

FinPro Member Update – Edition 24, 2023

President's Message

Well, that's just about it for another year! It's absolutely flown by.

Can I please thank the FinPro Executive including Gab for all the hard work during the year – we hope we have made our members lives just a little bit easier.

An extra big thank you to Danny Wain who will finish up at Monash this week – your contribution to the Local Government sector, and FinPro is immeasurable. We thank you, and we will miss you, and personally, I thank you for many a year of wise counsel.

I could reflect on 2023 (and there is a bit to reflect on) but I'm keen to look forward to 2024 – it's going to be a most interesting one for local government in Victoria:

- Councillor elections in October 2024,
- State Governments response to operation Sandon expected, what does that mean for planning by Councils, and what changes will we see with Planning and Housing across the state,
- The Allan Labor Government will introduce much needed legislation to improve the performance and accountability of councillors across the state,
- State Parliament will hold an inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, and
- We know most Councils are reviewing their Financial Plan, asset funding and services delivered to ensure long-term financial sustainability of all.

So, for 2024 I hope for real and genuine collaboration with the State Government as we tackle these key issues, and maybe I'm hoping that Santa brings a rate cap announcement by the Minister that considers the impact of true CPI over the last couple of years.

Look after yourself, family, friends and loved ones and we hope you can relax and enjoy a little break. Let's make this summer a season of collaboration and progress!

Bradley



Bradley Thomas,
President FinPro and CEO Hepburn Shire



Membership News

Welcome to new members:

Sarah Johnston who has commenced at the East Gippsland Shire as General Manager Business Excellence.

Daniel Cox, Assets and Systems Finance Officer, East Gippsland Shire

David Southcombe, Manager of Assets and Infrastructure, and **Daniel McQueen**, Asset Management Coordinator at Loddon Shire,

Julie Anderson, **Mark Waters** and **Maryam Mousavi** from Warrnambool City Council, and

Wendy McAlpine, Coordinator Asset Management at Golden Plains Shire.

Welcome back from Maternity Leave **Himani Ahlawat**, Ballarat City Council.

Professional Development Update

Regional Asset Workshops with David Edgerton, Director APV – February 2024

David will be running a series of regional workshops during the week commencing Monday 12 February 2024. These workshops will be free of charge for FinPro members and run from 10am – 2pm. The workshops will further the discussions held during our webinars in 2023 which were very highly attended and well received.

- Monday 12.2.24 Morwell
- Tuesday 13.2.24 Melbourne
- Wednesday 14.2.24 Warrnambool
- Thursday 15.2.24 Bendigo
- Friday 16.2.24 Benalla

[Workshop Program and registration details here](#)



[FinPro Professional Development Day – Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre](#)

Join us on **23 February 2024** at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre for our first live event for the year.

We have a jam-packed agenda:

- Keynote Address - The Hon. Melissa Horne MP (Minister for Local Government)
- Economic Outlook - Phin Ziebell, Head of Research, TCV)
- Diversity and Inclusion - Dr Niki Vincent, Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner, and Tracey Egan, Gender Diversity & Equity Coordinator, Monash CC
- Launch of the Model Budget 2024/25 and Model Financial Statement 2023/24
- FinPro AGM
- VAGO Update - Year End Audit Report 2022/23
- Closing Keynote Address - Holly Ransom - Globally renowned Leadership Speaker

[Program and registration details here](#)

Registrations are now open for this event, and close Wednesday 13 February 2024.

All questions can to Gabrielle Gordon - gabrielle@finpro.org.au

We look forward to seeing many of you at our events in 2024. These are always great opportunities to share ideas, meet other members and to learn not only how other members do things, but also expand your knowledge.

Other proposed topics for 2024

- Cyber security
- Ethics Training (to meet the CPA Ethics requirements)
- Finance Systems
- Audit and Risk Committees
- Councillor Induction
- Accounting for climate change

As always – if you have a topic that you think we should run a webinar, seminar presentation or write an article about for inclusion in our Member Updates, please send through to our Executive Officer, [Gab Gordon](#).

Technical Committee Update

Model Budget and Model Financial Statements

Both working parties are continuing to meet and work on these Models.

The Models will both be launched at the FinPro Professional Development Day on 23 February 2024 and the working groups have advised that there will be no material changes to either one.

TCV Loan and Investment Rates as 13 December 20223

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi
1 year	4.6287	4.6520	4.6600	4.6850	0.2921	0.1078
3 year	4.5432	4.5657	4.5750	4.6000	0.4224	0.2504
5 year	4.6523	4.6760	4.5850	4.6150	0.5103	0.3634
7 year	4.8843	4.9106	4.6900	4.7200	0.6163	0.4921
10 year	5.2221	5.2523	4.9000	4.9350	0.7909	0.6916
12 year	5.4085	5.4411	5.0400	5.0750	0.9011	0.8108
15 year	5.5728	5.6075	5.2250	5.2650	1.0069	0.9180
11am (at Call)	4.6650				BBSW	
30 day	4.5150				1 Month	4.2950
60 day	4.5450				3 Month	4.3583
90 day	4.5850				6 Month	4.5100
180 day	4.7350					

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.

TCV Investment rates

Cash	4.3000		4 Month	4.4039
1 Month	4.2850		5 Month	4.4500
2 Month	4.3050		6 Month	4.5000
3 Month	4.3483		1 Year	4.3270

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.

The FOMC's December meeting has seen significant market implications. While the decision to keep rates on hold was expected, markets were surprised by the extent to which the so-called "dot plots" moved in 2024 and 2025. The dots reflect future rate expectations by FOMC members. These have moved to 4.5-4.75% at end-24 and 3.5-3.75% at end-25. This represents 75bp of cuts next year.

Market reaction has been swift, with yields tumbling. Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comments during the subsequent press conference that rate cuts were discussed in the meeting only served to underline the change in tone. We have been cautious in our expectations around the Fed trajectory in 2024 but this change in tone will likely see downward pressure on bond yields remain.

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.

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

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

[Rates Administration Officer](#) – Hepburn Shire Council Applications close 15.12.23

General Information

Latest blog from .id

What's standing in the way of us building adaptable cities?

As one of our most experienced population forecasters, Richard Thornton's daily work exposes him to the many factors that influence when, where and how much growth occurs in different parts of Australia.

In this piece, he highlights [three factors that Australian planners need to reconcile](#) - population growth, constraints to land use and development, and climate change, highlighting some of the structural challenges that make our cities less adaptable in the face of these realities.

Creeping politicisation of public sector a reality in Victoria: Ombudsman

The following report was tabled in Parliament on 6 December and is shared here for member information.

The Victorian Ombudsman has today tabled in Parliament her report Alleged politicisation of the public sector: Investigation of a matter referred from the Legislative Council on 9 February 2022 – Part 2. It stemmed from a motion requiring the Ombudsman to investigate several matters, including an allegation about the politicisation of the public sector.

The referral alleged the public service had been improperly ‘stacked’ with ALP operatives. The investigation did not find this. But it did find a public sector that has been politicised in other, equally pervasive ways.

“Politicisation can take many forms. It is not just the hiring of people with political affiliations. It is also the closing down or marginalisation of apolitical, independent voices.”

“Creeping politicisation is a reality in Victoria, and requires urgent attention,” Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass said.

In one of the more intensive investigations conducted in the Ombudsman’s 50-year history, we interviewed 45 highly placed public officials and reviewed millions of individual records across more than a dozen agencies.

[Read the report here](#)

Strengthening Integrity in Government

The following press release was issued on 1 December by the State Government and is included here for member information.

The Victorian Government is making sure those who are elected to serve the Victorian community are held to the highest standards of integrity and accountability, with the introduction of an updated Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Coming into effect today, 1 December, an updated Code of Conduct will strengthen the focus on conduct, integrity and probity for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, making regular transparent reporting and training on their obligations mandatory.

The updated Code of Conduct will strengthen and extend the standards of ethical behaviour expected of Ministers, and how those standards should be upheld.

New reporting obligations as part of the updated Code of Conduct will improve transparency of ministerial interests by requiring ministers to:

- *Disclose interests and declare conflicts for publication in the newly established ministerial register of interests*

- *Disclose accepted gifts, benefits, and hospitality for publication in the ministerial register of gifts, benefits, and hospitality*
- *Publish quarterly diary summaries containing details of scheduled meetings with stakeholders, external organisations and third-party lobbyists.*

Ministers will be prohibited from employing family members as staff or in certain public sector bodies.

The updated Code of Conduct sets expectations for diversity and inclusion, the use of official information, assets, and electronic communications, as well as compliance with Westminster and caretaker conventions.

It builds on the Government's work to deliver the most significant overhaul of parliamentary oversight in Australia – with consultation underway on establishing a Parliamentary Integrity Commission to investigate allegations of misconduct by Members of Parliament, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

The updated Code of Conduct addresses recommendations made in the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) and the Victorian Ombudsman's Operation Watts special report, and IBAC's Operation Daintree special report.

Quote attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

Special Offer – Rachael Robertson

Rachael Robertson recently presented to the members of FinPro and has personally received wonderful messages and feedback after her presentation.

Rachael has a lot of experience with Melbourne & regional Victorian LGAs. Our feedback from previous LGA Clients is that Rachael's keynote resonates with their diverse teams of people, skills & roles.

Rachael's story and messages help to build a strong culture by providing practical tools that change behaviours and reinforce the foundation that "respect trumps harmony".

1. The ability to have direct conversations and go straight to the source (No Triangles)
2. A commitment to One Team, we are in this together
3. The language and tools to deal with niggling things before they become big issues (Bacon Wars)
4. A culture of recognising and celebrating positive momentum
5. A belief that anyone can lead, regardless of title (Lead Without a Title --> Safety leadership)

Fees

Included in the fee is a one-on-one telephone briefing session directly with Rachael to ensure that she is completely across the desired outcomes and themes, allowing her to tailor her presentation accordingly.

- Recording is not permitted without a prior discussion with Rachael or a member of her team - happy to discuss further
- Fees are quoted in AUD and are subject to 10% GST

Rachael will be reviewing pricing in late December but will honour these fees if you book prior to 31/12/23.

Bespoke Keynote presentation - tailored to the Client brief - up to 1 hour - 45mins + 15mins Q&A)	AUD
Live Presentation - on premises "Face-to-Face" (F2F): Standard fee	\$12,500
<i>Rachael would like to offer a reduced fee for Keynote presentation for Melbourne-based LGAs (within 2 hours of CBD)</i>	\$7,500
<i>Rachael would like to offer a reduced fee for Keynote presentation for Victorian Regional LGAs (> 2 hours outside of CBD)</i>	\$9,000

Travel

Rachael lives approx. 15km from Melbourne CBD - Client to cover travel related to this event:

If you are interested, please email Rachael's Events Manager: Lisa Ryan

E: events@rachaelrobertson.com.au M: 0425 254 213

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
- Curve Securities – [2023 FinPro Conference – Curve Case Study](#)
- Datacom – www.datacom.co.nz
- Ibis Information Systems – www.ibisinfosys.com.au
- Imperium Markets – www.imperium.markets
- Laminar Capital – [2023 FinPro Conference – Case Study Laminar Capital Perpetual](#)
- LG Solutions – [2023 FinPro Conference – Cloud Year End Case Study – Corangamite & LG solutions](#)
- Lighthouse Group – [2023 FinPro Conference – Lighthouse Local Government Case Study](#)
- MAGIQ Software – www.magiqsoftware.com
- Mastek Ltd – [2023 FinPro Conference – Mastek Case Study 1 – Ipswich Council](#) and [2023 FinPro Conference – Mastek Case Study 2 – Moonee Valley City Council](#)
- National Australia Bank – www.nab.com.au
- NetNet International – www.xetta.com
- Satori – www.satoriassured.com
- TCV – www.tcv.vic.gov.au
- VFMC – [2023 FinPro Conference – Case Study VFMC](#)
- Westpac – www.westpac.com.au
- Maddocks Recoveries – www.maddocksrecoveries.com.au
- TechnologyOne Corp – www.technologyonecorp.com

FinPro Executive Team 2023

President	Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)
Vice-President – Chair PD PD Committee Members	Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC) Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC) Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC) Nathan Kearsley (Latrobe CC) Aaron Gerrard (Whittlesea CC)
Vice-President – Chair Technical Technical Committee Members	Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC) Binda Gokhale (Contractor) Danny Wain (Monash CC) Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC) Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC) Simone Wickes (Casey SC) Wei Chen (Yarra CC)
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