

FinPro Member Update – Edition 1, 2025

President's Message

Happy New Year to all our FinPro members!

As we step into 2025, I hope you have all had the opportunity to recharge your batteries; spending valuable time with loved ones over the festive season. A new year always brings a sense of fresh opportunity and focus, and we know there are plenty of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The recent announcement of the 2025/26 rate cap at **3%** will undoubtedly influence our collective work as we all finalise draft budgets and revise long-term financial plans. While the figure provides certainty, it also serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for careful financial stewardship and innovative thinking to meet the expectations of our communities within these constraints.

Our **Model Budget and Model Financial Statements** are progressing well, and I'm pleased to report that no major changes are expected this year. These key resources remain on track and the intention is to formally present them at our **Professional Development Day on 28 February 2025**. The day will also provide the first opportunity of the new calendar year for all of us to come together and bounce new and existing ideas off one another.

With that, I wish you all a happy and positive start to 2025. All of us in the FinPro Executive look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and to working alongside you throughout the year.

Tony Rocca

President FinPro and Director Corporate Services, Maroondah CC



Membership News

Welcome to the following new members:

New members from Yarra Ranges Shire – **Glenn Hoen**, Senior Financial Analyst, **Angie Palikabhata**, Capital Accounting Lead, and **Jackey Desai**, Capital Program Officer.

New Members / changes to membership

If your council has some new finance staff, they are most welcome to join FinPro. Councils with a council membership can include as many staff from within their team as they wish.

If you have changed roles or even councils, please also send this information through so we can keep your information up to date.

For those councils with Individual FinPro Membership for their staff, please note that this membership is transferable should you have a change of staff.

Lock in these dates for 2025 Professional development opportunities

- **28 February 2025** Professional Development Day @ MCEC
This event is sponsored by TechnologyOne.
Details to come shortly.
- **11 – 14 May 2025** FinPro Leadership Program – Kalorama
- **13 June 2025** Professional Development Day @ MCEC
- **15 – 17 Oct 2025** FinPro Conference @ RACV Cape Schanck

Technical Update

Local Government Bulletin 23/2024

The following Bulletin was issued on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and is shared here for member information:

BULLETIN: 2025-26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATE CAP

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon Nick Staikos MP, has announced that the average rate cap for the 2025-26 financial year will be set at 3.00 per cent. This will apply to all Victorian councils.

The Minister set the average rate cap under section 185D(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and the general order establishing the rate cap for 2024-25 was published in the [Government Gazette](#) on 23 December 2024.

As required by section 185D(3) of the Act, the Minister's decision was informed by advice from the Essential Services Commission (ESC). The ESC's advice was that the average rate cap be set equal to the 2024–25 Budget Update forecast of the consumer price index (CPI) for 2025–26 from the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF). DTF's Budget Update forecast of the 2025-26 CPI is 3.00 per cent.

The Minister's decision took into consideration cost-of-living pressures being experienced by many Victorians and the sustainability of local governments. Councils remain able to seek a higher cap amount via application to the ESC if they determine that additional rate revenue over the cap amount is required. The ESC has guidance and information materials for the 2025-26 higher cap application process on its website (www.esc.vic.gov.au)

Councils are also reminded of the requirement for a new Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with S.93 of the Local Government Act 2020. The Department of Government Services has prepared guidance to support councils in this work which is available here [https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-innovation-and-performance/sector-guidance-planning-and-reporting#Revenue and Rating-164937-8](https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-innovation-and-performance/sector-guidance-planning-and-reporting#Revenue_and_Rating-164937-8)

For further information on the rate cap and the revenue and rating guidance, please contact Leighton Vivian, Senior Manager, Local Government Victoria at leighton.vivian@dgs.vic.gov.au

Mike Gooley
Executive Director, Local Government Victoria

Applying for a higher cap 2025-26

The ESC circulated the following information to councils on 16 December 2024. A copy of this information is included here for members to review.

We note that at around this time last year we surveyed councils as to their intentions to apply for a rate cap variation, along with thoughts on their budgets for the following year. We will be surveying members again shortly with similar questions, with the aim of then sharing this information back to our members.

Dear Councils,

The commission has released the [Guidance for councils applying for a higher cap 2025–26](#). This is now available on our website.

We have included supplementary guidance throughout the document to assist any councils that may be seeking a higher cap for the purposes of aligning their service rates and charges regime with the Local Government Minister's Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges.

We have also revised the guidance this year to improve the flow of the document and clarify the commission's assessment approach. Our assessment approach has not changed from previous years.

If you have any queries regarding an application for a higher cap, please email localgovernment@esc.vic.gov.au. We are happy to meet with any councils considering applying.

Councils are reminded to notify us by 31 January if they are intending to apply for a higher cap for the 2025-26 rating year. A notification of intent should be sent by the CEO.

Local Government Team

Price Monitoring & Regulation, ESC

New allowance values for Mayors and Deputy Mayors

The values of the allowances payable to Mayors and Deputy Mayors increased on 18 December 2024. This reflects the phasing of increases determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal in its 2022 Determination. The values of the allowances payable to other Councillors remain unchanged.

The values of the allowances payable from 18 December 2024 are available on the Tribunal's website.

Source: Local Government Victoria Newsletter – Quarterly December 2024

Model Budget and Model Financial Statements

Both working parties are continuing to meet and work on these Models.

The Models will both be launched at the FinPro Professional Development Day on 28 February 2025 and the working groups have advised that there will be no material changes to either one.

General Information

New Minister Local Government announcement

The State Government announced a reshuffle of its Ministry late last year.

The new Minister for LG is Nick Staikos MP. He will replace the Hon. Melissa Horne, MP.

The MAV, in their welcome to the new Minister dated 20/12/24, wrote the following:

As a former councillor himself, Minister Staikos will bring firsthand experience to the Cabinet table, strengthening local government's voice at the highest level of state politics. Premier Allan's choice signals a deep understanding of our sector's needs.

The appointment comes at a crucial time as councils tackle the combined pressures of rapidly evolving technologies, significant social changes, community health and wellbeing challenges, shifting economies and a variety of growing environmental pressures.

MAV President Cr Jennifer Anderson welcomed the appointment, emphasising the strong alignment between Minister Staikos's background and the sector's ambitions in helping shape the future of Victoria.

"I know I speak on behalf of councils right across Victoria in congratulating Minister Staikos on his Cabinet appointment, and stand ready to work with him to deliver outstanding results for the local government sector and the communities we serves," Cr Anderson said.

"His appointment coincides with our newly elected and returning councillors beginning their term, creating a fresh opportunity for collaboration."

The MAV also acknowledges outgoing Minister Melissa Horne, and thanks her for her significant contributions to the sector.

"Minister Horne has laid foundations for continued progress. We wish her every success in her new portfolios," Cr Anderson said.

Local Government Earn and Learn Pilot Program

The following information was included in LGV's December quarterly newsletter and is included here for information.

FinPro contacted RMIT last year about this program and will be meeting with them early this year to investigate how the program may be used to assist councils given the shortage of financial professionals we have in the sector and how important financial skills are to most roles in LG.

Critical skills shortages and challenges in attracting and retaining staff are affecting the capacity of many Victorian councils to deliver some services and projects that meet the needs of their communities.

In response, the Victorian Government has made an election commitment to develop a \$6.3 million pilot program to address critical skills and workforce gaps in the local government sector by creating training opportunities tailored to the needs of councils.

The Local Government Earn and Learn Pilot Program will span two years and be delivered by a consortium of the state's dual-sector higher education providers, led by RMIT University. The program partners — RMIT, Federation University, Swinburne University of Technology, and Victoria University — have collaborated with the local government sector throughout 2024 to identify skills shortages and co-design tailored training opportunities to directly address the sector's needs.

This work will continue in 2025 with Phase 1 courses set to launch between February and June 2025. These courses will be delivered by the Earn and Learn consortium over approximately 10-12 weeks, using a mix of self-paced online modules and teacher-led workshops. The Lead and Mentor skill set will be offered first, followed by courses in Mental Health and Resilience, Project and Change Management, and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.

Course and enrolment details will be released early in the new year and emailed to all contacts who have expressed interest in participating in the pilot program. For more information and to be added to the contact list, please email innovation.projects@rmit.edu.au.

Pilot program information is available [here](#).

Source: Local Government Victoria Newsletter – Quarterly December 2024

TCV Loan and Investment Rates as at 3 January 2025

	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
Maturity	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi	Quarterly	Semi
1 year	4.3955	4.4165	4.4700	4.4850	0.4096	0.1735
3 year	4.3963	4.4173	4.3700	4.3950	0.5941	0.4003
5 year	4.6702	4.6942	4.4900	4.5200	0.7951	0.6261
7 year	5.0023	5.0301	4.6750	4.7150	0.9753	0.8326
10 year	5.4212	5.4541	4.9800	5.0200	1.2016	1.0871
12 year	5.6395	5.6752	5.1700	5.2100	1.3278	1.2265
15 year	5.8385	5.8769	5.3950	5.4350	1.4431	1.3498
11am (at Call)	4.6650				BBSW	
30 day	4.4950				1 Month	4.3225
60 day	4.5350				3 Month	4.3877
90 day	4.5650				6 Month	4.4782
180 day	4.6550					

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	4.4100
1 Month	4.3125		5 Month	4.4375
2 Month	4.3500		6 Month	4.4682
3 Month	4.3777		1 Year	4.0915

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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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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Current Job Vacancies

FinPro is happy to provide information about any relevant employment opportunities available at our member councils.

To have your organisation's employment vacancies included on our website and in our Member Update please contact our Executive Officer, [Gabrielle Gordon](#)

FinPro Executive Team 2025

President

Tony Rocca (Maroondah City Council)

Committee Members:

Alan Wilson, Financial Controller, Melbourne CC

Belinda Johnson, CFO, Horsham RCC

Binda Gokhale, Consultant

John Brockway, Manager Finance, Warrnambool CC

Fiona Rae, Manager Finance, Golden Plains SC

Matt Jarvis, CFO, Yarra CC

Nicole Maxwell, Manager Finance, Mitchell SC,

Melissa Baker, CFO, Casey CC

Navec Lorkin, CFO, Knox CC

Liam Routledge, Manager Financial Services & CFO, Yarra Ranges SC

Rahul Shah, Unit Manager Financial Strategy, Whittlesea CC

Simone Wickes, Director Corporate Services, Monash CC

Allison Southwell, CFO, Cardinia SC

Gabby Spiller, Manager Finance, Surf Coast SC

John Vastianos, CFO, Glen Eira CC

The Committee will elect Officer Bearers (VP's, Treasurer, Secretary etc.) following their planning meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025.

Executive Officer

Gabrielle Gordon

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