in supporting and implementing Victoria's ground-breaking reforms as established in the [Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023](#).

The Strategy emphasises the need for a collaborative partnership approach across Government and Aboriginal communities.

To assist Councils in engaging with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Organisations and Community, a Ministerial Good Practice Guideline under the Local Government Act 2020 will also soon be released.

To read the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy and the Ministerial Good Practice Guideline and General Guidance for Councils Engaging with Aboriginal Victorians, visit:

localgovernment.vic.gov.au.

To find out more about the State Government's commitment to First Peoples' cultural rights, self-determination, treaty and truth, visit firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au.

TCV Loan Rates

TCV loan rates as at 30 March 2022

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest*)		Term Floating Rate (Margin to BBSW)	
	Fixed Rate (quarterly)	Fixed Rate (semi)	Fixed Rate (quarterly)	Floating Rate (semi)	Floating Rate (quarterly)	Floating Rate (semi)
1 year	1.4565	1.4586	1.2050	1.3050	0.2215	0.0983
3 year	2.7843	2.7923	2.2500	2.3050	0.1543	0.0535
5 year	3.1643	3.1747	2.7650	2.7950	0.3077	0.2205
7 year	3.2932	3.3045	3.0000	3.0200	0.3427	0.2633
10 year	3.4661	3.4787	3.2050	3.2200	0.4595	0.3886
12 year	3.6189	3.6328	3.3150	3.3300	0.5915	0.5231
15 year	3.8054	3.8208	3.4700	3.4900	0.7878	0.7147
11am (at call)	0.4150%					
30 days	0.3150%					
60 days	0.4050%					
90 days	0.5150%					
180 days	0.6550%					

These loan interest rates and margins are indicative only and current as at the time of calculation. The rates and margins indicated include the TCV administration fee of 0.115%, the DTF Guarantee Fee of 0.15% and Execution of 0.05%.

*Fixed rate (Principal and Interest) assumes principal balance is reduced to zero over equal instalments until maturity.

Disclaimer

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The indicative rates information provided by TCV is not, without TCV's prior written consent, to be disclosed to any other person.

Additional Reading

Australia's population growth

Our Corporate partners, .id informed decision, are continually publishing interesting blogs.

One of their latest is about population growth in Australia.

Read more here: [Melbourne and Sydney populations fall while regional areas grow.](#)

2022-23 Federal Budget

The 2022-23 Federal Budget was handed down by the Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, earlier this week.

Following the budget announcement, the Australian Local Government Association released their own statement on the Budget.

For more information on what they said in relation to the Budget and Local Government refer to [the following article.](#)

Looking after yourself

This weekend, show someone how much they mean to you by checking in to see how they're going.

You could...

- ➡ Tag them here to let them know you're thinking about them
- ➡ Call or text them
- ➡ Go for a walk together
- ➡ Grab a meal

Because we all need a little support and connection from time to time.

Find tips at: ruok.org.au/how-to-ask #ruok #ruokday #ruokeveryday



Source: [RUOK](#)

Current positions advertised on the FinPro Website

Councils are seeing a massive shift in their workplace right now. Is your council looking for new finance staff?

FinPro offers a free service to all member councils – we will advertise any roles you have open in your council that you believe our membership might be interested in. We advertise both on our website and in our fortnightly member updates.

Just send a copy of the advert to [Gab](#), making sure the details include the closing date for applications and the best person for someone to contact about the role.

Senior Accountant – 2 positions

- Banyule City Council
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications for both roles close 11.45pm, Sunday 3 April 2022

Property Data Administrator

- Glen Eira City Council
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close 11.59pm, 3 April 2022

Coordinator Procurement

- Hume City Council
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close 19 April 2022

Thank-you to our 2022 Corporate Partners

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * APV Valuers and Asset Management | * LG Solutions |
| * Commonwealth Bank | * Maia Financial |
| * CT Management | * New Era Management |
| * .id informed decisions | * Treasury Corporation of Victoria |
| * Ibis Information Systems | * VOTAR Partners |
| * MAGIQ Software | * Westpac |

Thank-you to our 2021 Leadership Program Sector Partner:

Vision Super

FinPro Executive Team 2022

President	Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)
Vice-President – Chair Professional Development	Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC)
PD Committee Members	Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC) Charles Nganga (Casey CC) Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC) Aaron Gerrard (Whittlesea CC)
Vice-President – Chair Technical	Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC)
Technical Committee Members	Danny Wain (Monash CC) Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC) Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC) Simone Wickes (Frankston CC) Wei Chen (Yarra CC)
Chair Advocacy and Vision	Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)
Secretary / Treasurer	Gabrielle Gordon

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