



# 2021 Report on the outcomes of rate capping

FinPro Professional  
Development webinar

June 2021



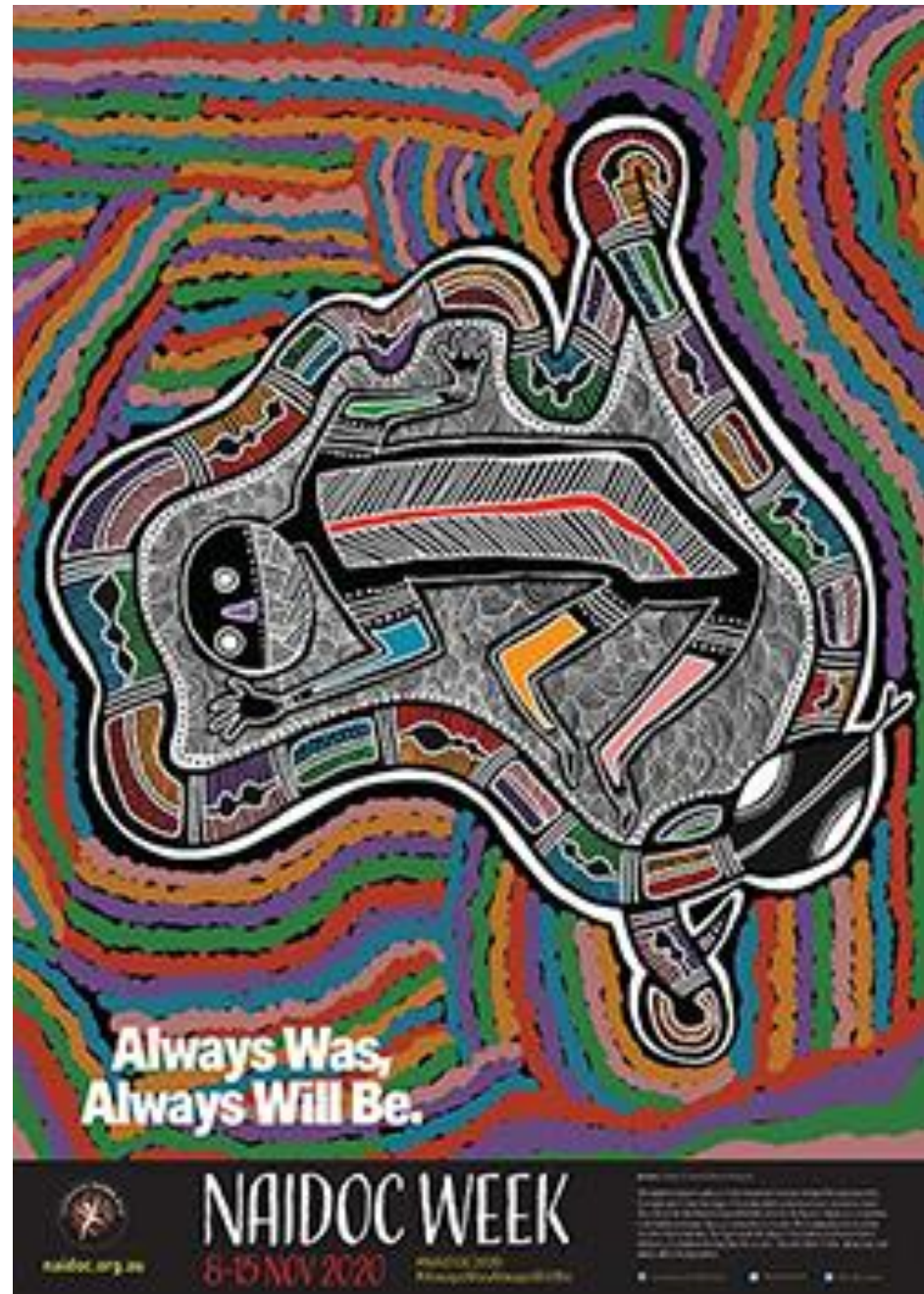
# Acknowledgement of country

To start, I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners on all of the lands wherever you are today.

I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging who may be here today.

I would like to acknowledge the connection that Indigenous Australians hold to country and culture, particularly at this time of great uncertainty.

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## Our outcomes reporting role

- One of 4 roles we have related to the administration of the rate capping framework
- A report every 2 years
- A report on the sector as a whole
- Fact sheets for each of the councils and council groups
- We look at rates, revenue, expenditure, financial position
- This information helps:
  - inform readers how councils are operating in a rate capped environment
  - inform whether the framework is working as intended
  - identify early if things are happening that may be an adverse impact of rate capping

# Report observations

- Ratepayers have paid lower rates than they would have done in the absence of rate capping
- The sector's total revenue and expenditure grew faster due to stronger growth in revenue from contributions and grants
- The sector as a whole had a positive operating position and the ability to meet both short-term and long-term liabilities
- If revenue doesn't bounce back from the impacts of the pandemic, councils may face some difficult decisions

<https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government/rate-capping-outcomes-reports/local-council-outcomes-report-2021>

# Council and group fact sheets

- The fact sheets provide a short summary for each council
- These are not performance reports
- They describe what has happened in the first four years of rate capping
- There is an accompanying reader's guide

Fact sheets are available as:

- PDFs
- an interactive dashboard

# The interactive dashboard

Created using Tableau and embedded on our website

<https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government/rate-capping-outcomes-reports/local-council-outcomes-report-2021#tabs-container2>

Additional information is available in the dashboard:

- Show another council or the average for a council group as a comparison, and print it
- Present data as nominal or real (inflation adjusted)
- Show any year between 2014-15 and 2019-20
- The reader's guide definitions, explanations and data sources are integrated

An excel workbook of all data in the fact sheets is also available on our website.

# The benefits of the fact sheets for councils

These fact sheets:

- Summarise a council's financials
- Present data in a simple format
- Include some descriptive text
- Combine data from multiple sources
- Include more detailed information on rates than other sources
- Are supported by a reader's guide that contains additional explanations and definitions
- Are prepared by an independent, impartial agency

# We welcome feedback

We are required to report on outcomes again in 2023

- Is there other information you would find helpful for us to include in our outcomes report or fact sheets?
- Is there other information you think ratepayers might find helpful?
- How could we improve the presentation of the report, fact sheets or online dashboard?
- How much benefit would be obtained from greater consistency of service level data?

Email: [localgovernment@esc.vic.gov.au](mailto:localgovernment@esc.vic.gov.au)



# 2021-22 Compliance information

Annual compliance information is due to the commission by 30 September 2021. This includes:

- completed compliance information template
- rating system reports as at 30 June and 1 July 2021
- CEO certification
- better practice property and rates database checklist

More information is available at:

<https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government/council-compliance-rate-caps/guidance-help-councils-comply-rate-caps>

# Contact us



[www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government](http://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government)

Contains all our guidance, higher cap decisions, advice to the Minister, compliance reports and other publications.



Contact the team

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