

FinPro Member Update – Edition 12, 2022

President's Message

Good afternoon,

I hope you all are well. It is hard to believe it is only six days until the end of the financial year!

I'm sure there is a rush of invoices in every council, and project managers wondering whether they need to have an invoice to have costs in this year....

As many have embraced the hybrid way of working, it might be a good reminder to think about that 30th June morning tea, pub lunch or a couple of drinks with the team to celebrate all that has been achieved across the year and catch up with team members in person.

In this Update we include a communique from the National ALGA Conference which ran earlier this week in Canberra. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend, and it was great to hear at the event how important Ministers, Department Officials, Mayors and Councillors from right across Australia believe that the financial sustainability of LG is.

Yesterday I caught up with representatives of Associations like FinPro from New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. We catch up every second month and discuss current challenges and opportunities. Once again there were many similarities but also many differences in how we approach the different challenges of our sector. I must admit I was a bit jealous of both WA and QLD that have no rate cap and are therefore able to make quick adjustments to their budgets to respond to inflation changes.

Today we meet with representatives of LGV, as we do quarterly. It is a great opportunity to provide directly to Government information on FinPro and look at how we can have an input in policy decisions – we will update you on the outcomes in our next update.

Enjoy your weekend



Cheers, Bradley

Bradley Thomas

President – FinPro and CEO, Hepburn Shire

FinPro Seminar – 3 June 2022 – Did you miss this event?

Recordings of most of the sessions are now [available online](#)

Please note that FinPro will be running a follow-up webinar with David Edgerton on Assets on **Friday 22 July 2022 from 2 – 4pm.**

More details will be available in our next Member Update.

2022 FinPro Conference – 26 – 28 October 2022

The theme of our 2022 Conference is IMAGINE....

We are now finalising the sponsorship for this event and working on an incredible program which will run from lunchtime on Wednesday 26 October and conclude at 1pm on Friday 28 October. We will start with our Regional Group Network sessions, then head straight from there into the full conference program.

Speakers already secured for this event include:

- The Minister for LG – The Hon Shaun Leane,
- Bernard Salt – Demographer
- Andrew Greaves, Victorian Auditor-General,
- Wayne Schwass, and
- Our LG CEO Panelists, John Baker (Mornington Peninsula SC), Andi Diamond (Monash CC), and Kerry Ellis (South Gippsland SC).

Let us know what topics you would like to cover at this year's conference.

We welcome on board the following organisations who have signed up to sponsor this fantastic event:

- Imperium Markets
- Inlogik
- Insightsoftware
- LG Solutions
- Lygon
- TCV, and
- Zipform

These organisations join a group of sponsors who had already committed to support our postponed February Conference:

- Commonwealth Bank
- CT Management
- Laminar Capital
- MAGIQ
- NelNet, and
- Westpac, along with
- Sector Partners LGV and
- VAGO

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 – 33/2022 Council Asset Plan

The following Bulletin (Bulletin: 33/2022) was issued by LGV on Friday 17 June 2022 and is included here for member information:

COUNCIL ASSET PLAN

Councils are required to adopt an Asset Plan by 30 June 2022 in accordance with section 92 of the [Local Government Act 2020](#) (the Act).

To help councils prepare their Asset Plan, Local Government Victoria developed the [Asset Plan Guidance 2022](#) in collaboration with a working group made up of sector representatives from across local government.

The Asset Plan is crucial in setting the direction and priorities of councils to support and deliver on community expectations and needs.

Deliberative engagement is not required for the first Asset Plan. However, the first Asset Plan must be developed in accordance with council's community engagement policy.

Councils are also reminded that there is no requirement to submit the Asset Plan to the Minister for Local Government. Compliance with section 92 of the Act must be recorded by councils in the governance and management checklist included in their annual report.

The Asset Plan must be made publicly available in line with each council's public transparency policy and the public transparency principles in section 58 of the Act.

Please contact lgact@ecodev.vic.gov.au if you have any queries regarding this matter.

Sara Harbidge

Executive Director

Local Government Victoria

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

This Bill progressed through Parliament on 23 June 2022 with its second reading occurring. Debate on the Bill was adjourned for one week, so will come back to Parliament in a weeks' time.

Rating Best Practice Guide Update

FinPro Executive Committee members, Wei Chen, Binda Gokhale, Fiona Rae and Tony Rocca are part of the Local Government Rating Reform - Sector Working Group. The Working Group comprises members from FinPro, RMA (Revenue Managers Association) and LGV.

We met last week, and discussed key rating topics, such as rating differentials and what guidance may be useful for the sector going forward, given the outcomes of the Rating Review. The group will meet approximately every three weeks, with the next hot topic being that of Hardship.

Post the rating review and ombudsman's report, Finpro worked with the RMA to put some guidance together, however, given the recent Rating Bill being reviewed in Parliament, this sector wide working group will help to determine what this guidance will look like going forward.

We will continue to keep members informed as more information is obtained via the sector working group.

Beneficial Enterprises - s.110 of LGA 2020 - Sector Guidance

LGV has engaged an external consultant, Craig Kenny from Mach 2 Consulting, to help establish some sector guidance or how to consider the application and benefits of utilising the new Section 110 of the Local Government Act 2020.

In that engagement, LGV and Craig have reached out to the FinPro Technical Committee to obtain some views and feedback on what the guidance could look like. The groups met in a hybrid environment on Thursday 22 June 2022 to talk through a discussion paper. Once draft documentation is developed, Finpro will have an opportunity to provide any further input into the process.

We will continue to keep members informed as more information becomes available.

ESC update – Annual compliance information 2022-23 requirements

The following information was distributed to the sector by the ESC on Wednesday 22 June 2022 and is included here for member information:

Dear all

As the end of financial year approaches, we would like to remind councils that the annual compliance submission for 2022-23 is due on 30 September 2022.

Valuations to reflect 30 June and 1 July

As a reminder, rating system reports must include:

- Total valuations as at 30 June 2022 and 1 July 2022 for each differential category
- Number of rateable properties as at 30 June 2022 and 1 July 2022 for each differential category
- Number of municipal charge properties as at 30 June 2022 and 1 July 2022 (if this does not appear on your council's rating system reports, other supporting documentation is acceptable)

For councils that cannot provide rating system reports, the numbers must be reconciled to the Valuer General's report of general valuation.

CEO certification and signed rating system reports

Please ensure that both the CEO certification form and valuation reports are signed by the CEO. Any changes made to the template after it is submitted will require a new certification.

New waste charges in 2022-23

As part of the compliance report we monitor and report on councils that introduce new service charges to ensure that the rate cap is working as intended. If your council is introducing a new service charge in 2022-23, we ask that you provide the following when you submit your compliance information:

- Information about the council's engagement process and outcomes.
- Information that shows the revenue impact the new waste charge has on ratepayers.
- Revised Revenue and Rating Plan.

If you have any questions about how we report on waste charges, please contact us at local.government@esc.vic.gov.au.

Relevant links

The guidance and annual information template can be found on our [website](#). The direct links to the documents are below:

- [Compliance Monitoring and Reporting: Guidance for Councils 2022-23](#)
- [Annual compliance information template 2022-23](#)
- [Better Practice Property & Rates Database checklist](#)
- [CEO certification statement form](#)

If you have any issues or queries about compliance with the rate cap in 2022-23, please contact us at localgovernment@esc.vic.gov.au.

Local Government Team

Price monitoring and regulation, Essential Services Commission

2022 National General Assembly of Local Government Communique

As discussed briefly in the President's Message, Bradley Thomas attending the 2022 National ALGA Conference in Canberra earlier this week. A summary of the conference was provided by ALGA and is included here for member information.

Local government leaders from around Australia gathered in Canberra from 20 – 22 June 2022 for the 28th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

This event was held on the traditional lands of the Ngunnawal people, and the Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Around 1,000 delegates welcomed and congratulated the Albanese Government on being elected and thanked the many federal members of parliament who attended and spoke at the NGA or associated events, including Minister King, Minister McBain, Minister Watt, Minister Burney, Minister Rowland, Leader of the National Party David Littleproud, and Zali Steggall OAM.

All reaffirmed the importance of local government, and councils look forward to seeing action through better partnerships.

Local governments asked for a Minister in Cabinet, and we welcome the appointment of Cabinet Minister King supported by former Bega Valley Shire Mayor Minister McBain.

The Assembly welcomed the announcement from Minister King that she would work with Minister McBain to re-establish the Australian Council of Local Governments and was encouraged by the Government's willingness to engage and partner with local councils.

In keeping with the theme of the Assembly 'Partners in Progress', Councillors committed to partnering with the Australian Government to progress critical reforms, including national productivity, climate change transition, Closing the Gap, housing affordability including increased social housing, appropriate road safety reforms, restoring integrity of federal funding to local government, and improved local delivery of community services.

The Assembly committed to progressing the next step of Closing the Gap and passed a motion supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Assembly heard from leading economists that local government is the most productive level of government yet collects just 4% of national taxation revenue. The Assembly agreed that councils need more sustainable and transparent formula-based funding to restore integrity to federal funding of local government.

Further, they noted the essential federal funding support to local communities and called on the Government to review Financial Assistance Grants and restore them to at least 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Delegates and speakers recognised the protracted challenges of the COVID pandemic, unprecedented droughts, bushfires, and recent floods, and commended the work of local councils, local communities and government agencies on their work on emergency response and recovery.

A number of flood affected leaders also met personally with the Prime Minister, and highlighted ways to better work together to prevent and prepare for natural disasters.

The Assembly warmly received Governor-General David Hurley and his comments on the vital role councils are playing supporting disaster impacted communities and will need to play in the future.

The Assembly noted however that more needs to be done on mitigation and the prevention of climate induced natural disasters.

The Assembly discussed the global challenges to democracy and the critical importance of local government. The Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to strong local leadership, transparency and public accountability, free and fair elections and local democracy.

After a stirring address from the Ukraine Ambassador, the Assembly passed a unanimous motion supporting the Ukraine people and their legitimate and democratically elected governments.

Other critical issues addressed at the Assembly included migration between cities and regions, housing affordability and the role councils can play in social housing in particular, critical workforce challenges and road safety.

Delegates agreed to continue to meet with their local federal members to highlight the importance of sustainable and transparent funding for local governments, and better partnerships that will help support progress in every community.

Convened by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) the NGA is the largest national gathering of democratically elected representatives in the nation. ALGA is the national voice of local government and will review more than 106 policy initiatives adopted by resolution of the Assembly in the coming months.

Other information

Women in Local Government Eligible for Leadership Development Scholarships

Women in local government can now apply for a leadership development scholarship from Women & Leadership Australia.

Scholarships are now available through Women & Leadership Australia to encourage more women to enhance their impact at work and beyond, and to support the development of women leaders at all levels.

Partial scholarships of \$1,000-\$5,000 will support participation in one of four courses designed for women in non-leadership roles through to senior leaders

Apply by 9 September 2022 or find out more by [clicking here](#).

TCV loan rates as at 23 June 2022

	Fixed Rate (Interest only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest*)		Term Floating Rate (Margin to BBSW)	
Maturity	Fixed Rate (quarterly)	Fixed Rate (semi)	Fixed Rate (quarterly)	Floating Rate (semi)	Floating Rate (quarterly)	Floating Rate (semi)
1 year	3.1562	3.1683	2.8700	3.0200	-0.0188	-0.2205
3 year	4.0329	4.0513	3.6900	3.7500	0.2232	0.0467
5 year	4.3141	4.3349	4.0300	4.0700	0.3697	0.2137
7 year	4.4902	4.5127	4.2250	4.2550	0.4345	0.2943
10 year	4.7158	4.7405	4.4300	4.4650	0.5793	0.4545
12 year	4.8510	4.8771	4.5500	4.5800	0.6826	0.5615
15 year	4.9531	4.9804	4.6950	4.7250	0.7945	0.6697
11am (at call)	1.1650%					
30 days	1.1900%					
60 days	1.5200%					
90 days	1.8400%					
180 days	2.1300%					

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.

Disclaimer

Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV) provides indicative borrowing rates information to its Clients for general information purposes only, based on facts and data available to TCV at the time of preparation. Rates, market values, yields and outcomes will be subject to variations due to fluctuations and changed market conditions. TCV therefore does not warrant or represent that these rates will be complete, accurate or suitable for use for any Client purposes. The information provided is not to be taken as indicative of the actual trading price at which TCV, or a third party, is or would be prepared to execute a new transaction or to liquidate or unwind and existing transactions.

TCV accepts no responsibility or liability for any direct or indirect loss, damage, cost or expense whatsoever incurred by the Client or any other person as a result of any error, omission or misrepresentation (whether arising from negligence or otherwise) in the rates information or in connection with or relating in any way whatsoever to the rates information.

The indicative rates information provided by TCV is not, without TCV's prior written consent, to be disclosed to any other person.

Current positions advertised on the FinPro Website

Manager Financial and Business Services

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

Coordinator Management Accounting

- City of Ballarat
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 1 July 2022

Financial Data Analyst

- Banyule City Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 26 June 2022

Financial Accountant

- Colac Otway Shire Council
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close 1 July 2022

Coordinator Management Accounting

- Colac Otway Shire Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 27 June 2022

Coordinator Financial Accounting

- Colac Otway Shire Council
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close 1 July 2022

Business Partner

- Stonnington City Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 26 June 2022

Procurement Specialist

- Hepburn Shire Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 4 July 2022

Management Accountant

- Cardinia Shire Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 10 July 2022 (or sooner if position is filled before that date)

Thank-you to our 2022 Corporate Partners

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

Thank-you to our 2021 Leadership Program Sector Partner:

Vision Super

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

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