

FinPro Member Update – Edition 22, 2023

President's Message

OMG, where has the year gone....I can't believe it's only 38 days till Christmas....it's crazy how fast the world is moving and how busy we are all becoming.

Unfortunately, we have had to **postpone our AGM** that was scheduled for 1 December. This will now be incorporated into our first PD Day for 2023 – to be held Friday 23 February 2024 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. As disappointed as we are, we are excited that we will be able to hear from global speaker Holly Ransom ([Holly Ransom - Globally renowned leadership speaker & consultant](#)) at the event, so make sure you have pencilled the day into your diaries.

I was very pleased to that the Minister Local Government announced today that the State Government will consult with the sector and will introduce legislation to improve the performance and accountability of councillors across the state, so Victorians can have greater confidence in their local government representatives. This is much needed across so many of our Councils, and certainly is needed at a time when Council decisions are getting harder and harder as our financial sustainability is challenged. We look forward to participating in this consultation.

We have heard from many members about several issues and frustrations regarding the 2022/23 reporting period. We hear you and will be working with LGV and VAGO on how we can all improve moving forward.

No doubt many of you will be flat out with the crazy run up to Christmas. Please make sure you look after yourselves both at work and in your personal lives, and if there is anything FinPro can help with, please reach out.

Cheers,
Bradley



Bradley Thomas,
President FinPro and CEO Hepburn Shire

FinPro AGM and End of year Luncheon

Please Note that this event has been postponed and will be held as part of the first in person FinPro event for 2024 on Friday 23 February at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Technical Committee Update

Financial Model Working Groups

As we do each year, as part of our ongoing efforts to foster collaboration with Local Government Victoria and drive innovation, below we have established the working groups to update the Model Financial Statements and the Model Budget, including Long Term Financial Plan.

Both groups have commenced work and have surveyed model users to get feedback on their usage and improvements that can be made. They have the next two meetings booked in, with the intention of finalisation and publication by the FinPro PD Day on Friday 23 February 2024.

ESC Submission

Last Friday 10 November 2023, FinPro made a submission to the Essential Services Commission to provide contextual information regarding the rate cap and the importance of advising the minister of the financial constraints facing the sector currently.

Thank you to all our members that responded at short notice to the survey last week. The ESC intends to use some of that information to assist them in their recommendation to the Minister on the rate cap for 2024/25.

The information from the survey was provided to the ESC and any reference to specific councils was removed.

The key themes that we saw from the survey results were:

- Financial sustainability for Council will not be achieved in the long run, if the Cap cannot be more progressive and adaptable to environmental impacts and the rate of CPI,
- Project scopes for key community infrastructure having to be materially impacted, to deal with the financial pressures - in turn impacting the very communities for which the cap is looking to assist,
- Rate cap variations not being applied for due to level of effort involved with the overlay of political impacts and influences, and
- Healthy cash balances that would ensure longer-term sustainability being quickly eroded.

Member Query – Climate Change and sustainability

Kirsten Geri, Manager Financial Services at the City of Greater Dandenong, posted a question on Yammer this week. Wondering whether anyone has any thoughts or practices their council currently utilised that may be of assistance – you can contact Kirsten directly: Kirsten.geri@cgd.vic.gov.au

“Interested to know if anyone else is looking at how to incorporate climate change and sustainability in the budget/long term financial plan process and/or in financial reporting at their council? Either by Finance or Sustainability teams. Greater Dandenong Council is and I'm interested if other councils may have already started this journey or plan to soon? Thanks!

TCV Loan and Investment Rates as 15 November 2023

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi
1 year	4.7990	4.8245	4.8200	4.8550	0.2795	0.0875
3 year	4.7617	4.7864	4.7800	4.8050	0.3815	0.2228
5 year	4.9120	4.9384	4.8200	4.8500	0.4883	0.3538
7 year	5.1304	5.1594	4.9300	4.9650	0.5767	0.4610
10 year	5.5053	5.5388	5.1600	5.1950	0.7868	0.6952
12 year	5.6734	5.7092	5.3050	5.3450	0.8787	0.7960
15 year	5.8410	5.8790	5.4950	5.5350	0.9868	0.9069
11am (at Call)	4.6650				BBSW	
30 day	4.5250				1 Month	4.2934
60 day	4.5550				3 Month	4.3974
90 day	4.6350				6 Month	4.6988
180 day	4.9350					

TCV Investment rates

TCV note the current TCV 11am/At Call deposit rate has recently increased to 4.30%. The 11am deposit can be easily utilised for council's daily working capital requirements. Instructions to invest/withdraw funds are requested prior to 3pm for transactions to be processed on the same day. We encourage councils to review the rates currently paid on their at-call accounts with their transactional bank and consider this facility to maximise returns on any surplus cash balances.

Cash	4.3000		4 Month	4.4777
1 Month	4.2834		5 Month	4.6054
2 Month	4.3100		6 Month	4.6888
3 Month	4.3874		1 Year	4.4995

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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FinPro CPD Hours

Needing to update your CPD Hours Diary – refer to our list of professional development opportunities we have provided during 2023. [FinPro CPD Hours](#)

Current jobs in the sector

[Finance Manager](#) – Rural City of Wangaratta Applications close 24.11.23

[Financial Accounting Coordinator](#) – Manningham City Council Applications close 26.11.23

[Coordinator Management Accounting](#) – City of Greater Bendigo Applications close 29.11.23

General Information

State Government Announcement – Reforms to Boost Confidence in Local Government

The Victorian State Government made the following announcement today (17.11.23)

The Allan Labor Government will introduce legislation to improve the performance and accountability of councillors across the state, so Victorians can have confidence in their local government representatives.

Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne announced legislation to be introduced early next year will elevate governance and integrity standards in the state's 79 councils, encouraging quality candidates to put themselves forward at local government elections to be held statewide in October 2024.

Local government leaders and members of the community have called for action after confidence in local government in some areas has suffered due to poor councillor behaviour and ineffective performance.

Almost 30 councillors have resigned since January, while municipal monitors have been appointed as an urgent intervention to protect local communities eight times in 18 months – at Glenelg, Strathbogie (twice), Horsham, Darebin, Wodonga, Geelong and Yarra. Moira Shire Council was dismissed and replaced with administrators.

The Local Government Culture Project has been a key driver in the reform process, drawing more than 140 submissions from residents, mayors, councillors, council staff and peak bodies.

Reforms will introduce mandatory training for elected representatives, a uniform councillor code of conduct and strengthened powers for the Minister to address councillor conduct.

The Local Government Act 2020 mandates induction training for new councillors and the changes will take this focus on education and training further with a requirement for ongoing training for councillors.

Good governance is critical to ensure councils make sound decisions and deliver the services their communities need. Expanded powers to address councillor misconduct will discourage poor behaviour.

Reforms will give the Minister the ability to suspend or disqualify individual councillors found to have created a risk to health and safety or prevented the council from performing its function. The Chief Municipal Inspector will also have enhanced powers, including the ability to issue infringement notices.

A model code of conduct for councillors with tougher sanctions for misconduct will provide a uniform set of standards and reduce the regulatory burden on councils which will no longer need to establish their own codes.

The Government will consult with the sector in coming months about the legislation and throughout next year on developing regulations for the councillor model code of conduct and mandatory training. Legislation is planned to be introduced in the first quarter of 2024.

The amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 will address recommendations made by integrity bodies such as the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) and the Chief Municipal Inspector.

Women & Leadership Australia – Scholarship opportunities

Women & Leadership Australia is dedicated to supporting women leaders achieve their leadership potential, and we are pleased to be able to offer scholarships of up to \$5,000 for women working in the Local Government Sector. [More information here.](#)

The programs are designed for women with limited leadership experience through to executive leaders and scholarships are available across four key levels.

[Lodge an expression of interest here](#)

This opportunity is open to all women across the Local Government Sector, and we encourage you to make this information available via your usual channels.

Latest Blog from .id – Australia’s life expectancy falls slightly due to COVID

The latest Australian life expectancy dataset has recently been released for the 2020–2022 period, showing the first downturn in about three decades. Today's blog unpacks the [impact of COVID-19](#), lays out how life expectancy varies across Australia, and revisits what the data is saying about how long I have left to live!

Thank-you to our 2023 Conference attendees, speaker and sponsors

- American Express – www.amex.com.au
- APV Valuers & Asset Management – [APV Case Study – October 2022](#)
- Australian Payments Plus – www.auspayplus.com.au
- Commonwealth Bank – www.cba.com.au
- CT Management – www.ctman.com.au
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- National Australia Bank – www.nab.com.au
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