

FinPro Member Update – Edition 17, 2024

President's Message

Afternoon all,

As we approach the end of August, I want to acknowledge the amazing work you have all done and the challenges you have overcome together, to get towards the finish line of year end.

Yesterday, we held the inaugural FinPro Senior Finance Leaders' Summit, which was a great success. I hope those who attended gained a lot of insights as well as a more strategic view of the sector. We will share more updates from the Summit in coming weeks. A big well done to Simone Wickes, Chen Wei, Binda Gokhale, John Brockway and Navec Lorkin for getting the session off the ground. We believe it will lay a positive foundation for future workshop sessions.

From an advocacy perspective, we continue our efforts with the Essential Services Commission for a streamlined approach to a rate cap variation that incorporates the waste guidance changes. We hope to see positive outcomes from these efforts soon.

VAGO recently issued their August 2024 Local Government Update. Key information on Local Government elections linking in with year-end can be found in the update along with annual reporting timeframes and reference to the new Standard AASB 13. Further information within this update about a potential working group being established for this standard is included in this Member Update for your information and consideration.

Finally, I want to remind you that the conference is fast approaching, and it is an exciting time to cap off on the financial year end as we move into a new Council Term.

Hopefully you are all taking care of yourselves during such a hectic time of year, as that is crucial to get through a busy period.

Best regards,

Tony Rocca

FinPro Executive Member (on behalf of Bradley Thomas, President)

Watch this space!

FinPro Conference – The Big Reset!

23 – 25 October 2024 at RACV Cape Schanck

Conference program and registration opportunities will be circulated via email next week and also be available on our website www.finpro.org.au

Membership News

We farewell **Lorraine Jackson**, Financial Accountant at Loddon Shire Council who is now headed towards retirement. Lorraine has been a member for many years and attending events over that time. We wish her well.

We welcome as new members to the FinPro family:

Troy Edwards, Executive Director Corporate Services at the City of Greater Geelong. Troy previously worked with the MAV.

Taryn Carter, Grants Officer with West Wimmera Shire,

Sam Stanton, Director Corporate Strategy & Business Improvement at Mornington Peninsula Shire, and

Nikki Rongong who has taken up the role of Manager Business Services with Murrindindi Shire.

It is with sadness that we advise that former FinPro President (1999-2001) **Rob Spargo** passed away in recent weeks. Rob was a wonderful man and a strong advocate for finance professionals in the sector. He firmly believed in the importance of the sector working together and would have been proud to see so many finance leaders in the room together yesterday, working towards a brighter future for LG. He will be missed.

Professional Development

Future Focused Financial Sustainability Summit – Thursday 29 August 2024

Yesterday FinPro held our inaugural Senior Leaders Financial Sustainability Summit at the Windsor in Melbourne. We had an amazing turn out with 65 attendees, representing 51 councils plus representatives from some of the peak bodies represented. The day was facilitated by the very engaging Jenny Scicluna.

The workshop involved blue sky thinking to address the financial sustainability challenges facing our sector currently. We also heard from Glenn Patterson, CEO at City of Casey and Davidson's Business Advisory Manager Leonie Ellinger about the ever-changing role of a CFO and the shared services opportunities happening in the sector. It was the start of what will be an ongoing conversation.

The FinPro exec now have the task to shape the ideas from the workshop into tangible outcomes. Watch this space....

Technical Updates

State Inquiry – Upcoming Public Hearing Dates

The State and Federal Parliament reviews into LG sustainability continue. The Committee for the Victorian inquiry is currently holding public hearings, with the following dates, I encourage you to keep an eye out on these and I know many Councils are presenting at the hearings. Public hearing dates still to come are:

- 4 September - Traralgon
- 18 September - Frankston
- 19 September - Broadmeadows
- 25 September – Melton

Vision Super Note for year-end accounts

Employee Benefits. To help employers participating in LASF DB, Vision Super prepare a sample note as a guide each year. Downloadable PDF copies of these sample notes as well as other information are [available here](#) both in short and long form. Refer to the sample employee superannuation notes for financial statements section of the page.

<https://www.visionsuper.com.au/employers/db/>

Year End Audits

We recognise that End of Financial Year Audits are well underway right now. Some members who have gone through the process already have identified a particular focus on asset valuations and grant recognition.

For those who are yet to host an audit visit, we recommend keeping these two items front of mind. As a reminder, here are the [VAGO Audit Report from 2022-23](#).

AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement, Applicability & Potential Working Group

Recent amendments to AASB 13, Fair Value Measurement, introduce several key changes that will impact the sector. These updates aim to enhance clarity and consistency of fair value measurement, with a particular focus on asset valuation and disclosure practices.

Key Amendments Include:

- Enhanced disclosure requirements: more detailed information potentially required on the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining fair value, including the disclosure of significant unobservable inputs.
- Unobservable inputs: greater scrutiny is placed on the use of such inputs, where observable market data is not available. This reinforces the need for robust, justifiable assumptions when market data is limited.

- Application of the Cost Approach: amendments provide clearer guidance on the application of the cost approach, emphasising its use for valuing assets where market or income approaches are not applicable.
- Highest and Best Use Concept: the amendments also reinforce the need to consider the highest and best use of non-financial assets in fair value measurement.

Applicability:

These amendments will be applicable from the 2024/25 financial period, so it is essential to start preparing now to ensure compliance in the upcoming financial reporting cycle.

Expressions of Interest:

If there is any interest in developing a working group - to explore this standard and a consistent roll out across the sector, please be in touch and we can consider the formation of a working group.

Local Government Earn and Learn Program

The following information was sent to councils from LGV on 22 August and is shared here for member information.

I am writing to share with you that yesterday, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP announced the Local Government Earn and Learn Program.

This \$6.3 million pilot program is in response to an election commitment made by the Victorian Government and aims to help fill critical skills shortages experienced in the Victorian local government sector and create pathways to secure and inclusive jobs with fair pay and conditions.

All 79 councils in Victoria will be invited to participate in the two-year program, which aims to address the challenges councils are facing to deliver several key services and projects due to critical skills shortages.

The program will be delivered by a consortium of the state's dual-sector higher education providers, led by RMIT University. The program partners – including RMIT, Federation University, Swinburne University of Technology and Victoria University – will collaborate with the local government sector throughout 2024 and 2025 to identify skills shortages and inform the co-design of tailored training opportunities to address the sector's needs.

RMIT University will be reaching out to all councils shortly to seek expressions of interest.

If you require more information on the Local Government Earn and Learn Pilot Program, please visit www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/earnandlearnprogram or contact RMIT directly at innovation.projects@rmit.edu.au.

Mike Gooley (he/him), **Executive Director Local Government Victoria**

TCV Loan and Investment Rates as at 28 August 2024

Maturity	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi
1 year	4.3817	4.4023	4.4900	4.4900	0.3604	0.1727
3 year	4.1764	4.1952	4.2350	4.2500	0.5926	0.4227
5 year	4.3661	4.3869	4.2600	4.2900	0.7592	0.6111
7 year	4.6511	4.6750	4.3950	4.4250	0.9069	0.7822
10 year	5.0360	5.0642	4.6500	4.6850	1.1053	1.0069
12 year	5.2220	5.2524	4.8100	4.8450	1.1980	1.1121
15 year	5.4143	5.4472	5.0150	5.0500	1.3052	1.2273
11am (at Call)	4.6650				BBSW	
30 day	4.4950				1 Month	4.3046
60 day	4.5250				3 Month	4.3675
90 day	4.5550				6 Month	4.4761
180 day	4.6650					

TCV Investment rates

TCV note the current TCV 11am/At Call deposit rate has recently increased to 4.30%. 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	4.3000		4 Month	4.3950
1 Month	4.2946		5 Month	4.4325
2 Month	4.3242		6 Month	4.4661
3 Month	4.3575		1 Year	4.0773

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.

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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.

Upcoming FinPro Executive Committee Meetings

The FinPro Executive Committee formally meet every 4 – 6 weeks and discuss both technical issues and professional development opportunities.

If you have any questions or areas of interest / concern that you would like the Executive team to discuss, please contact our Executive Officer, [Gab Gordon](#) and let her know, and she will include on the agenda.

Following meetings for the year are:

- Friday 20 September (online)
- Friday 29 November (in person)
- Friday 6 December 2024 – AGM and end of year luncheon

General Information

VAGO report: Building a Capable and High-performing Public Service Workforce

The following report was tabled by VAGO on 14 August and the link is included here for member information.

[Building a Capable and High-performing Public Service Workforce | Victorian Auditor-General's Office](#)

Energy to Waste Project

The following report on how some councils are working together on waste is for member information:

[Melbourne councils unite for smarter waste future - Inside Local Government](#)

Federal Parliament Report on Disaster Resilience

The Federal Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience was appointed by resolution of the Senate on 30 November 2022 to inquire into Australia's preparedness, response and recovery workforce models, as well as alternative models to disaster recovery.

The tabling of the final report on 8 August 2024 concludes the work of the committee, and some positive recommendations for the sector include the two below:

[Read the report](#)

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and relevant guidelines be amended to enable funds to be distributed for the purpose of building betterment into recovery and reconstruction, ensuring that this funding is available to all jurisdictions.

Recommendation 3:

The committee recommends that the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements be amended to set aside a proportion of funding to be offered to local governments up-front to help facilitate disaster recovery and resilience to ensure councils do not always have to bear the burden of financing repairs up-front.

Latest Blogs from .id - Grunt work and granularity required in grant proposals

Councils rely on grants and funding for community-focused infrastructure projects. Applications often have short turnarounds and demand accurate, detailed and compelling business cases to have a chance of succeeding. Today's blog outlines some resources available to [support grant applications](#), using the current Thriving Suburbs Program as an example.

Learning from our previous conference speakers

At last year's annual conference we had the opportunity to hear from Simon Kuestenmacher, Demographer. Simon is a fantastic speaker, and the audience found him really engaging and 'on topic.' He is quite prominent on LinkedIn and his recent post is an example of the type of issues he discusses.

We encourage you to 'follow' him online and keep up to date with the latest development and trends he discusses.

Some of his latest discussions:

[Demographic trends you can't afford to ignore: how to profit from the next decade:](#)

[Local Government flies a bit under the radar](#)

AI Local Government Summit – Noosa

<https://www.davidsonwp.com/LG-Innovate>

Current Job Vacancies

[Financial Accountant](#) Golden Plains Shire Applications close 29 August 2024

[Financial Accountant](#) Alpine Shire Council Applications close 1 September 2024

[Financial Accountant](#) Mornington Peninsula Shire Applications close 6 September 2024

[Strategic Assets Analyst](#) Campaspe Shire Council Applications close 11 September 2024

[Accountant](#) Moyne Shire Council Applications close 16 September 2024

Thank-you to our 2023 Conference sponsors

- American Express – www.amex.com.au
- APV Valuers & Asset Management – [APV Case Study – October 2022](#)
- Australian Payments Plus – www.auspayplus.com.au
- Commonwealth Bank – www.cba.com.au
- CT Management – www.ctman.com.au
- Curve Securities – [2023 FinPro Conference – Curve Case Study](#)
- Datacom – www.datacom.co.nz
- Ibis Information Systems – www.ibisinfosys.com.au
- Imperium Markets – www.imperium.markets
- Laminar Capital – [2023 FinPro Conference – Case Study Laminar Capital Perpetual](#)
- LG Solutions – [2023 FinPro Conference – Cloud Year End Case Study – Corangamite & LG solutions](#)
- Lighthouse Group – [2023 FinPro Conference – Lighthouse Local Government Case Study](#)
- MAGIQ Software – www.magiqsoftware.com
- Mastek Ltd – [2023 FinPro Conference – Mastek Case Study 1 – Ipswich Council](#) and [2023 FinPro Conference – Mastek Case Study 2 – Moonee Valley City Council](#)
- National Australia Bank – www.nab.com.au
- NetNet International – www.xetta.com
- Satori – www.satoriassured.com
- TCV – www.tcv.vic.gov.au
- VFMC – [2023 FinPro Conference – Case Study VFMC](#)
- Westpac – www.westpac.com.au
- Maddocks Recoveries – www.maddocksrecoveries.com.au
- TechnologyOne Corp – www.technologyonecorp.com

The 2024 FinPro Conference will run from 23 – 25 October 2024 at RACV Cape Schanck.

FinPro Executive Team 2024

President	Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)
Vice-President – Chair PD PD Committee Members	Belinda Johnson (Horsham Rural CC) Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC) Melissa Baker (Casey CC) Nathan Kearsley (Latrobe CC) Aaron Gerrard (Whittlesea CC) John Brockway (Warrnambool CC)
Vice-President – Chair Technical Technical Committee Members	Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC) Binda Gokhale (Contractor) Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC) Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC) Simone Wickes (Monash CC) Wei Chen (Contractor) Navec Lorkin (Knox CC)
Secretary / Treasurer	Gabrielle Gordon

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