

## FinPro Member Update – Edition 4, 2022

### President's Message

Hope you have had a great week! I think we got a bit excited that we would have some further easing announced yesterday and we might be able to return to the office, and maybe without masks – but looks like we will have to wait till next week for the announcements. Fingers crossed 😊

2022 seems like it might be a bit of a silly season with both a Federal and State elections. It seems like every day there is a new announcement about policies – fingers crossed that the important work and financial challenges that LG have are front and center in all political party decisions.

Next Thursday we are holding our PD webinar, with the launch of key documents including the Model Budget and Model Financial Report – I hope many of you are able to tune in.

What's been your favorite Winter Olympics sport? I must admit there is no chance you will get me onto a Skelton course!

Enjoy your weekend.



Cheers, Bradley

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

### Membership

We welcome the following new members:

- **Amy Gashi** who has joined the team at Moreland City Council a Trainee Accountant,
- **Melissa Follett**, Corporate Planning & Reporting Officer, **Craig McErvale**, Revenue Coordinator, and **David Clohesy**, Property & Rates Officer have all joined us from Mildura Rural City Council,
- **Sendy Muliawan**, Senior Corporate Finance Analyst, and **Asad Cheema**, Senior Corporate Finance Analyst both join us from Melbourne City Council,
- **Peter Phelan**, who has joined the team at Northern Grampians as Coordinator Finance Services,
- **Michael Bradbury**, who has joined the team at Baw Baw Shire as Management Accountant, and
- **Gayatri Baskaran** who has joined the team at Greater Geelong CC as Coordinator Financial Reporting.

Welcome back **Andrew Davis** to the sector. Andrew has taken on the role as Financial Controller at Wyndham City Council and joins us after a few years working in State Government.

We also welcome back **Cheryl Nickels-Beattie** who has joined the team at Murrindindi Shire as Manager Business Services.

We farewell **Luke Costa**, Coordinator Finance Accounting at Maroondah, who is leaving the sector to work in Private Enterprise. Luke has been a member for a number of years and participated in our Leadership Program in 2018. We wish you luck as you move beyond Local Government Luke.

## Upcoming Professional Development Webinars



**FinPro  
Webinar:  
Keeping our  
members  
updated**

**Thurs 24 Feb, 2022  
from 10am - 12pm**

**Webinar – free for all FinPro Members**

**REGISTER NOW**

Economic Outlook – presented by Keenan Jackson from .id (informed decisions)

Launch Model Budget and Model Financial Statements

Release of Asset Plan (further webinar to be held on the details – 3.3.22)

Meet Travis Derricott, newly appointed Sector Director LG at VAGO

**Thursday 3 March 2022**, 11am – 12 noon – The Asset Plan – details TBA

**Thursday 10 March 2022**, 11.00 – 12.00 noon – Deliberative Engagement – details TBA

**Thursday 7 April 2022**, 11.00 – 12.00 noon – Gender Equity – details TBA

## Upcoming Professional Development – Live events

**Friday 3 June 2022 from 9.30am – 3.00pm** - FinPro Seminar –at Melbourne Entertainment & Convention Centre

**Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 October 2022** - FinPro Conference –at RACV Cape Schanck

**FinPro AGM – Friday 2 December** at Leonda by the Yarra. **Keynote Speaker – Dylan Alcott AO**

## 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](#)

## Recruitment Policy Guide

The *Recruitment Policy Guide for Local Government*, which has been drafted in collaboration with human resources professionals from across local government and the Australian Services Union, has been uploaded on [EngageVic](#) and the [LGV website](#). The Guide contains core principles of recruitment such as transparency, merit and equal opportunity which will assist Councils in developing their recruitment policies.

## Asset Plan

The Asset Plan guidance material, *Making the Big Picture Simple – Asset Plans and the Local Government Act* will be released on Thursday 24 February and made available on the [EngageVic](#) and the [LGV website](#). Note that Councils are expected to complete their Asset Plans by 30 June 2022 and that deliberative engagement is not required for the first iteration of the Asset Plan.

For queries and more information, please contact [LGAct@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:LGAct@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

FinPro will be running a webinar on [Thursday 3 March at 11am](#) to provide further information and insight into this document.

## Model Budget and Model Financial Statements Update

The working groups have met a number of times over the past month to draft up the draft the Model Budget 2022/23 and Model Financials 2021/22. The documents are just about finalised and will be circulated early next week and launched at the FinPro webinar on Thursday 24 February.

## Local Government Rating Reform Project – Sector Working Group

We were pleased to hear this week that Local Government Victoria are looking to create a Revenue and Rating Sector Working Group to address recommendations relating to financial hardship and amendments to the Revenue and Rating strategy

Representatives from both FinPro and the RMA, as well as the MAV will participate in this Working Group.

## TCV Loan Rates

On 3 February 2022 we ran a [webinar with TCV](#) to provide an in-depth look into how the newly announced funding vehicle (through TCV) operates.

Following from that session we will be providing updated TCV Loan rates in our regular Member Updates.

### TCV loan rates as at 16th February 2022

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest*)		Term Floating Rate (Margin to BBSW)	
	Fixed Rate (quarterly)	Fixed Rate (semi)	Fixed Rate (quarterly)	Floating Rate (semi)	Floating Rate (quarterly)	Floating Rate (semi)
<b>1 year</b>	0.8934	0.8940	0.7100	0.7900	0.1784	0.1368
<b>3 year</b>	2.1000	2.1042	1.6300	1.6750	0.1871	0.1285
<b>5 year</b>	2.5140	2.5203	2.1100	2.1350	0.2985	0.2354
<b>7 year</b>	2.7483	2.7558	2.3750	2.3950	0.3942	0.3328
<b>10 year</b>	2.9574	2.9664	2.6300	2.6450	0.5006	0.4426
<b>12 year</b>	3.1057	3.1157	2.7600	2.7750	0.6175	0.5591
<b>15 year</b>	3.3231	3.3347	2.9350	2.9500	0.8299	0.7630
<b>11am (at call)</b>	0.4150%				<b>BBSW</b>	
<b>30 days</b>	0.3200%				<b>1 Month</b>	0.0132%
<b>60 days</b>	0.3500%				<b>3 Month</b>	0.0784%
<b>90 days</b>	0.3900%				<b>6 Month</b>	0.2750%
<b>180 days</b>	0.4400%					

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% and the DTF Guarantee Fee of 0.15%.

\*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.

## Extract from 'Our MAV' – issued 11 February 2022

The following extract from the MAV Bulletin is shared with members as it provides some food for thought for all working in local government at the moment.

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### ***“Call for financial independence***

*Already, the MAV has set the agenda by calling for the Victorian Government to objectively review its rate cap decision and the implications for councils and communities.*

*Our goal is simple – it is time for financial independence to be returned to local government. Local governments best know and understand how to deliver on local community needs and aspirations.*

### ***At a glance,***

- ***By setting the 2022/23 rate cap at 1.75 per cent, the State Government has also set the benchmark for what all levels of government should be asking of their citizens as the Victorian economy moves into recover over the next 18 months,***
- ***Councils are conscious of their role to minimise financial imposts on families and businesses, especially as we move towards COVID recovery, and***
- ***The impact of ongoing rate capping is that councils around the state are making serious decisions about service levels and resourcing for programs.***

*Given the rate cap, Victorian businesses and households should expect other state government-controlled levy charges capped to 1.75 per cent.*

*While council rates have been capped at an average 2.1 per cent per year since 2016, state government's landfill levy (11.7 per cent) and the fire services levy (5.4 per cent) have both increased significantly over the same period.*

*In the response and recovery from COVID-19, Councils are playing a leading part in supporting those most vulnerable. However, since the introduction of the rate cap, additional ratepayer costs have actually been driven by state government charges, levied through rates – rather than local governments.*

*The impact of ongoing rate capping is that councils around the state are now making serious decisions about service levels and resourcing for programs.*

*While operating costs continue to rise, the restraint on rates will likely only capture around 40 per cent of the upward cost pressures. In 2022/23, we anticipate staff wage pressures around 2.5 per cent, while materials and services are likely to escalate by 4-5 per cent, as these are the trends playing out in the broader economy.*

*Many councils are facing a double hit of escalating cost pressures in the new financial year combined with major operating deficits in many councils for the last two years. This is particularly the case for those councils that operate significant community and leisure facilities.*

*With multiple cost pressures in mind, local government is stuck in a parallel universe on expectations. Completing deliberative engagements with our 79 diverse communities across the state, not one community has asked their council to do less.*

### ***Consultation is vital***

*Similarly, we have raised concerns that community consultation, which has long been a key plank of Victoria's planning system, is under threat from this state government.*

*The government's social housing plans in metro Melbourne highlight why we are concerned.*

*Yes, we support the need for increased social and affordable housing. Direct investment into social housing increases the supply of housing available for those in greatest need. Governments at all levels have a responsibility to address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.*

*But, and it is a big but, social and affordable housing proposals should not come at the expense of appropriate planning processes, including community participation.*

*Through their elected Councillors, communities have always had a say in the development of the places they live.*

*Local government, through the MAV, calls on the State Government to engage early and comprehensively with communities to enable their meaningful input as projects are developed."*

**Source:** <https://www.mav.asn.au/news-resources/news/presidents-update>

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

### Senior Accountant – Assets / Management Accounting

- City of Greater Dandenong
- [More information](#)
- Application close Wednesday 2 March at 5pm

### Finance and Revenue Officer

- Hepburn Shire Council
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close Monday 28 February 2022 at 5pm

### Payroll and Finance officer

- Hepburn Shire Council
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close Monday 28 February 2022 at 5pm

### Senior Accountant

- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close Monday 28 February 2022

### Accountant

- Rural City of Wangaratta
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close Monday 21 February 2022

## Thank-you to our 2022 Corporate Partners

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

## Thank-you to our Sector Partner:

### Vision Super

## FinPro Executive Team 2022

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

## FinPro Contact Details

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