

FinPro Member Update – Edition 8, 2022

President's Message

Well, we are certainly well in Autumn now. Cooler days and some beautiful, changing landscapes.

We've had a couple of weeks of public holidays. I love the short weeks in one respect, but they are tough too as I'm not sure the workload decreases.

Plenty happening with the upcoming Federal Election, high inflation rates and council budgets going live!

Just over a month until our in-person PD day - we are really looking forward to it. We will send out the program and registration details for our seminar at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 3 June next week. Please mark it in your calendars. It would be great to see you there.



Cheers, Bradley

Bradley Thomas

President – FinPro and CEO, Hepburn Shire

Membership

We welcome the following new members to our FinPro family:

- **Sally Hao** has joined the team at Glen Eira CC as Asset Accountant, and
- **Sharon Gray** has joined the team at Manningham CC as Cash Management and Banking Officer.

Congratulations to **Jemma Whiteman**, Finance Unit Manager at Moreland City Council who celebrated her wedding last weekend – April 23, 2022

Congratulations to **Matt Jarvis** on your new role at Moira Shire as Director Corporate Services. Matt leaves Greater Shepparton CC where he was Manager Finance & Rates.

Congratulations to Vakeesh Ganesharatnam who has taken up a new role at Moonee Valley CC as Senior Project Officer. Vakeesh was previously at Whittlesea CC.

Welcome back member **Dennis O'Keeffe**. Dennis was at Port Phillip but has now joined the team at Alpine Shire as Manager Corporate. This is certainly a 'tree change'!

Professional Development

Friday 3 June 2022 from 9.30am – 3.00pm - FinPro Seminar –at Melbourne Entertainment & Convention Centre – program and registration details will be distributed next week to all members.

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](#)

Local Government Finance Project

FinPro, in partnership with the MAV, has commenced a project on the financial state of the sector. Mark Davies, who will be well known to you all, is assisting us. The project will undertake a review of the impact of rate capping and other key revenue factors on the viability of the sector since its introduction in 2016-17. It will also assess the financial outlook for the sector over the next five to ten years.

The key outputs from the project will be:

- A master set of financial data for the past five years and future five years that can be maintained by the MAV overtime for the purposes of regular monitoring and reporting, advocacy and campaigning, and strengthening the MAV's knowledge and capacity
- Develop 3-5 indicators for monitoring and reporting the financial viability of the sector on a regular basis
- Undertake an analysis of the financial data and prepare a 'State of Local Government Finances' report on the impact of rate capping, COVID-19 and
- Other revenue impacts on the financial viability of the sector.

The project will be drawing on existing data sets and financial plans prepared by councils. Over the coming weeks, we will be contacting your Finance teams to assist us with data collection.

The FinPro representatives on this project are Binda Gokhale and Nathan Morsillo.

Gender Equality

Recently FinPro ran a webinar on Gender Equality. This was a fantastic session and covered both a theoretical discussion about the legislation, but also the practical side of implantation.

We encourage those who didn't attend or haven't watched the recording, to watch it sooner rather than later, as it will impact many of the decisions being made at your organisation.

[More information plus the link to the recording here.](#)

We would like to share with members some practical examples of Gender Impact Statements Councils are currently preparing. If you have one that you are happy to share, please email it to [Gab](#).

Virtual council meetings are here to stay

Temporary measures in the Local Government Act 2020 that allowed for Councillors and committees to participate in virtual meetings will become a permanent fixture under new legislation.

The Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022 will extend these temporary provisions through to 1 September 2022, after which councils will be permanently enabled to conduct meetings electronically.

LGV is developing guidelines to assist councils in updating their Governance Rules to reflect these permanent changes, due to be issued in May.

Upcoming Budgets and amended governance rules – are you compliant?

Maddocks Victorian Local Government team recently reached out to councils to gently remind them that in the coming months Councils will be required to comply with some conditions concerning the approval of a Budget and the recently amended Local Government Act 202.

The following article, published on 21 April 2022, is shared with FinPro members with the consent of the author, Mark Hayes, Partner Maddocks.

Upcoming Budgets and amended governance rules – are you compliant?

Lessons from Budget seasons past

Councils across the State will soon be asked to approve a Budget. The Budget will need to include information prescribed by Regulations, including information concerning rates and charges.

Approval of the Budget will not, without more, lead to rates and charges being declared. Put another way, a Resolution to approve the Budget is not the same as a Resolution declaring rates and charges. In fact, two Resolutions are necessary – one approving the Budget and the other declaring rates and charges. This much is clear from the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government Act 2020. It is also clear from a relevantly recent decision of the Queensland Supreme Court[1], which dealt with equivalent provisions in Queensland legislation.

The Resolution approving the Budget should expressly reference any fees and charges which are being set. Those councils raising parking revenue will recall that, under section 87(4) of the Road Safety Act 1986, a 'resolution' is necessary to fix parking infringement penalties at higher levels than otherwise would be the case.

The Resolution declaring rates and charges should, in respect of differential rates, set out the details required by section 161(2) of the Local Government Act 1989. Similarly, it should specify the

criteria relevant to different levels of a service rate or service charge (or any combined service rate and service charge).

A failure to differentiate between Resolutions or comply with relevant legislative requirements has the potential to create legal doubt over many elements of a council's financial operations.

Amending governance rules

Royal Assent was recently given to the Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022. It amends the Local Government Act 2020.

When, on 2 September, the amendments to the Local Government Act take effect, a council's Governance Rules will need to make provision for:

- holding meetings by electronic means; and
- requesting and approving attendance at Council meetings by electronic means.

A new section 61(6) will provide that a Councillor may attend and be present at a Council meeting by electronic means of communication. Practically speaking, then, it will allow hybrid meetings to take place (with some Councillors being physically present in the Council Chamber and others being 'in attendance' and 'present' electronically).

Councils will need to ensure, by 2 September, their Governance Rules are compliant, and processes are in place to enable hybrid meetings to be held.

VAGO April Report

VAGO's April Report was issued to councils on Thursday 28 April 2022 and is shared here for member information.

[VAGO April 2022 Report](#)

The Report includes:

- VAGO News
- VAGO Annual Plan
- VAGO Financial Audit update
- VAGO Performance Audit – proposed audits
- VAGO Performance Audit – audits in progress
- VAGO recently tabled Parliamentary reports
- Other Victorian Integrity and Local Government related bodies

TCV Loan Rates

TCV loan rates as at 27 April 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	2.0937	2.0987	1.8200	1.9500	0.1013	-0.0631
3 year	3.1737	3.1847	2.7600	2.8100	0.1947	0.0639
5 year	3.4480	3.4608	3.1500	3.1800	0.3310	0.2177
7 year	3.5922	3.6060	3.3400	3.3650	0.3651	0.2658
10 year	3.7571	3.7722	3.5200	3.5400	0.4491	0.3619
12 year	3.8809	3.8971	3.6150	3.6400	0.5397	0.4547
15 year	4.0564	4.0741	3.7550	3.7800	0.7126	0.6228
11am (at call)	0.4150%					
30 days	0.4350%					
60 days	0.6650%					
90 days	0.9150%					
180 days	1.1550%					

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.

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TCV accepts no responsibility or liability for any direct or indirect loss, damage, cost or expense whatsoever incurred by the Client or any other person as a result of any error, omission or misrepresentation (whether arising from negligence or otherwise) in the rates information or in connection with or relating in any way whatsoever to the rates information.

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

General Information

[CPA Australia](#) publish a regular magazine which includes many interesting articles for everyone, but in particular, finance people.

The latest edition – 'In the Black' – April 2022 is [available here](#)

[.id informed decisions – latest blog](#)

The 50 largest cities and town in Australia – read the blog [here](#)

LGV News

Dr Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary, Local Government and Suburban Development has announced that Sarah Harbidge will be taking over the role of Executive Director LGV from Julie Reid. Julie is leaving the sector to pursue setting up her own business.

Sara will be in the role for 12 months commencing the start of April 2022 and will be speaking at our FinPro Seminar on Friday 3 June 2022 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. We look forward to meeting Sara at this event and to hear an update about LGV.

Local Government related documentary

The ABC are currently showing a documentary on the rebuilding of Mallacoota following the bushfires. Titled "People's Republic of Mallacoota" the documentary is described on the ABC website as "*Can the traumatised survivors of a bushfire-ravaged coastal community seize control of their own destiny, overcome their differences, and save their town from dying?*"

Watch it on Tuesdays at 8.00pm on ABC TV or on ABC iView

Upcoming webinar – Leading the prevention of violence against women in Local Government

Our Watch, in partnership with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and State and Territory Local Government Associations, presents a one-hour webinar for Councillors, executives and other leaders in local government about their role in promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women.

Local government is the closest jurisdiction to people's everyday lives, with reach across all communities and key roles in promoting social change for the prevention of violence against women and gender equality. This webinar will showcase some experiences of local governments leading political and cultural change, modelling best practice, and enabling the take-up of primary prevention activities through their operations and partnerships, as well as internally with their employees.

A keynote address will be delivered by ALGA Chair Cr Linda Scott about the role of council leaders in the prevention of violence against women, followed by a panel discussion with:

- Ali Wastie, CEO, Bass Coast Shire Council (Vic)
- Cr Chontelle Stone, City of Cockburn (WA)
- Cr Romola Hollywood, Blue Mountains City Council (NSW)
- Cr Arman Abrahamzadeh, City of Adelaide (SA)

This event will be held over Zoom with an Auslan interpreter and live captioning.

[Register here for this free webinar](#)

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.

Coordinator Rates and Property

- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Details [here](#)
- Applications close Friday 29 April 2022 at 5pm

Senior Accountant

- Warrnambool City Council
- Details [here](#)
- Applications close Friday May 6, 2022 at 5pm
- **Financial Accountant**
Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Details [here](#)
- Applications close Monday May 2, 2022 at 12 noon

Coordinator Risk Management

- Hume City Council
- Details [here](#)
- Applications close Tuesday 10 May 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

FinPro Contact Details

FinPro (Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.)
Executive Officer – Gabrielle Gordon
Email: gabrielle@finpro.org.au
Mobile: 0400 114 015 Web: www.finpro.org.au