

FinPro Member Update – Edition 20, 2025

President's Message

Happy Friday Everyone,

We are now less than two weeks out from the FinPro Conference 2025, and I am delighted to share that the event is officially SOLD OUT!

This is an incredible milestone for our sector and a clear sign of the appetite across the sector for connection, collaboration, and learning. With the theme “The Future Together”, our program promises to deliver insightful sessions on governance, cyber security, developer contributions, deliberative engagement, and financial sustainability, alongside keynote addresses from Simon Kuestenmacher and Lucy Bloom. Also hearing once again from Phin Ziebel on the economic outlook—a session that always leaves us both informed and inspired.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our generous sponsors and exhibitors, without whom this event would not be possible. Their support enables us to continue delivering high-quality programs that bring our sector together to explore both the challenges and opportunities we face. (Don't forget your costume for “the future together” – 2050)

This month's newsletter also highlights some important updates across the sector. Membership renewals are now open, with the Executive Committee resolving to maintain fees at current levels in recognition of the financial pressures many councils are experiencing. There are also excellent professional development opportunities available, including the Women & Leadership Australia scholarships and the Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership, which provide a platform to support and recognise leadership across our sector. Looking ahead, please also save the date for our AGM and Professional Development Day at the MCG on 28 November—a fitting way to round out what has already been an exciting year. A change up to past AGMs – with additional PD being offered.

On a personal note, the last fortnight has been an energising one as we attended the Senior Leaders Summit and engaged in critical conversations around long-term financial sustainability. It reminds me once again that while each of us faces unique local challenges, the solutions and the learning are strongest when we work together.

Thank you for the continued commitment you bring to your work and to FinPro. I look forward to seeing so many of you at the Conference, as we look to the future—together.

Kind regards,

Tony Rocca



President, FinPro and Director/CFO, Maroondah CC

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We are less than two weeks out from the FinPro Conference 2025 and I am very happy to say we are completely SOLD OUT! The Conference theme is, “**The Future Together**” and the program is available here: <https://www.finpro.org.au/2025-finpro-conference/> and downloadable as a pdf [here](#).

The conference program features keynote presentations from Simon Kuestenmacher and Lucy Bloom, as well as panel discussions deliberative engagement to balance the Asset and Financial Plan and CEO's discussing sustainability. We have presentations on governance, cyber security, developer contributions and of course, an update from the wonderful Phin Ziebel on the economic outlook.

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors for their support.

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From disconnected systems to demonstrable trust: a new era for Grants Management in local government

Grants are the lifeblood of community development for Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Victoria.

These funds, ranging from a few million to over \$300 million annually, are pivotal for delivering everything from critical infrastructure projects to vital community programs. The 2023-24 Victorian Financial Assistance Grants Allocation is a clear



testament to this, underscoring the reliance of councils across the state on this essential revenue stream.

However, with significant funding comes immense accountability. The challenge for many councils is that the very systems they depend on are disconnected, creating substantial risk and inefficiency.

Our research during the development of TechnologyOne's integrated solutions revealed a common struggle: many councils are flying blind, relying on a patchwork of spreadsheets and standalone systems to manage their grant portfolios.

This fragmented approach often leads to poor visibility, inconsistent reporting, and a constant battle to reconcile grant funds with the projects they are meant to support.

The problem is a familiar one. Critical data is scattered across separate systems for grants, projects, contracts, and finance. Council staff spend countless hours manually collating this information, a process that is not only slow but also fraught with the risk of human error. By the time a manager sees a budget report, the money has often already been spent, making it impossible to prevent overruns proactively.

This manual chaos culminates in what we call "the audit nightmare." When auditors call, it often triggers a high-stakes scramble to piece together an audit trail, risking fund clawbacks and public embarrassment. In a climate of rate capping and rising inflation, such inefficiencies are no longer sustainable.

To address these deep-seated challenges, TechnologyOne has collaborated closely with councils to reimagine how grants, projects, and contracts are managed. The result is a solution that seamlessly integrates these functions within a single ERP platform, creating a single source of truth that offers complete visibility from grant application to acquittal.

This integrated approach delivers:

- **Stronger financial control:** By tracking every dollar from the initial grant award through to project milestones and specific contract invoices, councils can move from reacting to problems to preventing them entirely.
- **Enhanced reporting:** With everyone working from the same live data, every report is consistent. This provides one defensible truth, so you can spend your time highlighting the great work you're doing, not explaining why the numbers don't match.
- **Efficiency gains:** Automating the flow of information between grants, projects, contracts, and finance eliminates the need for manual reconciliation, freeing up your team to focus on what they were hired to do: deliver value to the community.

Newcastle City Council, an early adopter of our Grants solution, noted:

"Having a single source of truth within our core ERP system will transform how we manage our grant portfolio across our entire organisation. The level of visibility and enhanced pre-award and post-award tracking that the Grants Management solution provides is exactly what we needed to ensure best practice inward grants management."

This sentiment is echoed by other councils that have seen the potential of a truly integrated system. Simone Watson, Financial Systems Team Leader Cardinia Shire Council had the following to say about adopting the new integration that will extend on their existing TechnologyOne Grants Management function:

"We are excited to build on our success by adopting the native integration across Grants, Projects, and Contracts. Having a single line of sight from a grant award, through project delivery, to the final contract payment is a game-changer for reporting and accountability. This traceability will add significant value to our financial processes and provide a new level of confidence in our decision-making.."

Grants form a significant portion of council revenue, and their effective management is essential for the sustainability and growth of community services. While the Victorian Financial Assistance Grants Allocation provides a framework for equitable funding, it is the responsibility of each council to match this with robust systems that ensure accountability and the optimal use of these funds.

Let's reimagine Grants Management. When done right, it doesn't just balance the books; it builds trust, demonstrates integrity, and transforms communities.

[Get in touch with our team today](#) to see how you can transform your council's Grants Management.

[Book a demo.](#)

technology

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals went out this week to the main contact for each Council. Haven't received yours? Please reach out to Lucy Scorer on executiveofficer@finpro.org.au.

It has been another busy year, but together, we have continued to support our communities, our members, the local government sector, and each other. Thank you!

The 2025 FinPro Executive Committee met recently and, in recognition of the current financial constraints of councils, have resolved to keep our 2025/26 fees at the same level as 2024/25.

The combined membership fee and online professional development levy will be \$1300.

As always, council membership covers as many staff as you like from within your team and can be altered as you wish through the year.

Any questions? Please reach out to Lucy Scorer on executiveofficer@finpro.org.au.

Boost Your Career with a Local Government Industry Scholarship

Women & Leadership Australia is offering scholarships to support women to access world-class leadership and workplace skill development programs.

Professional development designed for you:

Balance Life & Learning: Flexible part-time delivery fits your busy schedule.

Essential Work Skills: Combine cutting-edge theory with practical application.

Targeted Growth: Choose from 4 leadership and workplace skill development courses.

Partial scholarships ranging from **\$700 to \$3,000** are available to support women at all levels, from entry-level to senior executives.

Visit <https://www.wla.edu.au/industry/local-government/> to learn more and apply by Friday 24 October 2025, unless allocated earlier.

2026 Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership – Nominations close 3 October

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership. The Awards are an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on a woman or gender-diverse person in your industry who is creating meaningful change for women, girls, and underrepresented groups.

Learn more or nominate here: <https://www.wla.edu.au/nominations/>

Save the date! FinPro AGM and PD Day, Friday 28 November 2025



We are excited to announce this year's AGM and Professional Development Day will be on Friday, 28 November 2025 at the MCG in Melbourne. We are excited to launch an exciting program and very special pricing to reward FinPro members and provide an opportunity for members to get together and celebrate an amazing year.

Registration will be available soon.

KPMG Future of ESG and Climate Risk Reporting Webinar - 8 October 2025

Join KPMG's global sustainability specialist, including Dr. Jan-Hendrik Gnändiger, Global Sustainability Reporting Lead, and Alec Tang, Partner, KPMG New Zealand's Impact Team, as they provide an overview of the evolving ESG and climate risk reporting landscape. This session will offer a global perspective on sustainability reporting trends, insights into Australia's state-

based requirements, an introduction to the new Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards and insights from New Zealand's early adoption of the climate disclosures.

The webinar will feature a panel discussion with two councils on the practical implications and challenges they have faced in preparing for this new frontier of reporting. This discussion will explore practical approaches to integrating ESG principles into local government plans and leveraging climate risk approaches to inform decision-making.

[Click here](#) to register today (registrations close on 3 October 2025).

TCV Loan and Investment rates as at 24 September 2025

| | Fixed Rate (Interest Only) | | Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest)* | | Floating Rate (margin to BBSW) | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|---|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Maturity | Quarterly | Semi | Quarterly | Semi | Quarterly | Semi |
| 1 year | 3.8464 | 3.8620 | 3.8800 | 3.8950 | 0.4229 | 0.2031 |
| 3 year | 4.0391 | 4.0566 | 3.9350 | 3.9650 | 0.5775 | 0.3730 |
| 5 year | 4.3776 | 4.3985 | 4.1300 | 4.1600 | 0.7540 | 0.5742 |
| 7 year | 4.7378 | 4.7624 | 4.3600 | 4.3950 | 0.9187 | 0.7622 |
| 10 year | 5.2150 | 5.2453 | 4.7150 | 4.7550 | 1.1563 | 1.0271 |
| 12 year | 5.4494 | 5.4826 | 4.9250 | 4.9650 | 1.2688 | 1.1526 |
| 15 year | 5.7769 | 5.8144 | 5.2100 | 5.2500 | 1.4724 | 1.3679 |
| | | | | | | |
| 11am (at Call) | 3.9150 | | | | BBSW | |
| 30 day | 3.8550 | | | | 1 Month | 3.5325 |
| 60 day | 3.8650 | | | | 3 Month | 3.5474 |
| 90 day | 3.8750 | | | | 6 Month | 3.6641 |
| 180 day | 3.9850 | | | | | |

TCV Investment rates

TCV note the current TCV 11am/At Call deposit rate is 3.55%. 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 | 3.5500 | | 4 Month | 3.5750 |
| 1 Month | 3.5225 | | 5 Month | 3.6162 |
| 2 Month | 3.5296 | | 6 Month | 3.6541 |
| 3 Month | 3.5374 | | 1 Year | 3.5370 |

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 two weeks has seen two significant events for rates markets. Firstly, the Fed cut 25bp for the first time in 2025. US Treasury yields fell steadily ahead of the decision but have increased since. Locally, monthly CPI for August saw a surprise increase in services inflation that will flow through to the Q3 print. This has roughly halved the chances of a November RBA cut based on market pricing. We still suggest waiting for Q3 CPI and September labour force before drawing any firm conclusions. The RBA is not expected to cut rates next week.

Disclaimer

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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, CFO, City of Yarra
- John Vastianos, CFO, Glen Eira CC
- Liam Routledge, Consultant
- 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

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