FinPro Member Update – Edition 15, 2025

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

As always, it's a pleasure to share the latest updates, opportunities, and advocacy efforts happening across the sector.

Our joint advocacy with the MAV and RMA has led to some positive outcomes, with the State Government now releasing a contact line for ESVF queries, more information can be found further into the newsletter. As well as this, Councils have been informed of their additional, once-off funding, for implementing the revised ESVF. I would like to thank both the MAV and RMA for being great partners, as we continue to understand implications going forward.

The 40% Primary Production Rebate was announced recently and affects selected Councils. Again, additional information can be found further into the newsletter.

Lucy placed a survey out for members to gain insights into AASB 13 and whether a further webinar was required, however, it was established there was no need. Thanks to VAGO who offered to host and take questions offline as required, should the need arise.

We had a great turn out at the FinPro webinar today with over 135 members registered. Our next webinar is in August, and we have Colin Morrison from the Department of Government Services joins us to speak about the grants process. The link to register is included in the newsletter and can be found here: **Click here**

I also want to acknowledge Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services, who is finishing up at Loddon Shire Council after 21 years at the organisation. All the best with what the future holds Deanne.

Welcome to our new members, Hannah White at Maroondah City Council, Monika Pipek at City of Melton and Ernest Mhande at East Gippsland Shire. Ernest has joined us from NSW.

Lastly, all the best with end of financial year, I know you will all be in the thick of it right now! Look out for one another and support one another and like you do every year, you will get through it.

Tony Rocca

President, FinPro and Director/CFO, Maroondah CC

In this issue:

40% Primary Production rebate for severely drought affected farming

On Friday, 4 July, the State Government announced an investment of an additional $75 million to help farmers through the drought, bringing the total support package to $144 million.

$35.8 million will go to farming households in the southwest manage the pressures they are facing due to prolonged drought. The Primary Producer Support Payments will provide eligible farmers with the equivalent of a 40 per cent reduction on their property rates. There is only 11 out of the 79 councils offered the support and each must enter an individual agreement with LGV. These councils are: Ararat, Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Golden Plains, City of Greater Geelong, Moyne, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Warrnambool and West Wimmera.

A meeting was held on Thursday, 17 July with representatives from DECCA & DGS. Funding amounts were calculated from Council budgets and intended to be pass on a 40% reduction in the general rate and municipal charge (if relevant) for all farm/rural properties. The timing is to enable Councils to incorporate the rate reductions into the annual rates notice.

FinPro will not be providing advice in this area, however we would be happy to connect any affected councils to provide an opportunity to brainstorm ideas, options and impacts of various models and seek expert guidance about compliance with the Act or whatever guidance is around.

Send Lucy an email at executiveofficer@finpro.org.au if you would like to be connected with another impacted council.

Webinar: Adaptive Stability - Staying Steady When the Pressure Peaks

Thank you to everyone that attended the webinar today. We hope you learned some practical strategies to protect your wellbeing during peak periods and a personal plan to stay grounded, energised, and effective when the workload is non-negotiable.

Thank you to Suzie Thoraval, leadership expert, executive coach and former senior public servant with over 25 years' experience across local government, state government, law, and strategy.

Click here to view the handout from the webinar. A recording will be available next week.

Reminder: Emergency Services Volunteer Fund - Support Line

ESVF support line 1300 819 033. The support team will be available to start taking calls **from 9.00am on Wednesday, 23 July 2025**.

Please note this number **is not to be published on any website or public facing communications** before **Wednesday 23 July 2025.** Until then, queries should be directed to the dedicated webpages:

- sro.vic.gov.au/esvf for general ESVF information and calculator
- service.vic.gov.au/evrs for volunteers rebate details.

By having this information, you can have it ready to include on your rate notices.

Webinar: Grants Commission data – why we collect it and why it's important

Thursday, 28 August 2025 from 12.30pm – 1.30pm

The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission prepares recommendations to the Commonwealth Government for the allocation of financial assistance grants to support councils in delivering services to their communities.

The Commission's allocation methodology relies on data provided by councils in an annual data questionnaire. Much of this data is also shared with third parties, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A lodgement date of the first Wednesday in November is set for the receipt of the annual questionnaire from councils.

This webinar will feature presentations from members of the Grants Commission team and they will provide important context on why this information is collected. There will also be time for participants on the webinar to ask questions.

Click here to register

Membership

We welcome the following new members to the FinPro family:

- **Hannah White**, Manager Finance & Commercial, Maroondah City Council
- **Monika Pipek,** Assistant Financial Accountant, City of Melton
- **Ernest Mhande**, Chief Financial Officer, East Gippsland Shire Council - Ernest has recently to Gippsland from NSW.

Current Job Vacancies

Recent employment opportunities available:

- Graduate Accountant, Merri-bek City Council - Applications close Monday, 21 July 2025
- Management Accounting Coordinator, Merri-bek City Council – Applications close Monday, 21 July 2025
- Management Accounting Coordinator, Mitchell Shire Council - Applications close Friday, 25 July 2025
- Management Accountant, City of Boroondara - Applications close Tuesday, 29 July 2025
- Director Corporate and Community Services, Corangamite Shire Council - – Applications close Monday, 4 August 2025
- Senior Finance Business Partner, City of Hume - Applications open now

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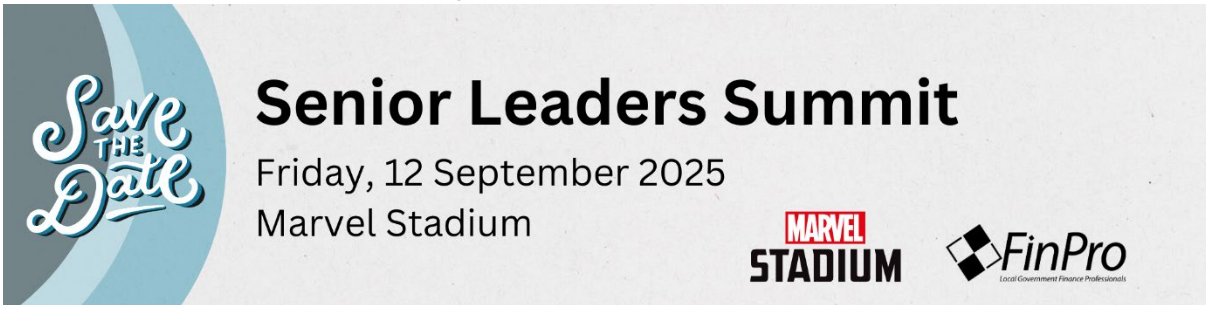
Senior Leaders Summit, 12 September 2025



We are holding the Senior Leaders Summit again this year on Friday, 12 September 2025. The day will focus on two topics:

1. Financial sustainability – financial planning, service planning & reviews
2. Capital planning across regions or states – utilisation of facilities

The forum will be held at Marvel Stadium on Friday, 12 September and invitations to register will be sent out shortly.

FinPro Conference 2025

The Conference theme is, “**The Future Together**” and the program is almost ready to be launched. Have you put the dates in your calendar yet?

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors for their support.

TCV Loan and Investment rates as at 16 July 2025

	Fixed Rate (Interest Only)		Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)*		Floating Rate (margin to BBSW)	
Maturity	**Quarterly**	**Semi**	**Quarterly**	**Semi**	**Quarterly**	**Semi**
1 year	3.8723	3.8881	3.9400	3.9450	0.4421	0.2311
3 year	4.0253	4.0428	3.9150	3.9450	0.6021	0.4055
5 year	4.4048	4.4261	4.1350	4.1700	0.7757	0.6050
7 year	4.8060	4.8315	4.3900	4.4250	0.9406	0.7932
10 year	5.3330	5.3648	4.7800	4.8200	1.1957	1.0746
12 year	5.5804	5.6154	5.0100	5.0500	1.3126	1.2046
15 year	5.9087	5.9482	5.3100	5.3550	1.5133	1.4147
11am (at Call)	4.1650				**BBSW**	
30 day	4.0050				**1 Month**	3.7673
60 day	3.9550				**3 Month**	3.7200
90 day	3.9550				**6 Month**	3.8017
180 day	4.0350					

TCV Investment rates

TCV note the current TCV 11am/At Call deposit rate is 3.80%. The11am 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	3.8000		**4 Month**	3.7550
1 Month	3.7573		**5 Month**	3.7475
2 Month	3.7075		**6 Month**	3.7917
3 Month	3.7100		**1 Year**	3.5631

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.

The last fortnight has been something of a roller coaster for market expectations, with the RBA unexpectedly holding in July, followed by a surprisingly soft labour force print which saw unemployment rise from 4.1% to 4.3%. We expect the RBA to cut in August and again later this year. The global picture has been clouded by the reemergence of the US trade war, with the prospect of sharp increases in US tariffs from 1 August. Longer dated US Treasuries have seen yields rise, especially the 30-year which is back above 5%.

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.

Foundations for a more human(e) government

In an era of growing hostility towards government, how might we chart a more positive future direction? An article in the Australian Journal of Public Administration sets out the foundations for a new approach to public administration. Focusing on positive aspects of government along with increasing our capacity or empathy and humility can help shape this new approach. Being more human-centred and amplifying the positive stories of government offers a much more human(e) approach to how we govern.

Read ANZSOG's brief on the article.

FinPro Executive Team 2025

President

- Tony Rocca, Director / CFO, Maroondah CC

Committee Members:

- Alan Wilson, Financial Controller, Melbourne CC – Lead, Professional Development Stream
- Navec Lorkin, CFO, Knox CC – Lead, Technical Stream
- Allison Southwell, CFO, Cardinia SC
- Belinda Johnson, CFO, Horsham RCC
- Binda Gokhale, Consultant
- Fiona Rae, Manager Finance, Golden Plains SC
- Gabby Spiller, Manager Finance, Surf Coast SC
- John Brockway, Manager Finance, Warrnambool CC
- John Vastianos, CFO, Glen Eira CC
- Liam Routledge, Manager Financial Services & CFO, Yarra Ranges SC
- Melissa Baker, CFO, Casey CC
- Nicole Maxwell, Manager Finance, Mitchell SC,
- Rahul Shah, Unit Manager Financial Strategy, Whittlesea CC
- Simone Wickes, Director Corporate Services, Monash CC

FinPro Contact Details

Lucy Scorer, Executive Officer

Email: executiveofficer@finpro.org.au

Phone: 03 9631 2727

Web: www.finpro.org.au

Address: Suite 102, 585 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000