

## FinPro Member Update January 2021 (Edition 2, 2021)

### Welcome to our weekly Member Update.

We hope this update finds you well and settling back into work after a well-earned break over Christmas and the New Year.

The year has certainly started with a bang! Council's are busy preparing their budgets, reviewing their 2020/21 budgets and working on the various stages of implementation of the Local Government Act 2020, as well as numerous other tasks.

Please reach out to us if you have any queries or would like to hear how other councils are tackling certain things. Our membership covers all Victorian Councils and our members are always happy to share their knowledge.

### FinPro Executive 2021

## Membership News

With Council's updating and renewing their membership for the coming year, we are very pleased and appreciative of the 77 Councils and 3 libraries that have renewed their membership for 2020/21.

We welcome the following new members to FinPro:

- **Sadikeen Sadikeen** has joined the team at Wyndham City Council in a role in Accounting & Reporting as a Casual. Welcome Sadikeen.
- **Marko Susa** has joined the team at Melton City Council as Senior Management Accountant. Welcome Marko.

We congratulate the following members on their new roles and wish them all the best as they navigate new organisations and roles:

- **Melissa Baker** has moved from Moreland City Council to South Gippsland Shire Council to take up the role of Manager Financial Strategy.
- We also welcome back **Phil Mason** to Victorian Local Government. Phil will be commencing at Monash on Monday 1 February in the role of Coordinator Management Accounting.

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](mailto:gabrielle@finpro.org.au)

## FinPro Technical Committee News / Updates

### Local Government Act Implementation

The FinPro Local Government Act 2020 Working Group is meeting for the third time today.

A reminder to go to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020> for all LG Act information.

Local Government Victoria's Implementation Matters – Issue #12 will be sent out later today by LGV. It's a bumper edition and will provide information on:

- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Community Engagement Policy
- Financial Policies (section 102 of the 2020 Act)
- Update on development of guidance and support for the 2021-22 planning cycle
- Update on 2020-21 Model Accounts
- Regulatory Impact Statement: Local Government (Land Information) Regulations 2021
- LGPRO Annual Conference 2021 - Evolution: no going back 23-25 February 2021
- Employment opportunities in Local Government Victoria

If you would like to receive these newsletters direct, please register at "join the mailing list" by visiting [Local Government Act 2020: Engage Victoria](#)

### Rating Review and Rating Cap

A reminder that the much-awaited Rating Review and Rate Cap was released by the Victorian Government on 21 December 2020 – [read more here](#).

The FinPro Executive have looked at the Review and can provide the following information to members by way of guidance.

### Victorian Government: Rating System Review & Government Response

#### Executive Summary

At a high level the Panel, which was appointed in 2019, made 56 recommendations on the local government rating system to the government in March 2020. Of these, 36 of the Panel's recommendations are supported in full, in-principle or in part.

The Government did not support the remaining 18. This was released just prior to Christmas 2020. The majority of 'not supported' recommendations had COVID cited as the reason for not changing systems or processes.

[This link](#) provides a table that has been prepared by FinPro of the high-level impacts (or not) of the recommendations.

FinPro has met with the Minister and discussed the review at a high level. Currently there are no timelines available for the "next steps" for some of the items below. FinPro will continue to seek to advocate that there is engagement with the sector along the way for some of the changes.

All the external details:

Overall details here: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/rating-review>

Full review pdf here (166 pages): [https://engage.vic.gov.au/download\\_file/40011/2559](https://engage.vic.gov.au/download_file/40011/2559)

Vic Government Response (14 pages): [https://engage.vic.gov.au/download\\_file/40010/2559](https://engage.vic.gov.au/download_file/40010/2559)

Vic Government Response to review (14 pages): [https://engage.vic.gov.au/download\\_file/40010/2559](https://engage.vic.gov.au/download_file/40010/2559)

- The MAV has a good summary also of the issues this raises – including the Government backing away from better defining exemptions.
- The MAV release is here (1 page): <https://www.mav.asn.au/news/missed-opportunity-to-reform-the-victorian-local-government-rating-system>

### Calculating oncosts – Yammer at work!

The FinPro Yammer forum offers a very useful tool for our members to engage others from within the sector to discuss issues they are currently working on. For example, a question was posted on 28 January by one of our members around reviewing on-cost rates. This led to a number of other members identifying what rates they were using and offering to share their workings, as well as others commenting that they were doing some work on this and were interested in a greater discussion.

This is just an example of many ‘conversations’ that take place amongst our membership through Yammer.

We encourage all our members to join up to Yammer. If you are interested please email gab and she can join you up. We do acknowledge that Yammer isn’t a fantastic platform for discussions and we are working on finding an improved platform, but at this stage, it does work and we encourage members to ‘give it a go’!

**Yammer**

### Local Government Finance Professionals Network

For discussions on hot issues or to ask a question of Finance Professionals in other Councils.

Yammer contains lots of valuable information and is a great way to connect to your colleagues in other Councils.

**Log onto Yammer**

**Yammer**

## FinPro Professional Development

### Upcoming Events

**FinPro Professional Development Day – 26 February 2021 (incorporating the FinPro AGM)** – This event is planned as a hybrid event, run in regions throughout Victoria.

The planned venues at this stage are:

- North Central Victoria – Bendigo
- South West Victoria – Warrnambool
- Eastern Victoria – Traralgon or Morwell
- Metro – Melbourne

The option will also be available to live-stream all morning sessions.

Morning sessions will be the same for all attendees and will be live-streamed to all venues. Planned topics for the morning will be:

- The Victoria Economy, recovery and funding opportunities for LG
- Local Government Act Implementation
- Launch of the Model Budget and Model Financial Statements
- Looking after the most vulnerable in our communities – Victorian Ombudsman and the ESC
- AGM

Following a lunch break, the afternoon sessions will be run separately for each region, with topics to be discussed including:

- Budget Preparation updates
- Community Consultation case studies, and
- How organisations are managing the move back to work / working from home arrangements.

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

#### Financial Accountant

- City of Casey
- <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/896/ci/en/job/494372/financial-accountant>
- For further enquiries please email Charles Nganga, Deputy CFO on 03 9705 5200 or [cnganga@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:cnganga@casey.vic.gov.au)
- Closing Date – 11.55pm on 3 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