

## FinPro Member Update – Edition 22, 2021

Good morning,

I hope you are well and looking after yourselves.

We have included a few year-end updates in this update as we know many of you are deep into audit visits and getting your financial statements signed off. I'm sure many of you are also taking this opportunity to really looking at the financial impacts of COVID on our statements 😞

We are keeping an eye on the restriction announcements and what this will mean for our Leadership Program in September and our Conference in October. We are really trying to continue with these 'in person' however understand too that we might need to make some last-minute changes.

Another inclusion in this update is information on the mentor program we are offering – it appears harder and harder to both recruit and retain staff so hopefully programs like this assist development of finance professionals within the sector. I encourage our more experienced members to really consider putting you hand up!

I'm heading off on three weeks annual leave. I've pushed it back, thinking that soon I'll be able to go somewhere and then another lockdown comes out! So, I've cancelled my trip to West Australia and will spend the timing around Regional Victoria! Looking forward to sampling the coffee, food and beers of the regions!

Stay safe,

Bradley

**Bradley Thomas**  
**President – FinPro**  
**CEO Hepburn Shire**



## Upcoming events

**5 – 8 September 2021** – Leadership Program at Country Place Kalorama

**20 – 22 October 2021** – FinPro Annual Conference at RACV Cape Schanck

**3 December 2021** – FinPro End of Year Lunch and AGM – Leonda by the Yarra



## Seeking Mentors for our 2021 FinPro Mentoring Program

***“Don’t assume that everyone has the insight and access that you do. Becoming a mentor is a rewarding way to challenge yourself and develop your leadership skills”***

It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain finance professionals in Local Government. We (FinPro) see a real opportunity for our own senior members\* to play an active role in developing our future leaders through our Mentoring Program.

The Program is a win-win for everyone: the mentor, the mentee and the sector.

We are seeking EOI’s from within our FinPro membership from senior leaders\* to take on a role as a mentor. No previous experience in mentoring is necessary. We will provide both training and resources.

\* Senior members are FinPro members who have at least 8 years’ experience in finance, including at least 3 in a leadership role in the LG sector.

If you would like to volunteer for this program you are required to complete an online [MENTOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST](#) application.



Further information about the program is available [on our website](#). EOI’s must be submitted by 12 noon Friday 27 August 2021.

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact FinPro’s Executive Officer, Gab Gordon on 0400 114 015 or via email [gabrielle@finpro.org.au](mailto:gabrielle@finpro.org.au)

## 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. Copies of relevant information is available on the [LGV website](#)

### Important Dates in relation to the LG Act:

#### September 2021

- [2020-21 Annual Report – by 30 September 2021](#)

#### October 2021

- [Financial Plan – 31 October 2021](#)
- [Council Plan – 31 October 2021](#)
- [Community Vision – 31 October 2021](#)

#### December 2021

- Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy – 31 December
- Workforce Plan – 31 December
- Recruitment Policy – 31 December
- Staff Code of Conduct – 31 December
- Complaints Policy – 31 December
- Procurement Policy – 31 December

#### 2022

[Asset Plan – 30 June 2022](#)

### Vision Super Note for Annual Accounts

We have received a number of queries from councils seeking out the Vision Super Note. This note was shared in early August by VAGO. We acknowledge that there has been a lot of information distributed in the past few months and it is easy to miss vital information.

If you are still seeking this information, please refer to page 4 of the attached [Member Update](#). Subsequent to this note above, we can also advise that the June Quarter actual VBI figures are [now available](#)

### New Banking and Financial Services Panel

A new banking and financial services panel has been established in Victoria. Further information is [available here](#).

## 2021 VLGGC Information Sessions

**The following information was distributed earlier this month to councils and is shared for member information:**

*As part of its annual consultation program, the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission holds a series of information sessions. These are open to Councillors and staff of all Victorian councils. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995, these meetings are also open to the public.*

*These sessions provide an opportunity for the Commission to provide an update on its recommendations to the Commonwealth Government for the allocation of the Financial Assistance Grants and to discuss current issues and our upcoming work program.*

*This year's sessions will also provide further information on how the determination of the recent brought forward payment was made by the Commonwealth, the factors impacting the 2021-22 grant outcomes and data issues.*

*Two sessions are being scheduled on 30 August and 2 September 2021.*

*The virtual/online sessions will again be conducted via Microsoft Teams and you are asked to ensure that you provide the email addresses of all intending participants in order to receive the meeting invitation.*

*Please complete and return completed form to Nada - [nada.baqaric@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:nada.baqaric@ecodev.vic.gov.au)  
Financial Assistance Grants are a vital component of revenue for Victorian councils and I strongly encourage your council to be represented at one of these sessions.*

*I look forward to meeting with you at these sessions.*

**John Watson**  
**Chair**  
**Victorian Local Government Grants Commission**

**[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE VICTORIAN LG GRANTS COMMISSION HERE](#)**

## Local Government Victoria Update – Model Financial Report

The following information was distributed to councils on 12 August and has previously been distributed to councils by FinPro, but is shared again here for those who missed the earlier distribution of the information.

### **BULLETIN: 59/2021**

#### **UPDATES TO THE 2020-21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MODEL FINANCIAL REPORT**

As you know, Victorian councils must prepare the financial statements in their annual reports in accordance with the [Local Government Model Financial Report \(LGMFR\)](#).

The 2020-21 LGMFR was launched in February 2021. However, since then two matters have emerged which require updates to the LGMFR. Councils are encouraged to review the details below and update their 2020-21 financial statements as needed

#### **1. End of the MAV WorkCare Scheme**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) ceased operating the MAV WorkCare Scheme (Scheme) on 30 June 2021 and is supporting the transition of claims-management responsibilities to the Victorian Work Cover Authority.

As a result, there is a need to reconsider the accounting recognition and disclosures required in the 2020-21 financial statements (and future years financial statements) of Scheme participants.

Please refer to [ATTACHMENT 1](#) for further guidance on this matter and a list of Scheme participants.

#### **2. Missing comparatives in Note 5.8 (Leases)**

Comparative information was omitted from Note 5.8 on Leases in the 2020-21 LGMFR.

Please see [ATTACHMENT 2](#) for guidance on the comparative information required in council financial statements for 2020-21. For further information please contact [daniel.oshea@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.oshea@ecodev.vic.gov.au).

**Julie Reid**  
**Executive Director**  
**Local Government Victoria**

## ESC – Annual Compliance Information Reminder

The ESC provided the following reminder to the sector earlier this week and it is included here for your information:

*Dear all,*

*This is a reminder about compliance with the rate cap for 2021–22.*

### **Compliance submissions due 30 September**

*The annual compliance information is due to the Essential Services Commission by 30 September 2021. As part of the submission, councils must provide:*

- *Annual compliance information template 2021–22*
- *Rating system reports as at 30 June 2021 and 1 July 2021*
- *Completed Better Practice Property and Rates Database Checklist*
- *CEO certification*

*The better practice property and rates database checklist is a new addition to the compliance submission. Please review the guidance to understand the purpose of the checklist.*

### **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 2021-22 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Annual compliance information template 2021-22 \(excel file\)](#)

*If you have any questions or issues with completing the template, please contact the local government team at [local.government@esc.vic.gov.au](mailto:local.government@esc.vic.gov.au).*

### **Local Government Team - Price monitoring and regulation**

## Deliberative Engagement Webinar – Wednesday 11 August 2021 at 12.30pm

Let's talk 'Deliberative Engagement'

A recording of this webinar is [now available](#) for viewing.

Additional information is also included on our [website](#). Included is a summary of the session and a couple of brochures prepared by the City of Greater Bendigo which may be viewed as examples of how one council is providing summary information to the community as part of their deliberative engagement program.

## Join the conversation

As most members will know, we support a FinPro Member-wide Forum, enabling members to ask questions, share information and provide answers. The forum is on Yammer and if you are a member and not currently involved, please contact Gab to join – [gabrielle@finpro.org.au](mailto:gabrielle@finpro.org.au)

## Member question – Review of phone and internet services and charges



A council has contacted us to see whether any councils have engaged a Telco Auditor / Consultant to review their phone and internet services and charges and could recommend the who they used. If your council has done such a review, please let [Gab](#) know so she can share the information. Thanks

## External Professional Development Opportunities

### Chartered Accountants Australia – Victorian Public Sector Forum – 24 August 2021

The following invitation might be of interest to some of our members – noting it is free and complimentary for all Finance Professionals working with the Victorian Public Sector.

*The Victorian Public Sector Panel are delighted to invite you to this exclusive online Public Sector Forum. This is an opportunity to come and hear from Tim Pallas MP, Treasurer of Victoria and Minister for Economic Development and Adam Fennessy PSM, Victorian Public Sector Commissioner on topics relevant to the sector and to network with your fellow peers in the profession in an online environment.*

*Date: 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021*

*Location: Online via Zoom*

*Time: 12.00pm – 2.30pm*

*Registration : [ONLINE EVENT | VIC Public Sector Forum](#), Or alternatively you can email [Rebecca.billington@charteredaccountantsanz.com](mailto:Rebecca.billington@charteredaccountantsanz.com) to register.*

*This event is complimentary for both CA members and Non-CA Finance Professionals working within the Victorian Public Sector.*

**Rebecca Billington**

**Account Manager – Corporate**

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

- **Financial Accountant – Assets (Part-Time Permanent)**
  - Mitchell Shire Council
  - <https://careers.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/cw/en/job/492845/financial-accountant>
  - For more information, please contact Avish Muthreja, Financial Accounting Coordinator at Mitchell Shire on 0422 330 131.
  - Applications close 30 August 2021 at 9am
  
- **Management Accounting Coordinator**
  - Moreland City Council
  - <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/my-council/careers-at-moreland/current-vacancies/>
  - For more information about this position please access a copy of the position description via the link or to discuss your suitability, to contact Jemma Wightman, Finance Unit Manager, Tel: 03 9240 2320 for a confidential conversation.
  - Applications close 22 August 2021, however they may close earlier if high volumes of applications are received.
  
- **Finance Business Partner**
  - Moreland City Council
  - <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/my-council/careers-at-moreland/current-vacancies/>
  - For more information about this position please access a copy of the position description via the link or to discuss your suitability, to contact Jemma Wightman, Finance Unit Manager, Tel: 03 9240 2320 for a confidential conversation.
  - Applications close 1 September 2021
  
- **Senior Systems Accountant**
  - Yarra City Council
  - <https://jobs.yarracity.vic.gov.au/cw/en/job/495095/senior-systems-accountant>
  - For further information see the position description or contact Wei Chen, Chief Financial Officer via [wei.chen@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:wei.chen@yarracity.vic.gov.au)
  - Applications close on Thursday 26 August 2021 at 11.55pm
  
- **Contracts and Procurement Manager**
  - West Wimmera Shire
  - [www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au/Council?Employment/Contracts-and-Procurement-Manager](http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au/Council?Employment/Contracts-and-Procurement-Manager)
  - Contact Janet Watt, Human Resource Manager on 0418 858 0413 for more information.
  - Applications close 3 September 2021 at 5.00pm



## FinPro Executive Team 2021

<b>President</b>	Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)
<b>Vice-President – Chair Professional Development</b>	Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)
<b>PD Committee Members</b>	Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC) Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC) Charles Nganga (Casey CC) Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC)
<b>Vice-President – Chair Technical</b>	Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC)
<b>Technical Committee Members</b>	Danny Wain (Monash CC) Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC) Mark Montague (Whittlesea CC) Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC) Simone Wickes (Frankston CC) Wei Chen (Yarra CC)
<b>Secretary / Treasurer</b>	Gabrielle Gordon

## Thank-you to our 2021 Corporate Partners

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

## FinPro Contact Details

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