

FinPro Member Update – Edition 11, 2022

President's Message

Good afternoon,

It was amazing to catch up with many of last Friday at our PD Day. It feels so good to be back meeting in person, discussing key topics and hearing from many key speakers.

We are really looking forward to continuing the mix of online learning and in person learning / networking – October will come around really quickly when we catch up for our annual conference.

This week saw the State Government introduce a bill to parliament that will impact on hardship provided to ratepayers, delivered on some recommendation from the rating review of 2020, provided some clarity about waste charges and made some other amendments especially to FOIs. The MAV have released a media release [State arrives late to party, demands cake | MAV website](#) We too were disappointed with the lack of consultation with the sector and will continue to work with our State Government partners to improve the coordination between the levels of government, and get improved outcomes for our communities.

We will be providing further information including input to a hardship policy, and further clarification on the waste charges as move information becomes clearer and the bill moves through parliament.

Only 20 days left in another financial year; hasn't that just flown! Good luck with getting all those invoices and payments in on time 😊

Enjoy your weekend



Cheers, Bradley

Bradley Thomas
President – FinPro and CEO, Hepburn Shire

Membership

We welcome the following new members to our FinPro family:

Ali Abbas who has joined the Wangaratta team as an accountant,

Emma Woolaston, Director Corporate and Organisation Development at Towong Shire, and

The **Team from VAGO** have joined our membership. We welcome many VAGO staff from both the Performance Audit and the Financial Audit teams to our membership.

We farewell **Luke Wheeler**, Coordinator Management Accounting at the City of Ballarat. Luke has been an active member of FinPro and participated in our Leadership Program. He is leaving to take on the role of Finance Manager in the Ag-Tech Industry.

FinPro Seminar – 3 June 2022 - AND WE ARE BACK!

It was terrific to see over 200 of our members, in person, at our first seminar since February 2022.

As members entered the Auditorium they were greeted with the following message:



Needless to say, we were excited to have our members back 😊

Held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 7 speakers presented during the day, sharing their wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise. We thank each and every one of them for all the effort they made to get to the event and to present, particularly David Edgerton who came down from Queensland to share in vast knowledge about Assets and ED320.

Whilst not all speakers presented using slides, for those who did, we are now able to share these slides with our members.

Our presenters for the day were:

- **LGV Update** - Sara Harbidge, Executive Director LGV – Note no slides
- **Vision Super Update** - Noelle Kelleher, CFO Vision Super – [Slides here](#)
- **VAGO Update** - Travis Derricott, Sector Director, Financial Audit, VAGO – [Slides here](#)
- **Assets and ED 320: Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not for Profit Public Sector Entities** - David Edgerton, Director, APV Valuers & Asset Management – [Slides here](#)
- **Keynote Address** – Lord Mayor Sally Capp, City of Melbourne – Note no slides
- **Economic Outlook** – Keenan Jackson, Urban Economist and Economic Consultant, .id (informed decisions), [Slides available here](#), and
- **Workforce Exhaustion: Confronting exhaustion and creating your own fresh start moment** - Bri Hayllar, Senior Consultant – Psychologist, Transitioning Well – [Slides here](#) as well as additional resources: [Ways to say no](#) and [My Recuperation Plan](#)

Please note that FinPro will be running a follow-up webinar with David Edgerton on Assets.

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](#)

LGV Bulletin – Budget and Reporting Requirements for 2021-22

The following Bulletin (Bulletin: 29/2022) was issued by LGV on Friday 27 May 2022 and is included here for member information:

With the end of the financial year approaching, it is timely to consider the budget and reporting obligations for councils.

In accordance with section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) Victorian councils must prepare and adopt a budget by 30 June 2022.

Section 98(1) of the Act requires councils to prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year. The annual report must be presented to a council meeting (open to the public) by 31 October 2022.

Councils are reminded that the Act no longer requires them to submit their budget or annual report to the Minister for Local Government.

Each council must comply with its public transparency policy and the public transparency principles in section 58 of the Act.

Existing Regional Library Corporations (RLC's) remain subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and have been contacted separately regarding their budget and reporting obligations.

Please contact Daniel O'Shea, Program Manager Finance and Reporting on daniel.oshea@ecodev.vic.gov.au with any queries in relation to this advice.

Regards,

*Sara Harbidge
Executive Director , Local Government Victoria*

LGV Bulletin 31/2022 INTRODUCTION OF Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Bill 2022

The following Bulletin was issued by LGV on 8 June 2022 and is shared for member information.

The Government has introduced the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Bill 2022 into Parliament today.

The Bill delivers the first phase of reforms arising from the 2020 Local Government Rating System Review and recommendations of the 2021 Victorian Ombudsman's 'Investigation into how local councils respond to ratepayers in financial hardship'.

The Bill will:

- *Prescribe payment plans as a means by which councils can recover unpaid rates and charges in addition to the four instalments for payment currently mandated;*
- *Require the Minister for Local Government to set the maximum interest rate that may be levied by councils on unpaid rates and charges;*
- *Empower the Minister for Local Government to make Ministerial Guidelines on unpaid rates and charges and hardship to ensure greater consistency across councils in how they deal with ratepayers experiencing financial hardship;*
- *Expand the criteria for councils to provide rate rebates and concessions for properties that provide a public benefit;*
- *Repeal redundant service rates and charges powers;*
- *Amend the power for councils to declare a service rate or charge to ensure that services relevant to modern waste management activities are covered; and*
- *Ensure the timely levying of council special rates and charges, to minimise delays between declaring special rates and charges schemes and the billing of ratepayers.*

The Bill will also make technical amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 in relation to the processing and handling of Freedom of Information requests by councils and will provide for new regulation making powers under the Domestic Animal Act 1994 to facilitate reuniting lost pets and the scanning of deceased pets on council property for microchip identification and notification of pet owners.

*The Bill is available on the Victorian Parliamentary website
<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/parliamentary-activity/bills-and-legislation/>.*

For further information, please contact Leighton Vivian, Senior Manager, Local Government Victoria via leighton.vivian@ecodev.vic.gov.au for any queries.

Regards,

Sara Harbidge
Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

The Local Government Amendment (Rating Reform and Other Matters) Bill

As included above, all Councils this week will have received the media release by the Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane regarding [The Local Government Amendment \(Rating Reform and Other Matters\) Bill 2022](#). Copy of State [Government Media release here](#).

The introduction of this Bill follows the earlier release of the Local Government Rating Systems Review and the Ombudsman's Investigation which FinPro and the Local Government Sector engaged on extensively.

FinPro supports the principle of implementing fairer financial hardship policies. Much of what is contemplated within the legislation has therefore been front of mind for Councils and reflected in the current practices and further evidenced in COVID hardship support, initiatives and programs.

The legislation also contains statements that require further clarification and FinPro will continue to request broader consultation on these matters with LGV and the ESC for the benefit of our members.

The FinPro Technical Committee has undertaken much work to develop Hardship Policy guidelines - current draft together with a checklist is provided below for your reference. Our Executive Committee will meet together early next week to review the Bill and also the work we have already done in this space in consultation with the sector and provide an update to members next week.

Rates remain the primary source of funds for Council in providing services to the community. It is important that we get the settings right in ensuring sustainability of services in a manner that is fair and equitable.

Jobs Round Table

President, Bradley Thomas, attended the LGPro Skills Round Table this week, which brought together key stakeholders to generate discussion and solutions to the current job vacancy and skill shortage crisis across Victorian Local Government. It was a great session, with attendees including Local Government CEOs, head of key peak bodies, MAV, State Government, legal firms, recruitment firms, recent graduates, university and TAFE sector.

LGPro will collect the information and prepare a report. There were numerous ideas and background provided, but some key comments included:

- Need to sell the great things about LG, and that LG can be a career
- Skills shortages and vacancies are now across the sector, and in most roles – not just traditional hard to fill roles like engineers, planners and builder
- Local Government has lost its 'edge' in why work for Local Government as the private sector is now offering a lot more support and flexibility – how does LG adjust to that.

- Lack of migration has impacted.
- State Government Big Build and large stimulus projects is draining staff out of LG.
- Average length of roles is now 3 years.
- What is the value proposition to candidates and employees to be in LG?
- Need to look at opportunities for a centralised LG graduate and traineeship program.
- How do we simplify recruitment but ensure compliance, especially in a government setting?
- Need to reduce the red tape and qualifications needed for some roles.
- Need for increase mentor / secondment opportunities.
- Gap in salaries in LG between Metro and Rural is increasing.
- Need greater acceptance that candidates can learn skills and how to work in LG, when they haven't been in LG before.
- Need to look at non-traditional workforce.
- Need better presence at high school, TAFE and University career days.
- Councillor performance and culture can impact.
- How do we have a sector wide review of all 79 workforce plans that were adopted recently.

TCV loan rates as at 8th June 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	2.8570	2.8668	2.5750	2.7250	-0.0630	-0.2370
3 year	3.7355	3.7512	3.4200	3.4750	0.1822	0.0334
5 year	3.9749	3.9924	3.7150	3.7500	0.2990	0.1677
7 year	4.1425	4.1614	3.8900	3.9200	0.3602	0.2433
10 year	4.3370	4.3577	4.0850	4.1100	0.4788	0.3744
12 year	4.4846	4.5067	4.1900	4.2200	0.5946	0.4926
15 year	4.6170	4.6405	4.3400	4.3650	0.7380	0.6313
11am (at call)	1.1650%					
30 days	0.9100%					
60 days	1.2400%					
90 days	1.5600%					
180 days	1.8700%					

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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Current positions advertised on the FinPro Website

Executive officer – Governance, Risk & Compliance

- Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close Friday 10 June 2022 at 11.59pm

Procurement Specialist

- City of Greater Bendigo
- [More information](#)
- Applications close Tuesday 21 June 2022 at COB

Financial Services Coordinator

- Borough of Queenscliffe
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 4pm, Thursday 16 June 2022

Manager Financial and Business Services

- Warrnambool City Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 5pm Friday 24 June 2022

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 (Contractor)
Secretary / Treasurer	Gabrielle Gordon

FinPro Contact Details

FinPro (Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.)

Executive Officer – Gabrielle Gordon

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Thank-you to our 2022 Corporate Partners

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

Thank-you to our 2021 Leadership Program Sector Partner:

Vision Super