

FinPro Member Update – Edition 2, 2023

President's Message

Afternoon, on a wet and chilly FEBRUARY afternoon.

Yesterday the Executive of FinPro came together for our planning day 2023. It was a great opportunity for us to reflect on a couple of busy years, the challenges ahead for the sector and FinPro how we respond these. Whilst will have a number of new areas we will be working on during 2023, there will also be many similarities to our previous year programs, with two in person PD days, our Leadership Program (moved to May), our conference, strong advocacy and a bumper webinar program, as well as these regular fortnightly member updates.

It was great to reflect on who FinPro is, our culture and our purpose – and although we will tweak some things like any good organisation should, we will stay core to our culture of being a small organisation, where everyone is welcome, where we want to help our members and there is a sense of family.

Inside the members update remember to register for our in person PD Day and a webinar to be held in conjunction with Rural Councils Victoria and SGS Economics and Planning on their report into potential alternative income streams for local government.

Bradley Thomas,
President FinPro and CEO Hepburn Shire

Membership News

Welcome to new members:

Carey Roberts, Management Accountant at Wellington Shire,

Daniel Langton, Finance Project Lead – Enterprise at Yarra Ranges. Daniel joins us from NSW Local Government and represented NSW FinPro at our last FinPro Conference.

Priska Pradanti and **Anthony Furjan**, both Revenue Officers at Bass Coast Shire, along with **Molly O'Brien**, Finance Officer at the same Shire,

Irma De Silva has joined the team at Casey and a Finance Business Partner, and

Dylan Howard, Manager Finance at Towong Shire.

Member Congratulations to **Nathan Cutting** who has moved to Buloke Shire as Manager Financial Strategy. Nathan was previously at the City of Greater Bendigo, and to

Stuart Adam who has moved to Frankston City Council as Coordinator Management Accounting. Stuart was previously at Yarra Ranges Shire.

Upcoming Professional Development Day – Friday 24 February 2022



You are invited to a full day seminar at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 24 February 2023.

Registration will be from 9am, with the sessions commencing at 9.45 and concluding at 3.00pm. A networking session will then run from 3.00 – 4.00pm.

Seminar presentations will include:

- FinPro Update
- Economic session presented by Emma Lawson, Economist TCV
- Launch of Model Budget 2023/24 and Model Financial Statements 2022/23
- ESC Update
- LGV Update
- Top 5 Issues for Australian Business Leaders in 2023, and
- Cyber Security and Fraud Awareness.

[Full details of the program available here](#)

Investment: (includes seminar, morning tea, lunch and networking event from 3 – 4pm)

- Members: \$176 pp
- Non-members: \$242 pp

[REGISTER HERE](#)

International review finds governments must fund councils

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) commissioned research in 2022 that looked both nationally and internationally at potential alternative income streams for local government. SGS Economics and Planning conducted the review and found no single idea that could generate significant alternative revenue for small councils representing small communities. [Find the report here.](#)

An RCV webinar will be held on Thursday 9 March from 2-3pm with SGS Economics and Planning presenting the research, with time for questions. **FinPro members are welcome to join.** To register for the webinar, please [complete this form.](#)

Any queries should be directed to the Rural Councils Victoria Secretariat on secretariat@ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au or 0400 430 584.

Technical Updates

VLGGC Update – Circular 1: Statewide Information Sessions 28 Feb 2023

The following information was sent to councils from the VLGGC (Victorian Local Government Grants Commission) on 1 February 2023, and is shared here for member information.

VLGGC Statewide Information Session – 28 February 2023

The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission allocates Financial Assistance Grants to support councils in delivering services to their communities.

In 2022-23, Victorian councils will receive a total of \$680.354 million in financial assistance grants:

- \$501.865 million in general purpose grants
- \$178.488 million in local roads grants.

These funds are provided annually by the Australian Government. All of this funding is “untied” – that is, councils can use the grants at their discretion. Grants are paid in quarterly instalments.

For more information on the Commission, [visit the website](#)

In addition to an ongoing program of meetings with individual councils, the Commission holds a number of information sessions each year as part of its annual consultation program. These are open to council staff and councillors of all Victorian councils.

These sessions present an opportunity for the Commission to provide an update on the allocation of the financial assistance grants program and to discuss current issues and our upcoming work program.

Two information sessions were held virtually in August 2022.

The Commission is offering an additional online session on **Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 11am**.

This will be particularly relevant to councillors and staff who were unable to attend one of the previous sessions.

This session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and we request that you complete and return the [attached registration sheet](#) in order to receive an invitation for the session you have selected. You will need to “Accept” the invitation to access the session.

The completed form can be returned to Nada Bagaric - nada.bagaric@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 this session.

John Watson,

Chair, Victorian Local Government Grants Commission

New Audit Procedure on Governance and Controls

With the 2021-22 financial audit finalised for most of us, it's time to kick off the process again for another year with many of us already having planning audits.

This year there is a new audit requirement to meet with key stakeholders and 'those in charge of governance' outside of the management team, which translates to the Chair of a Board or Mayor of a Council. The purpose of meeting with different stakeholders is to enhance the auditors understanding of the entity and financial report and to assist in the assessment of risks. Questioning is likely to be on controls, how the organisation manages fraud risk, how related parties are identified and current year developments with the objective to determine the level of understanding of these areas and assess how they oversee these issues.

Independent Review – Disaster Funding Arrangements

Something just to keep on your radar:

The Albanese Government has commissioned an independent review into Australia's disaster funding arrangements, to ensure government investment in disaster funding is fit-for-purpose and effective in the face of increasingly frequent and more severe natural disasters.

The Review will be led by Mr Andrew Colvin APM OAM, a partner at Deloitte, who previously helmed national recovery efforts after the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires.

Mr Colvin has considerable experience with disaster response and recovery, having led the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA) from January 2020 to May 2021. Prior to this he was the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police and a serving officer for 30 years.

[Read the full media release here:](#)

The final report is expected to be provided to Government in April 2024.

Windfall Gains Tax – Practical Implications for Council-owned Land

Windfall Gains Tax (WGT) is one of the most significant tax regime changes to affect the property industry since the introduction of GAIC. WGT is however more challenging for councils than GAIC for a variety of reasons, including the fact that local government land is not exempt from the tax.

In light of this, Maddocks will be running a seminar in Melbourne on 15 February. Further details are available by contacting [Bianca Wiles at Maddocks](#)

AASB NPF Post Implementation Review of Accounting Standards

This information was sent late last month to the most senior finance person at each council by FinPro, and is included here as a reminder:

Following from the changes to the following accounting standards, AASB will be holding a Local Government entities roundtable session to give stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback to AASB Staff on the following:

- [ITC 49](#) *Post-implementation Review of AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors;*
- [ITC 50](#) *Post-implementation Review – Income of Not-for-Profit Entities; and*
- [ITC 51](#) *Post-implementation Review of Not-for-Profit Topics – Control, Structured Entities, Related Party Disclosures and Basis of Preparation of Special Purpose Financial Statements.*

The roundtable will be held on 7 February 2023. For more information please contact [Claire Thomson](#).

To register – [use this link](#).

FinPro CPD Hours for 2022

3.2.22	Webinar – TCV Loans Framework	1 hr.
24.2.22	Webinar – Keeping Members Updated	2 hrs.
2.3.22	Webinar – The Asset Plan	1 ¼ hrs.
10.3.22	Webinar – Deliberative Engagement	1 hrs.
7.4.22	Webinar – Gender Equity	1 hr.
3.6.22	Seminar – PD Day – Melbourne Convention Centre	4 hrs.
22.7.22	Webinar – Assets and ED320	2 hrs.
6.10.22	LG Amendment (Rating and other matters) Act 2022	1 hr.
26.10.22 - 28.10.22	Conference – RACV Cape Schanck - Full Conference	13 hrs.
3.11.22	Disaster Funding Webinar	1 hr.
11.11.22	Pre-election webinar	.5 hrs.
13.11 - 16.11.22	Financial Management and Leadership Skills Program – CountryPlace Kalorama	17 hrs.
2.12.22	AGM and end of year luncheon	1 hr.

TCV Loan rates as at 1 February 2023

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi
1 year	3.9095	3.9268	3.8550	3.9100	0.1729	0.0313
3 year	3.9264	3.9431	3.9000	3.9250	0.2785	0.1228
5 year	4.0738	4.0919	3.9650	3.9950	0.3943	0.2475
7 year	4.2738	4.2939	4.0750	4.1050	0.4384	0.3136
10 year	4.6317	4.6554	4.2900	4.3200	0.6164	0.5161
12 year	4.8177	4.8434	4.4350	4.4700	0.7211	0.6308
15 year	5.0102	5.0382	4.6350	4.6650	0.8565	0.7729
11am (at Call)	3.4150				BBSW	
30 day	3.4150				1 Month	3.1990
60 day	3.4650				3 Month	3.3417
90 day	3.5650				6 Month	3.6735
180 day	3.9050					

TCV Investment rates

Cash	3.0500		4 Month	3.4493
1 Month	3.1890		5 Month	3.5717
2 Month	3.2400		6 Month	3.6635
3 Month	3.3317		1 Year	3.6018

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.

FinPro – Current finance jobs available in the sector

Job	Organisation	Link	Closing date
Manager Finance	Indigo Shire	Council website	3 Feb 2023
Coordinator Strategic Capital Management	City of Greater Bendigo	Council website	6 Feb 2023
Asset Accountant	Bass Coast Shire	Council website	12 Feb 2023
Coordinator Finance and Procurement	Hepburn Shire	Council website	8 Feb 2023
Procurement Specialist	Hepburn Shire	Council website	10 Feb 2023
Senior Accountant	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Council website	10 Feb 2023
Asset Manager Advisor	City of Greater Bendigo	Council website	13 Feb 2023
Coordinator Financial Accounting Services	Baw Baw Shire	Council website	19 Feb 2023
Financial Accountant	Colac Otway Shire	Council website	23 Feb 2023

Thank-you to our 2022 FinPro Conference Sponsors

- [APV Valuers & Asset Management](#)
- [Commonwealth Bank](#)
- [CT Management Group](#)
- [Curve](#)
- [Insightsoftware](#)
- [Imperium Markets](#)
- [ITVision](#)
- [Lygon](#)
- [LG Solutions](#)
- [Laminar Capital / Perpetual](#)
- [MAGIQ Software](#)
- [National Australia Bank](#)
- [Nelnet International](#)
- [Promaster](#)
- [Satori](#)
- [TCV](#)
- [TechnologyOne](#)
- [Westpac](#)
- [Zipform](#)

And our Conference Sector Partners

- [LGV](#)
- [VAGO](#)

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 (Frankston CC) Wei Chen (Yarra CC)
Secretary / Treasurer	Gabrielle Gordon

FinPro Contact Details

FinPro (Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.)

Email: gabrielle@finpro.org.au

Mobile: 0400 114 015

Web: www.finpro.org.au