

FinPro Member Update January 2021 (Edition 4, 2021)

Welcome to our weekly Member Update

Uncertain times again! Our thoughts go to all our you as you navigate your way around the changing environment within which we now live.

On a positive note, I'm really excited to be able to announce that we have now signed up all 79 Councils as FinPro members for this year. Thank-you for your continued support. It certainly shows us that the work we do is appreciated by our members.

This week saw key draft documents (Model Budget, Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Strategy) placed on [the Engage. Vic website](#). This has been a massive undertaking by our working groups, and LGV - I highly encourage you to review and provide feedback, so we can update and improve the documents before their launch at our PD Day on the 26th February.

Next week we will issue a survey to each Council's senior finance position and ask for some feedback on the \$\$ impact proposed as part of your Quarter 2 reporting. We know Councils have had significant financial impacts this year and we would like to use the survey as an opportunity to quantify this. We will summarise the information, providing this back to members and also utilising it in our advocacy on behalf of the sector.

Take care everyone.

Cheers, Bradley



Bradley Thomas - FinPro President
Interim CEO – Hepburn Shire

Membership News

With Council's updating and renewing their membership for the coming year, we are very pleased and appreciative of the 78 Councils and 3 libraries that have renewed their membership for 2020/21.

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

FinPro Technical Committee News / Updates

Local Government Act Implementation

The following information was circulated to all FinPro Members on Thursday 11.2.21 and is repeated here for your information.

The Model Budget, Financial Plan and Revenue Plan are important strategic documents as part of the greater Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework as part of the implementation of the Local Government Act 2020.

We are delighted to advise that a number of important documents are now published on Engage Vic at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020/integrated-strategic-planning-and-reporting-framework>. They are underneath the Support Material heading and are available for comment / feedback for 1 week so ending COB Wednesday 17th of February.

There are two options in terms of providing feedback:

1/ Via email to LGAct@ecodev.vic.gov.au

2/ Using the question / comment function available at the bottom of the webpage:

FinPro has been thrilled to partner with LGV and created three working groups that have done a lot of work to create these documents to assist the sector. It is great that we can put these draft documents out to get your feedback. Feedback will be considered and the final documents will be launched at our [Professional Development Webinar](#) on Friday 26th February 2021.

We would like to thank everyone who have been involved in the working groups and look forward to seeing you 'online' on the 26th when they are launched. You can register on our website.

In order to keep up to date with the Implementation of the Local Government Act 2020 go to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020> for all LG Act information.

Local Government Victoria Update

The following information was distributed by the LGV on Monday 8 February and is repeated here for your information.

BULLETIN: 08/2021 REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

An important reform of the Local Government Act 2020 (2020 Act) is the transfer of responsibilities in determining mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Remuneration Tribunal).

However, until the Remuneration Tribunal makes its first determination on allowances, the allowance framework under the Local Government Act 1989 (1989 Act), City of Melbourne Act 2001 and City of Greater Geelong Act 1993 continues to apply, despite the repeal of those relevant provisions last year. Section 39(6) of the 2020 Act provides for this transitional arrangement.

The Minister will request the Remuneration Tribunal to make a determination. A determination is expected late 2021.

Current arrangements (under the 1989 Act)

Under section 74(1) of the 1989 Act, councils must review and determine the level of mayoral and councillor allowances within six months of a general election or by 30 June, whichever is later.

The exception is Melbourne City Council and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Greater Geelong City Council, whose allowances are determined separately by the Minister under the City of Melbourne Act 2001 and the City of Greater Geelong Act 1993 respectively.

All councils should therefore plan to undertake and complete their own review of allowances under the 1989 Act by **30 June 2021**.

In undertaking their reviews, councils must ensure that a person has a right to make a submission under section 223 of the 1989 Act (as required by section 74(4)).

Further details of the current allowances framework can be found at:

<https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/guide-to-councils/how-councils-work/the-system-of-government>

Future arrangements (under the 2020 Act)

The power to determine mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances will transfer to the Remuneration Tribunal.

Under section 23A of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019, the Remuneration Tribunal has six months to make a determination from the date the determination is requested by the Minister.

Before making its determination, the Remuneration Tribunal must review the existing councillor allowance framework.

More information on the future arrangements for determining mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances is available on the Remuneration Tribunal's website at: <https://www.vic.gov.au/allowances-mayors-deputy-mayors-and-councillors>

If you have any queries about the allowance arrangements, please contact Tim Presnell, Manager, Governance and Integrity, Local Government Victoria by email at tim.presnell@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Regards

Hannah Duncan-Jones
Acting Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

Accounting treatment for the MAV WorkCare 2020/21 premium adjustment

Late last year 38 councils that have been a part of the MAV WorkCare Scheme received an invoice for a capital recovery contribution. A number of members asked us how they should account for this payment.

We have followed this up with VAGO and their response is as follows:

'MAV WorkCare premium adjustment for 2020/21 and capital recovery contribution (CRC) is expected to be accounted for and presented as expenses in council financial report (in WorkCare expense line) with a brief disclosure on the movement.'

We trust this information is useful for some of our members.

FinPro Professional Development

Upcoming Events

FinPro Professional Development Day – ONLINE - 26 February 2021 (incorporating the FinPro AGM)

Join the FinPro Team online as we run a half day webinar covering the following important topics:

- Welcome and Update by the FinPro President, Bradley Thomas
- Economic Update by Keenan Jackson, Urban economist and economic consultant at .id (informed Decisions)
- Update on the Implementation of the Local Government Act 2020 (Model Budget, Model Accounts, LTFP and Revenue and Rating Strategy), including the launch of final documents.
- FinPro AGM

We will make a call for questions in advance early next week and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions on the day, to take a break and make a coffee/tea and stretch your legs, and for you to vote in the next FinPro Executive Team for 2021!

This webinar is FREE for all FinPro Members who are part of our Online Professional Development Program. If you are not a member, we welcome you to join – the cost is \$100 per person for the full year or \$500 per organisation for the full year. Contact [Gab](#) if you have any questions.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

As always, if you have any ideas of speakers, or would be willing to lead any of the above discussions for your region please contact [Gab](#).

Follow-up Budget Preparation Webinar – looking for members to share their experience so far this year.

Last December we ran a highly successful session on preparing for the Budget Process. We plan on running a follow up session to this in early March and are looking for members who would be willing to participate in this and share their experiences and learnings so far. If you are interested please contact [Gab](#).

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

Bank Reconciliation Officer

- City of Greater Geelong
- <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/896/ci/en/job/494372/financial-accountant>
- For further enquiries please email Kathy Fulton, Coordinator Financial Reporting on 03 5272 4613 or via email kfulton@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- Closing Date – 5.00pm Wednesday 17 February 2021

Team Leader Revenue

- Hume City Council
- <https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Careers-at-Hume/Jobs-and-Opportunities?BestBetMatch=jobs|d36c7183-67c4-46b5-aab0-812b073bda5b|cc238783-0554-497a-a178-c8cc04fd6e57|en-AU>
- For further details please contact David Slater, Revenue Services Coordinator at Hume City Council on 9205 2625
- Closing Date: 16 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).

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