

FinPro Member Update – Edition 13, 2023

President's Message

Hello all and a happy New Year!

Welcome to the start of the 2023/24 financial year....what will it have in store for you, your Councils and FinPro?

Well, from a FinPro perspective I can let you know that you will see a lot of our usual – with our conference planning coming along, a number of webinars, we will continue with our regular members update and remember we are always there to try and make our members lives easier! We are always keen to hear from you on what we can help with.

On 20 July we are running a webinar to help with any year-end questions you have. Thanks to our panel who have volunteered to assist with this – Fiona Rae, John Brockway and Martin Thompson. These panelists, guided by our Facilitator, Danny Wain, will help you to get the job done this year end. More information is on the next page.

Sitting here watching the Swans v Richmond, flicking across to the Ashes and I have an eye on the Tour de France! What a great time of year.

Good luck with all your year-end processing and getting ready and through the audits! Remember you are doing a super job.

Cheers and hope you have a great weekend,



Bradley Thomas,
President FinPro and CEO Hepburn Shire

Membership News

Welcome to our new members:

Phoebe Maprock who has joined the team at Whittlesea City council as Unit Manager Financial Compliance and Control, and

New member **Scott Nicol** who has joined us from Sorell Council in Tasmania where he is the Acting Manager Finance.

Note: If you have a new staff member in your finance team who you think would benefit from being a FinPro member, please let us know. The same goes for staff who leave your organisation – our member listing is only as good as the information we have. Keeping us up to date helps keep your teams up to date too. Contact gab at gabrielle@finpro.org.au with any member information or questions you have about membership.

Upcoming Event:

[FinPro Webinar: Year End – Getting the job done!](#)

[Online – Thursday 20 July 2023 between 12.30 and 1.30pm](#)

Well, you made it past 30 June but we all know the Year-end work hits its peak in July and August.

This practical panel-based webinar will be an opportunity for members to ask their burning questions about preparing their year-end accounts, and to hear from key practitioners and also wise advice from the guru who wrote (writes) the book on the Annual Accounts (the model).

You can ask questions of the panel (preferably in advance so the panel can prepare). We will also include some of the topics relating to this year's audit focus, that may have raised some queries for you, such as:

- Impact of the 2022 floods on council operations and infrastructure assets
- Early payment Financial Assistance Grants and other grants
- Developer contributions
- Valuation of land, buildings and infrastructure assets
- IT controls
- Landfill provisions

So, book in, and please send some us questions and we will try and provide some tips and advice on those and any other nagging year-end issues.

Meet our Panel: Fiona Rae (FM at Golden Plains Shire), John Brockway (FM at Warrnambool City Council), and Martin Thompson (Audit Partner, Crowe) along with your host, Danny Wain (CFO Monash City Council)

[Register here for this free FinPro member webinar](#)

[FinPro Conference – 25 – 27 October 2023 @ RACV Cape Schanck](#)

Sponsorship Announcement

We are pleased to announce some of our Sponsors for our 2023 Conference, and thank each organisation for supporting the sector and our membership. It is wonderful to have a mix of returning and new sponsors this year and we look forward to hearing more from each and every sponsor as to how they can assist us as a sector to work better, smarter, more efficiently and more effectively.

- APV Valuers & Asset Management
- Australian Payments Plus – new sponsor
- Curve Securities – returning sponsor
- Datacom – new sponsor
- LG Solutions – returning sponsor
- MAGIQ Software

We are currently finalising formal Agreements with further 14 organisations and look forward to sharing their names and support with members in our next Member Update.

If you have any program or speaker suggestions, please let us know – [Email gab](#) with your suggestion.

Technical Updates

Model Budget 2023-24 and Financial Statements 2022-23 available now

The following documents are [available at this link](#):

- Asset Plan Guidance 2022
- Financial Plan 2023-24 to 2032-33
- Model Budget 2023-24
- Model Financial Report 2022-23
- Annual Report Performance Reporting 2022-23
- Performance Reporting Framework 2022-23
- Performance Reporting Framework 2023-24

Thank-you to all the sector representatives that played an active role in preparing these documents. LGV launched the Models at the FinPro Seminar on Friday 24 February 2023. A copy of the presentation slides is [available here](#):

VAGO Annual Plan

The Victorian Auditor-General's Annual Plan 2023-24 was prepared and tables in the parliament of Victorian on 27 June 2023. The Plan included a performance audit of the financial management of local councils.

FinPro wrote to the Victorian Auditor-General earlier this week to note this inclusion and send a message of support, given the significant financial challenges that are currently being experienced by Local Government.

Further, FinPro has respectfully requested that on behalf of our members, we be included as a Key Stakeholder in the review and a small rural shire be added to the list of councils that are examined, especially given the unique set of financial challenges they face.

FinPro will continue to advocate on behalf of our members where we see an opportunity.

Development Contributions Update

The fourth session in our series of development contribution training programs is now scheduled for Thursday 27 July at 10am. These training sessions are attracting interest from members given the complexity and the need for a more consistent framework to report and account for DCP's.

We would also welcome feedback from members regarding topics for future training programs. To date the topics have included:

- DCP case study scenarios
- Accounting treatment of DCP transactions
- Long term financial planning issues, DCP shortfalls and cashflow impacts

During our June training we introduced several accounting treatment scenarios. We are proposing to convene a small working group to discuss accounting treatment principles with a view to present this material for consideration by VAGO. The objective is to develop a consistent framework and set of guiding principles to support consistent financial reporting.

If you would like to contribute to the new DCP Accounting Treatment sub-group, then please contact Malcolm Lewis for further information by email at malcolmlewis@lgcg.com.au or mobile 0417396848.

Local Government Bulletin: Annual Adjustment to Mayoral, Deputy Mayoral and Councillors Allowances

The following Bulletin was distributed to councils on Friday 30 June 2023, and is shared here for member information.

BULLETIN: 12/2023

ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO MAYORAL, DEPUTY MAYORAL AND COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal has made a Determination providing for an annual adjustment to the values of the allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors.

*The Tribunal has determined to increase the values of base allowances by 2 per cent with effect from **1 July 2023**.*

*The base allowance values which apply from **1 July 2023** to **17 December 2023**, for each allowance category, are set out on the Tribunal's [website](#).*

A 2 per cent increase has also been applied to the base allowance values which will apply from:

- 18 December 2023
- 18 December 2024 (only applicable to Mayors and Deputy Mayors)
- 18 December 2025 (only applicable to Mayors and Deputy Mayors).

Note that these values are inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution amount, or equivalent, that may be payable under Commonwealth law.

The Determination also adjusted the value of the remote area travel allowance by 2 per cent. From 1 July 2023, the remote area travel allowance will be \$45.90 per day for eligible Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, up to a maximum of \$5,738 per annum.

The Determination and accompanying Statement of Reasons, which contain the new allowance values, are available on the Tribunal's [website](#).

If you would like to receive alerts and updates related to the Tribunal's work, including information on allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, please [sign up](#) to the Tribunal's subscription service.

Mike Gooley - Executive Director, Local Government Victoria

Victorian Ombudsman – Winter Update 2023

Earlier this week the Victorian Ombudsman issued the Winter Report. Included in the report, the VO advised of the tabling of the 2023/24 Annual Plan.

A full copy of the report is [available here](#).

TCV Loan and Investment Rates as at 5 July 2023

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi
1 year	4.7838	4.8095	4.7950	4.8450	0.2288	0.0541
3 year	4.6503	4.6741	4.7000	4.7250	0.3359	0.1794
5 year	4.6201	4.6435	4.6450	4.6700	0.4397	0.3059
7 year	4.7280	4.7526	4.6650	4.6900	0.5077	0.3949
10 year	5.0233	5.0513	4.7850	4.8200	0.7247	0.6347
12 year	5.1947	5.2247	4.8950	4.9300	0.8470	0.7661
15 year	5.3574	5.3894	5.0550	5.0850	0.9824	0.9031
11am (at Call)	4.4150				BBSW	
30 day	4.2950				1 Month	4.0717
60 day	4.3850				3 Month	4.2680
90 day	4.4950				6 Month	4.6475
180 day	4.8750					

TCV Investment rates

TCV note the current TCV 11am/At Call deposit rate has recently increased to 4.05%. 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.

Cash	4.0500		4 Month	4.4000
1 Month	4.0617		5 Month	4.5000
2 Month	4.1450		6 Month	4.6375
3 Month	4.2580		1 Year	4.4845

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.

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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.

General Information

Latest .id blog – Exploring the industry sectors that make your region unique

In their latest blog, Keenan Jackson, a familiar face to many FinPro members who have attended our seminars in recent years, shared information work .id have done to help communities understand and promote their strategic industries.

Most economies in Australia are shaped by their location and the capital they have access to because of these. Regional areas are influenced by physical capital – the richness of their soil for agriculture, or what lies under the soil for mining. Many coastal areas rely on their access to water for shipping/fishing or natural amenity that attracts holidaymakers. The economic role of urban regions is influenced by major facilities (hospitals, airports), and access to infrastructure (major freeways, rapid transit).

[Read more here](#)

Upcoming MAV finance related training opportunities

[MAV - Understanding council finances – Thursday 13 July 2023 from 10 – 1pm online](#)

This workshop supports new councillors to understand their responsibilities in managing council finances as well as returning councillors that want to understand or refresh their knowledge on their financial management responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2020.

[More information](#)

[MAV – Advanced Council Finances 3 – Audited Financial Statements – Thursday 20 July 2023](#)

These micro-sessions aim to cover the following key areas relating to council finances in further detail:

- Annual Budget
- Financial Plan
- Audited Financial Statements
- Quarterly Finance Report

[More information](#)

Current jobs in the sector

[Capital Accountant](#) – Banyule City Council Applications close 9 July 2023

[Financial Accounting Coordinator](#) – City of Stonnington Applications close 16 July 2023

[Senior Finance Business Partner](#) – Mornington Peninsula Shire Applications close 24 July 2023

FinPro Executive Team 2023

President

Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)

Vice-President – Chair PD

Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC)

PD Committee Members

Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC)

Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC)

Nathan Kearsley (Lalor CC)

Aaron Gerrard (Whittlesea CC)

Vice-President – Chair Technical

Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC)

Technical Committee Members

Binda Gokhale (Contractor)

Danny Wain (Monash CC)

Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC)

Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC)

Simone Wickes (Casey SC)

Secretary / Treasurer

Wei Chen (Yarra CC)

Gabrielle Gordon

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