

FinPro Member Update – Edition 7, 2026

President's Message

Hi everyone,

It's great to be back with another update, and as always there's no shortage of important issues emerging across the sector. As we head into Easter and the end of daylight saving, it's a timely reminder of how quickly the year is moving and hopefully an opportunity for many of you to take a well-earned break and recharge.



From fuel price volatility to broader cost pressures and policy changes, councils continue to navigate a complex and evolving environment. Finance professionals remain at the centre of this, supporting organisations to respond, adapt and make informed decisions in real time.

In this edition, we've included a range of resources and opportunities to support you in managing these challenges. The recent MAV webinar on the fuel crisis, along with supporting materials and upcoming training, provides practical guidance on navigating pricing pressures, contract management and supplier engagement. There is also an upcoming briefing focused specifically on fuel risk and financial impacts.

We are also seeing important developments in the regulatory environment, including recent changes relating to credit card surcharges and ongoing updates in areas such as superannuation.

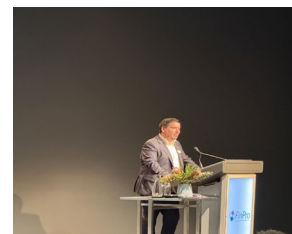
Beyond these immediate issues, our focus on capability and connection continues. The FinPro Mentoring Program remains a key initiative in supporting emerging leaders and strengthening knowledge sharing across the sector, and I encourage members to consider getting involved as mentors.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to FinPro, whether by attending events, mentoring colleagues, sharing knowledge, or supporting the work of the organisation.

Wishing you and your families a safe and enjoyable Easter break.

Warm regards,

Tony Rocca
President, FinPro
Director Corporate, Maroondah City Council



In this issue:

President's Message

FinPro Webinar: Fuelling Business Volatility – Contracts under pressure

FinPro Webinar – Superannuation Update

MAV Procurement: Driving Value, Insight and Capability Across Victorian Councils

Fuel Risk & Financial Impact: What Councils Need to Know Now

Suspension of all Credit Card Fees and Charges

VAGO Audits 2024-25

FinPro Office Hours

FinPro Mentoring Program

Save the date: FinPro Conference 2026

Job Opportunities

Membership Announcements

TCV Loan Rates as at 31 March 2026

FinPro Executive Team 2026

FinPro Contact Details

FinPro Webinar: Fuelling Business Volatility – Contracts under pressure

Date: Thursday, 30 April 2026

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

This webinar will cover:

- An economic update from Luci Ellis, Chief Economist, Westpac
- Followed by a discussion on how the teams at the City of Casey and the City of Melbourne are managing contracts and rising costs.

[Register now](#)

FinPro Webinar – Superannuation Update

Date: Thursday, 23 April 2026

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Led by Lindy Richardson, Partner, Meredith Kennedy, Special Counsel and Daniel Hui, Senior Associate at Maddocks. This webinar will provide general updates on legal requirements on superannuation and the implications of recent changes.

This webinar will cover:

- The upcoming legal requirement to pay employees' superannuation at the same time as salary and wages
- The classification of independent contractors as employees for superannuation purposes
- Wage theft laws – this offence applies to all employers who intentionally engage in conduct that results in the underpayment of wages or entitlements to employees
- Introduction in the National Employment Standards of an obligation to make superannuation contributions
- Superannuation for Councillors

[Register now](#)

For legal advice specific to your council, we encourage you to reach out to the team at Maddocks directly after the webinar.

MAV Procurement: Driving Value, Insight and Capability Across Victorian Councils

In an environment of increasing financial pressure, MAV Procurement is helping Victorian councils deliver stronger value for money through collaborative procurement, data insights and sector-led capability building.



As part of the Municipal Association of Victoria, MAV Procurement provides access to publicly tendered panel contracts with trusted suppliers, streamlining procurement while maintaining strong governance and probity. Importantly, all revenue is reinvested back into the sector to strengthen services, advocacy, and collective impact - supporting councils to build thriving, resilient communities across Victoria.

Managing Contracts through Fuel Volatility

A recent MAV webinar in collaboration with Propello Procurement on fuel price volatility attracted strong sector interest, reinforcing the challenges councils are facing in managing contract variations.

Key guidance for finance and procurement teams includes:

- applying evidence-based assessments to pricing requests
- understanding cost drivers within contracts
- ensuring consistent and reviewable variation processes
- balancing financial discipline with service continuity

Supporting resources, including legal advice and webinar materials, are now available to assist councils in navigating these pressures:

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [Slides that include notes and FAQs](#)
- [Switch Legal advice about MAV Panels](#)

Building Capability: Targeted Training Opportunities

To further support councils navigating these challenges, MAV's training partner Propello Procurement is delivering a series of upcoming programs:

- **Procurement Essentials (Full Day)** – 22 & 23 April
- **Managing Contracts in Times of Volatility (Half Day)** – 29 April
- **Contract Law Basics (Half Day)** – 6 May
- **Contract Management (Full Day)** – 16 & 17 June

Delivered by experienced procurement professionals, these sessions are designed to strengthen capability across both procurement and finance functions, from fundamentals through to advanced contract management and negotiation.

[You can find out more here](#)

Coming Soon: MAV Spend Analytics & Benchmarking for Better Financial Decisions

MAV Procurement is currently developing a Spend Analytics and Benchmarking Program; a powerful new initiative designed to support finance and procurement teams with better data-driven decision-making.

This program will deliver:

- Interactive dashboards with clear visibility of council spend
- Benchmarking against peer councils
- Insights to identify cost savings, contract leakage and inefficiencies
- Improved budget forecasting and financial oversight

By combining internal council data with sector-wide insights, the program will enhance financial governance and support more strategic procurement outcomes. The initiative is currently in pilot phase, with councils invited to help shape its development. If you're interested in contributing feedback or being part of the project group, we encourage you to complete the survey ASAP: [Council Spend Analytics & Benchmarking Program Survey – Fill out form](#)

Stay Connected with MAV Procurement

MAV Procurement is more than just contracts—it's a sector enabler, supporting councils through:

- Collaborative panel contracts

- Procurement policy and governance tools
- Training and capability uplift
- Data analytics and benchmarking
- Sector advocacy and engagement

Whether you're looking to drive savings, strengthen compliance, or uplift capability across your organisation, MAV Procurement offers practical, ready-to-use solutions.

Want to learn more or book an engagement session?

Reach out to the MAV Procurement team procurement@mav.asn.au to explore how these services can support your council.

If you or any of your colleagues who would like to receive future MAV procurement bulletins, they can [subscribe on the MAV website](#).

Fuel Risk & Financial Impact: What Councils Need to Know Now

FREE Council Information Session

Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2026

Time: 2.00pm – 3.00pm AEST



This national briefing, delivered by CT Management Group in partnership with Uniqco, will provide councils with a clear understanding of fuel supply risk and cost escalation, and how these challenges impact service delivery, fleet operations and financial sustainability.

The session will outline a practical, staged response approach, including immediate actions to maintain service continuity, short-term strategies to reduce fuel consumption and cost exposure, and medium-term approaches to improve resilience and reduce reliance on fuel.

All registered attendees will also receive a comprehensive information pack following the session, including practical tips, insights and guidance to support ongoing planning and decision-making within their organisation.

[Register now](#)

Suspension of all Credit Card Fees and Charges

This week, the RBA announced the suspension of all credit card fees and charges - a decision that will affect councils more drastically than most other institutions.



Dailius Wilson, Payble, has been preparing a strategic response to this for some time and would love to take you through the details in a webinar.

Date: Tuesday, 7 April 2026

Time: 1.00pm AEST

[Register here](#)

In the webinar, he will be examining:

1. The new surcharge rules with a local government focus
 2. How this may adversely impact council cashflow/budget
 3. Strategies to minimise financial impacts of the decision for council using technology and process
-

VAGO Audits 2024-25

The VAGO report on the results of the 2024–25 audits of Victoria’s local councils and associated entities has been tabled in Parliament.

The report confirms that users can rely on councils’ financial reports and performance statements, with clear audit opinions issued. It also highlights opportunities for councils to improve reporting timeliness, strengthen quality assurance processes and better understand their legislative obligations.

The report outlines key financial outcomes across the sector, including the impact of advance financial assistance grants on reported surpluses, ongoing growth in revenues and expenses, increased asset values, and generally low debt levels. It also notes continued capital underspending and emerging financial sustainability pressures for some small councils.

Finally, the report identifies persistent internal control and financial reporting issues, and emphasises the need for stronger oversight by senior management and audit and risk committees to ensure agreed recommendations are implemented in a timely way.

A dashboard accompanies this report, providing data at the individual council, cohort and sector levels. The dashboard presents information on each council’s financial sustainability and allows users to filter and compare data by council or cohort (metropolitan, interface, regional, large and small), supporting meaningful comparison and benchmarking. The dashboard contains data from 2016–17 to 2024–25.

[Click here](#) to read the report.

FinPro Office Hours

The FinPro Office will be closed over the Easter break from Friday, 3 April until Friday, 10 April. Reopening on Monday, 13 April, if you have any urgent requests, please email executiveofficer@finpro.org.au with the subject line **URGENT**.

FinPro Mentoring Program

Four mentors still needed! Following the Leadership Program, participants will embark on a 12-month mentoring program where they are guided by leaders in the sector. To enable this, we are calling for members to volunteer to be mentors.

This program will commence in May during the 2026 Leadership Program, with the first session being held in person during the FinPro Leadership Program on Tuesday, 12 May at Maroondah City Council.

To submit an expression of interest to be a mentor, please [click here](#).

Save the date: FinPro Conference 2026



Job Opportunities

- [Payroll Team Leader](#), Surf Coast Shire - Applications close on Sunday, 19 April 2026

Membership Announcements

We are so pleased to welcome our new corporate member since the last issue of the newsletter.

- Nabil Chammas, CEO BTG International

Have you had changes in your team? Reach out to [Lucy Scorer](#) to update your membership details.

TCV Loan Rates as at 31 March 2026

| Maturity | Fixed Rate (Interest Only) | | Fixed Rate (Principal and Interest) * | | Floating Rate (margin to BBSW) | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | Quarterly | Semi | Quarterly | Maturity | Quarterly | Semi |
| 1 year | 4.8305 | 4.8583 | 4.7950 | 4.8950 | 0.2240 | -0.0603 |
| 3 year | 5.1916 | 5.2221 | 5.0850 | 5.1300 | 0.5460 | 0.2986 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|
| 5 year | 5.3708 | 5.4035 | 5.2150 | 5.2600 | 0.7154 | 0.4918 |
| 7 year | 5.6042 | 5.6397 | 5.3650 | 5.4100 | 0.8672 | 0.6657 |
| 10 year | 5.9207 | 5.9604 | 5.6000 | 5.6450 | 1.0696 | 0.8937 |
| 12 year | 6.0928 | 6.1350 | 5.7350 | 5.7800 | 1.1865 | 1.0225 |
| 15 year | 6.3141 | 6.3593 | 5.9350 | 5.9850 | 1.3544 | 1.2042 |
| 11am (at Call) | | | | | | |
| | 4.4150 | | | | BBSW | |
| 30 day | 4.2350 | | | | 1 Month | 4.0556 |
| 60 day | 4.3650 | | | | 3 Month | 4.3080 |
| 90 day | 4.4950 | | | | 6 Month | 4.7849 |
| 180 day | 4.9750 | | | | | |

TCV Investment rates

TCV note the current TCV 11am/At Call deposit rate is 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 | 4.4508 |
| 1 Month | 4.0456 | | 5 Month | 4.6151 |
| 2 Month | 4.1697 | | 6 Month | 4.7749 |
| 3 Month | 4.2980 | | 1 Year | 4.5333 |

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.

Sovereign bond yields have eased considerably in recent days, a cycle kicked off by comments from Fed Chair Jay Powell that the Fed would seek to look through temporary price impacts and buttressed by expectations that the US could soon end the war with Iran. Whether the latter is accurate remains to be seen and we continue to highlight risks from a protracted conflict.

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.

TCV accepts no responsibility or liability for any direct or indirect loss, damage, cost or expense whatsoever incurred by the Client or any other person because of any error, omission or misrepresentation (whether arising from negligence or otherwise) in the rates information or in connection with or relating in any way whatsoever to the rates information.

The indicative rates information provided by TCV is not, without TCV's prior written consent, to be disclosed to any other person.

FinPro Executive Team 2026

President

- Tony Rocca, Director Corporate, Maroondah CC

Vice Presidents

- Alan Wilson, Financial Controller, Melbourne CC – Professional Development Stream
- Navec Lorkin, CFO, Knox CC – Technical Stream

Treasurer

- Deep Sethi, CFO, Monash CC

Committee Members:

- Allison Southwell, CFO, Cardinia SC
- Belinda Johnson, CFO, Horsham RCC
- Binda Gokhale, Consultant
- Gabby Spiller, Manager Finance, Surf Coast SC
- John Brockway, CFO, City of Yarra
- John Vastianos, CFO, Glen Eira CC
- Liam Routledge, General Manager-Corporate Services, Goldfields SC
- Melissa Baker, CFO, Casey CC
- Nicole Maxwell, Manager Finance, Mitchell SC,
- Rahul Shah, Unit Manager Financial Strategy, Whittlesea CC
- Caroline Reidy, CFO, Frankston 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

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors at the 2025 Conference for their support.

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Keynote Sponsor



Keynote Sponsor



Dinner Sponsor



Coffee Cart Sponsor



Dinner Sponsor



Headshot Sponsor



Exhibitors

