

## FinPro Member Update January 2021 (Edition 7, 2021)

Hello all,

As we head into a well-earned Long Weekend, a reminder that the first of our March Webinars will be held at 12.30 today. The session will cover in detail the recently launched Model Accounts and Model Budget. Thanks to Daniel O'Shea from LGV, Martin Thompson from Crowe Australasia and Hannah White from Mitchell Shire and FinPro Member who are running today's session.

This session, and in fact, all our webinars, will be recorded and shared with members both via our website and also email as soon as possible after they are held.

Later this afternoon the newly elected FinPro Executive Team will be meeting to determine the Executive Officers for the Group – President, Vice-President/s, Treasurer and Secretary. We will update you next week on who those people will be.

In the meantime, have a great long weekend everyone. The weather is looking surprisingly pleasant and we may even get a hint of sunshine after a rather chilly Summer.

**Gab Gordon**  
Executive Officer, FinPro

### Membership News

All councils have now renewed their FinPro Membership. Thank-you for your support.

We welcome the following new members to FinPro:

**Genine McCorkell** has joined the team at Surf Coast Shire as Finance Officer

**Leanne Carbonneau** has joined the team at Baw Baw Shire as Revenue Coordinator

**Mick Smith** has joined Central Goldfields Shire as GM Corporate Performance.

### Thank-you to our 2021 Corporate Partners

- Commonwealth Bank
- CT Management
- MAGIQ Software
- LG Solutions
- VOTAR Partners
- Vision Super
- Westpac

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](#)

## FinPro Online Professional Development

Following on from a successful event last Friday 26 February, 2021, we have an action-packed online program for March. We hope some or all of these will be of interest to you.

### SUMMARY:

- Friday 26 February 2021 - FinPro Online Seminar & AGM – completed. Recordings available
- Friday 5 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm - Model Accounts and Model Budget Webinar - **TODAY**
- Wednesday 10 March from 2.00 – 3.00pm - Budget Preparation Progress
- Friday 12 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm Financial Plan Webinar
- Thursday 18 March 2021 from 9.30 – 10.30am - Fraud Awareness
- Friday 19 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm - Revenue and Rating Plan Webinar

Registration is separate for each event and free for all FinPro Members who are enrolled in the online PD Program.

All sessions will be recorded and shared with members asap after the event.

### DETAILS OF EVENTS:

#### FinPro Online Seminar & AGM – held Friday 26 February 2021

This seminar concentrated on two main topics:

- The Economy
- Local Government Act 2020 Update (including the launch of the Model Budget 2021/22, Model Financial Statements)

[Further details including slides and recordings of each session are available here.](#)

This Seminar will be complemented with a suite of webinars in March. Further details below.

#### **Model Accounts and Model Budget – Friday 5 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm**

### REGISTER NOW

This webinar will cover the following:

- Key changes to the 2020-21 Model Accounts and associated better practice guidance;
- Key changes to the 2021-22 Model Budget and associated better practice guidance, including new requirement for a 4-Year Budget;
- Other topical planning and reporting matters; and
- Opportunity to raise any questions or queries you have about the Model Accounts or Model Budget.

**Budget Preparation Progress – Wednesday 10 March from 2.00 – 3.00pm****[REGISTER NOW](#)**

Following from our webinar panel in December, FinPro are running a follow up session to discuss how Councils are progressing with the preparation of their 2021/22 Annual Budgets.

Danny Wain will facilitate this session, and we will hear from a range of councils about their progress, the challenges they are facing and the timelines they are following.

Speakers will include Dennis O’Keeffe, CFO at Port Phillip City Council and Simon Rennie, Director Corporate Services at Moira Shire.

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**Financial Plan – Friday 12 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm****[REGISTER NOW](#)**

This webinar will cover the following:

- An introduction to the key aspects of the Financial Plan template and associated better practice guidance;
- A summary of the legislative and regulatory requirements; and
- Opportunity to raise any questions or queries you have about the Financial Plan.

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**Fraud Awareness – Thursday 18 March 2021 from 9.30 – 10.30am****[REGISTER NOW](#)**

Fraud awareness training is one of the main tenets of a fraud strategy. Educating members in respect of what to look for and how fraud happens, empower them to take the necessary action to mitigate the risk of it occurring, or, when it does occur, address it in the correct way.

Join the team from Crowe Australasia, led by Andrew Zavitsanos, Partner Risk Consulting, as we delve into the topic of fraud awareness.

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**Revenue and Rating Plan – Friday 19 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm****[REGISTER NOW](#)**

This webinar will cover the following:

- An introduction to the key aspects of the Revenue and Rating Plan better practice guidance;
- A summary of the legislative and regulatory requirements and how the Revenue and Rating Plan supplements the previous 2014 Revenue and Rating Strategy guidance; and
- Opportunity to raise any questions or queries you have about the Revenue and Rating Plan.

## Technical Update

### 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.

The FinPro Local Government Act 2020 Working Groups have completed their respective projects:

- Model Accounts (for year-end 30.6.21)
- Model Budget (for year-end 30.6.22)
- Long Term Financial Plan (The Financial Plan), and
- Revenue and Rating Strategy

Copies of each of the documents are available now on the LGV website – at this link:

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/strengthening-councils/sector-guidance-planning-and-reporting>

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 Rating System Review and Government Response – Sector Technical Briefing

The Sector Technical Briefing provided by LGV is now available on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwnfw6FiSAY>

Please note this is not an open or searchable Youtube site so will only be accessible via the link above. Please feel free to circulate to local government colleagues, and don't hesitate to contact me with any queries or questions.

### Current positions advertised on the [FinPro Website](#)

- **Coordinator Financial Services**
- Moorabool Shire Council
- <http://moorabool.recruitmenthub.com.au>
- For further information, contact Steve Ivelja, Chief Financial Officer on (03) 5366 7100.
- Closing date – 5.00pm Sunday 7 March 2021
- **Finance Business Partner**
- Bayside City Council
- <https://www.seek.com.au/job/51567129>
- For further information please contact Yamile Monsalve, Accounting Services Coordinator on (03) 9599 4765
- Applications close 11.59pm Sunday 7 March 2021

- **Team Leader Accounts Payable**
- Moonee Valley City Council
- <https://mooneevalley.mercury.com.au/ViewPosition.aspx?id=sScqf2mfDWg=&jbc=ere>
- For further information please contact Andrew Nicolaou on 03 9243 8740
- Applications close 11.45pm, Sunday 7 March 2021
  
- **EOI – Audit and Risk Committee Member**
- Alpine Shire Council
- <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/careers/current-vacancies/eoi-independent-audit-and-risk-committee-members>
- For further information please contact Nathalie Cooke, Director Corporate at Alpine Shire on 03 5755 0555
- EOI's close on 14 March 2021
  
- **Senior Rates Officer**
- City of Greater Bendigo
- <https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Working-at-the-City-of-Greater-Bendigo/Current-vacancies>
- For further information please contact Ann-Marie Wangdi, Coordinator Rates and Revenue on 03 5434 6018
- Applications close 9 March 2021
  
- **Financial Accountant**
- Alpine Shire Council (Bright)
- <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/careers>
- For further information please contact Dena Vlekkert, Manager Corporate on 0429 065 192
- Applications close 14 march 2021
  
- **Payroll and Finance Officer**
- Hepburn Shire Council
- <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/payroll-finance-officer/>
- If you have further questions please contact People and Culture on (03) 5348 2306 or at [peopleandculture@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:peopleandculture@hepburn.vic.gov.au)
- Applications close Monday 8 March 2021.
  
- **Management Accountant**
- City of Greater Bendigo
- [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Working-at-the-City-of-Greater-Bendigo/Current-vacancies](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Working-at-the-City-of-Greater-Bendigo/Current-vacancies)
- If you require any further information regarding this position, please contact Kate Fox, Coordinator Management Accounting & Analysis on (03) 5434 6322.
- Applications close COB Tuesday March 16, 2021.
  
- **Financial Coordinator**
- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- <https://candidate.aurion.cloud/wangaratta/production/vacancies/2914206661261499~1/edit>
- Further enquiries about this position should be directed to Claire Barnes, Finance Manager on 0428 301 120
- Applications close on March 21, 2021

We are also aware of a number of regional and rural councils who are seeking both short term and longer-term assistance. If you are looking for a sea / tree / or other change, please let us know and we can put you in touch with some councils looking for finance professionals.

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## A Message from our Partner – CT Management

### CT Management Group 2020 Financial Ratios Benchmarking Data Pack

<https://www.ctman.com.au/2020-council-financial-ratios-benchmarking-data-pack/>

The CT Management Group 2020 Financial Ratios Benchmarking Data Pack is now available for Victorian Councils.

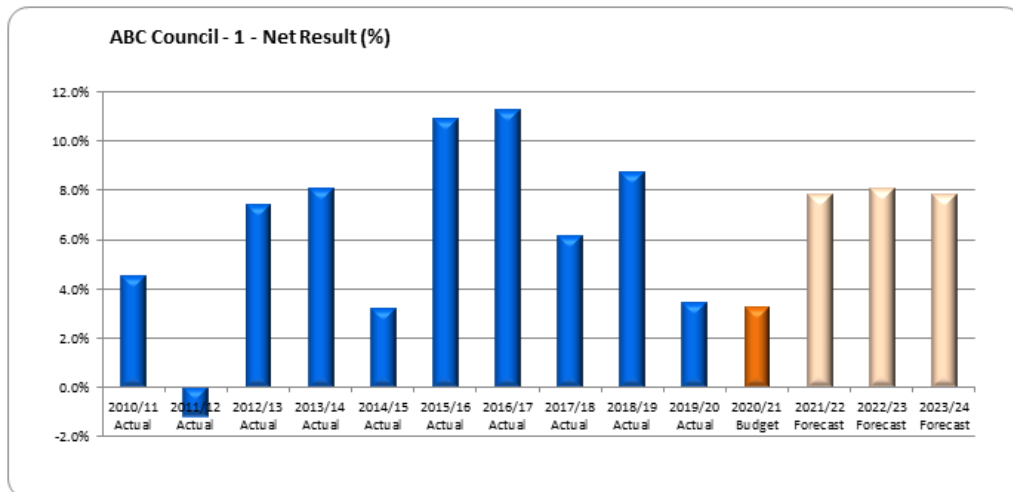
The data pack provides your council's individual 10-year historical information and four year forecast in a summary data table including graphs for over 80 ratios; along with summary data tables and comparative graphs for your council's group (showing the group average) for the 2020 financial year.

You can compare your council to other council groups, councils within your region or other regions; or every council in the state.

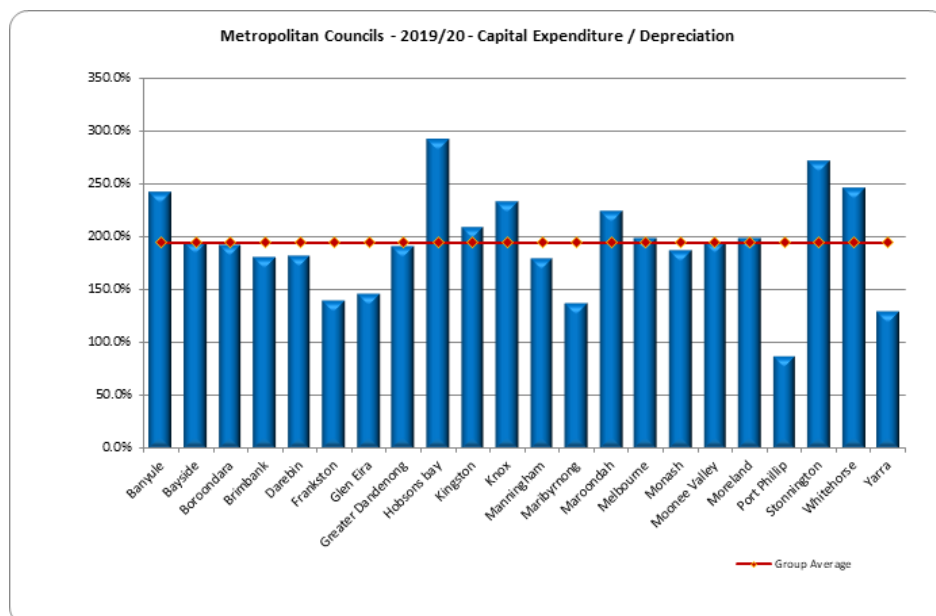
The data and graphs report on VAGO, Revenue, Expense, Debt, Capital, Financial Position, Financial Performance and LGPRF indicators.

CT Management Group's 10 years of data captured from audited Annual Reports provides accurate and consistent information and statistics and can be used to:

- Alert council to performance issues
- Ensure compliance with VAGO indicators
- Support predictive modelling
- Support CEO performance reviews to demonstrate council's financial performance succinctly
- Provide details for council's website and support communications
- Compare data from like councils
- Compare data to other council categories
- Benchmark against all councils on all performance measures
- Provide comparative graphs to like sized councils for the current year
- Assist when councils are looking at service reviews and considering the impact of rate-capping as determined by the Essential Services Commission



*10 year historical and 4 year forecast graph example*



*Council group comparative (metropolitan councils) ratio graph example*

**The 2020 Financial Ratios Benchmarking Data Pack is now available for \$2,000 ex GST.**

For your Councils 2020 Financial Ratios Benchmarking Data Pack or to view the content of the data pack online, please do not hesitate to contact Sonia Giofches, Financial Services Manager on 1300 500 932.

Melissa Healy

**Finance Coordinator**

