

FinPro Member Update October 2020 (Edition 3)

President's Message

Good afternoon all,

I'm sure for many of you, the return to onsite school this week has been a pleasant change and a step towards normality. I am sure we will all wait with anticipation for the Premier's press conference this Sunday to see how the COVID Roadmap continues 😊 I have my fingers crossed for some safe, but significant unwinding of restrictions.

Plenty of work continues in the sector, and although we are deep into elections and the caretaker period, I'm sure you have started thinking towards Budget timetables! I hope you are including some very well-deserved break over the Christmas / NY Period into the timetable!

This coming Tuesday, members of the FinPro Executive will be meeting with senior members of LGV. This meeting continues our ongoing relationship building with our key partners. A range of topics will be covered including the LG Act Implementation, any potential update on the State Governments Rating Review, COVID and the financial impacts on Council. If you have a specific topic you would like potentially discussed please email [Gab](#).

I also look forward to seeing many of you at next week's mini-conference. 😊

Cheers, Bradley



Bradley Thomas - FinPro President
Director Community and Corporate Services – Hepburn Shire

Membership News

With Council's updating and renewing their membership for the coming year, we welcome a number of new members to FinPro. Our membership numbers have just reached 600, an organisation record. Thank-you for your continued support and connection.

- **Alicia Nicolson**, Accountant with Warrnambool City Council
- **Lashitha Devadason**, Assistant Accountant – Controls, Compliance and Planning with Whitehorse City Council
- **Shehani Mendis**, Management Accountant with Yarra City Council
- **Scott Symons**, Financial Services Accountant with Yarra City Council
- **Warren Henderson**, Financial Services Coordinator with Mildura Rural City Council
- **Lynne Beard**, Accounts Payable Officer with Moyne Shire Council

If you have any news to share with the FinPro membership please forward this to [Gab](#).

Membership Renewal information [available here](#)

FinPro Technical Committee News / Updates

Local Government Act 2020

The Local Government Act 2020 Working Group met for the second time on Thursday 15 October 2020.

Paul Roche and Daniel O'Shea (LGV) attended the working group as guests and so did the President of FinPro Bradley Thomas.

They were all able to provide the working group a good insight of the progress to date on the Act implementation and how FinPro can play a part in assisting in this process. The working group will now move forward to meet fortnightly, reviewing key financial documentation and highlight what the impacts of the new Act will be on those documents.

Update from Local Government Victoria

LGV issued the following Bulletin on Tuesday 13 October 2020 and it is included here for your information:

BULLETIN: 67/2020

TRANSFER STATIONS AND LANDFILL LEVY RATE CHANGES – FURTHER DEFERRAL

The Victorian Government has announced that it will extend the deferral of changes to landfill levy rates for a further six months. An initial six-month deferral was previously announced in April 2020 (Bulletin 35/2020) but a further extension will support households and businesses impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

There will be no changes to landfill levy rates in 2020-21; however, previously announced changes will proceed in 2021-22 and 2022-23. The current levy rates are summarised in the table below and will be published on the Environment Protection Authority [website](#).

The levy changes are part of the State Government's Recycling Victoria package, a 10-year action plan to transition our waste and recycling sectors. The changes will encourage more recycling, reduce waste to landfill and discourage cross-border dumping from states with higher levies.

Landfill levy changes 2020-2023

Levy	2020-21	2021-22 (from 1 July 2021)	2022-23 (from 1 July 2022)
Metropolitan Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy	\$65.90	\$105.90	\$125.90
Rural Municipal Landfill Levy	\$33.03	\$52.95	\$62.95
Rural Industrial Landfill Levy	\$57.76	\$93.19	\$110.79
Priority Waste - Category C Landfill Levy*	\$70.00	\$105.90	\$125.90
Priority Waste - Category D Landfill Levy*	New category from 1 July 2021	\$105.90	\$125.90

* The Victorian Government has previously announced a deferral to the commencement date of the Environment Protection Act 2017 from 1 July 2020 to 1 July 2021 (unless proclaimed earlier). Category D will be introduced when the amendments to the Environment Protection Act 2017 take effect at this time. The term Priority Wastes will replace Prescribed Industrial Waste (PIW) at this time.

Metropolitan Melbourne moved to the Second Step in the roadmap for reopening from 11:59pm on 27 September and as a part of this step, transfer stations can open to the public for disposing of organic waste and garden waste. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has confirmed that residents are able to travel more than 5km from home to access their closest transfer station.

In regional Victoria transfer stations are open for all customers.

Councils must continue to operate these facilities in a manner that is safe and in line with the Chief Health Officer's directions. This includes ensuring that all transfer stations have a [COVIDSafe Plan](#) in place - this is a mandatory requirement.

The updated roadmaps for metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, as well as industry restrictions by region are available at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap for reopening.](#)

Local Government Victoria has previously issued a bulletin (Bulletin 37/2020) regarding hours of waste collection.

Councils continue to be encouraged to extend the operating hours of waste collection services so that these can commence at 5am weekdays. Victoria's councils are asked to adopt a flexible compliance approach to local noise laws, planning permit conditions and contract terms, so waste collections can continue at a time that is safe and meets the changing needs of the community.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will adopt a proportionate regulatory approach that takes full account of the current circumstances while ensuring risks to Victoria's environment continue to be managed.

Advice on limiting noise emissions from domestic refuse collection - for example, only carrying out compaction on the move, is contained in the Noise Control Guidelines, (publication 1254) www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1254.

[Local Government Victoria](#) will continue to update its website with information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) roadmap for reopening and what it means for councils as information comes to hand. Local Government Victoria is available to provide advice to councils on non-health related queries on 0418 287 976 or email LGV.Emergencies@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Regards

Colin Morrison, Acting Executive Director, Local Government Victoria

My local council: if something is not right, who do I complain to?

Victoria's integrity agencies want Victorians to know how they can complain about, or report wrongdoing in local government.

The new video, **My local council: if something is not right, who do I complain to?** explains which integrity agency people can complain to about issues and suspected wrongdoing with council matters, councillors, and local government officials.

<https://www.lgi.vic.gov.au/making-it-easy-victorians-report-wrongdoing-local-government>

Income tax tables

We understand that Tax tables will be updated in the next few weeks and be reflective of new rates going forward. Any back-dated correction will be reconciled when people submit their 2020-21 tax returns.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Media-releases/Updates-to-tax-withholding-schedules/>

ESC Rate Cap Compliance Returns

A quick reminder that these returns are due at the end by 30 October 2020.

FinPro Mini-Conference (21 and 22 October 2020)

We are pleased to be able to offer members an opportunity to take part in a wonderful range on online-learning and engagement next week.

Join us for our 'Mini-Conference'! Not quite the same as getting together at RACV Cape Schanck, but there is always 2021 😊

Our program runs over 2 days, with the following 1-hour sessions:

[Full details on the program and how to register](#)

Wednesday 21 October 2020

- 10am: Long Term Financial Plans – CT Management and TechOne [REGISTER](#)
- 2pm: Long Term Financial Plans – LG Solutions and MAGIQ [REGISTER](#)

Thursday 22 October 2020 [Register for All sessions below \(come and go as suits\)](#)

- 1.30pm: Emerging Risks and audits – Andrew Greaves (VIC Auditor-General) and Sanchu Chummar (Acting Sector Director, LG with VAGO)
- 2.30pm: Rebuilding our Communities – Ludo Campbell Reid, Director, Wyndham CC and John McLinden, CEO, Swan Hill Rural City Council
- 3.30pm: CEO Panel – Tammi Rose, CEO Yarra Ranges Shire and Craig Neimann, CEO Bendigo RCC
- 4.30pm: Virtual Happy Hour and launch of the FinPro Virtual Art Gallery

We hope you can join us for some or all of the above sessions. All sessions are included in the FinPro Online Professional Development program. For those members not part of this program an investment of \$110 will be required once registration is made, or alternatively, you can join our program. Contact [Gab](#) for details.

Councillor Onboarding (with a finance theme) - Thursday 1 October 2020

Bradley Thomas, President FinPro facilitated this session which was presented by Marc Giglio, Director Corporate Services at Banyule City Council.

- [webinar recording](#)
- [webinar presentation slides](#)

Other Learning and connecting opportunities

WLA Connect

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) has launched a brand-new networking and learning hub called [WLA Connect](#).

The platform is designed for women to gather, network, share and learn about being a female leader in today's working environment. Connect members are able to access events, learning materials and forums where they can collaborate with women from the local government sector and beyond.

This is an important developmental initiative for women across the country. Features of WLA Connect include:

- A curated learning laboratory filled with leadership development content
- Expert masterclasses on leadership theory and practice
- Face-to-face and online networking events
- Member led contributions and recommendations
- Peer coaching, executive coaching and mentoring opportunities.

Find out more: <https://www.wlaconnect.com.au/>

Job Vacancies

FinPro is happy to place advertisements on our website for any finance related positions our members councils are advertising. Please send the following details through to [Gab](#)

- **Manager Financial Services**
- Yarra City Council
- <https://www.davidsonexecutive.com.au/job/manager-financial-services-city-of-yarra/>
- For further information and a copy of the Candidate success profile, please contact Natasha Diamond of Davidson Executive on 0412 822 348
- Closes 21 October 2020
- **Independent Member Audit & Risk Committee**
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Position description & information pack can be viewed at <https://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au/Council/Employment>
- For further information, please contact Ashley Roberts on 03 5392 7702
- Applications close 6 November 2020

FinPro Virtual Gallery

The weeks are long right now and sometimes we feel a bit like we are on the set of Groundhog Day!

Imagine if you could just stop for a moment – and picture something that you have mastered, taken up, learnt, done, built or achieved over the past 6 months! Imagine too that could celebrate this achievement with the FinPro Community!

Well – you can. We are asking you to share what you have done with the FinPro community. Celebrate it – share it – own it!

Soon enough, the year will be behind us, and we will forget all the good things we have managed to do this year. So, this is our idea: Our very own FinPro Members Virtual Art Gallery

PAINTING, DRAWING, WRITING, DIGITAL ART, KNITTING, CROCHET, TEXTILE ART, CRAFT, POTTERY, SCULPTURE, WOODWORK, POETRY, WRITING, MACRAME, JEWELLERY, GARDENING, LANDSCAPING, MASTERING A NEW SKILL, COOKING.... THE LIST IS ENDLESS!

Here are a few examples of contributions so far – WOW!!!



All contributions will be collated and displayed in a 'FinPro Virtual Gallery' during our virtual Happy Hour as part of the FinPro mini-conference on Thursday 23 October 2020.

Please send a clear jpeg (portrait) photo or photos and description to [Gab](#) by Sunday **18 October 2020**.

We think this is a fun way to celebrate your achievements and recognise that there have been some positives to this whole COVID thing! We hope you do too 😊

FinPro Executive Members

President – Bradley Thomas (Hepburn Shire Council)

Executive Officer – Gab Gordon

Vice-President: Chair Technical Committee – Tony Rocca (Maroondah City Council)

Technical Committee members:

- Danny Wain (Monash City Council)
- Kristy Stephens (Bass Coast Shire)
- Liz Rowland (Western Water)
- Mark Montague (Yarra City Council)
- Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo City Council)
- Vishantri Perera (Yarra Ranges Shire Council)

Vice-President: Chair Professional Development committee – Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)

Professional Development Committee members:

- Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians Shire)
- Charles Nganga (Casey City Council)
- John Brockway (Surf Coast Shire) – also leads the FinPro Mentoring Program
- Kim Jaensch (Frankston City Council) – leads the FinPro Leadership Program

We thank our 2020 Corporate Partners

- **CT Management**

Corporate Partnership is available to all businesses and is an opportunity to support FinPro, our members and the sector as we journey through COVID and are unable to provide face-to-face Professional Development and live sponsorship opportunities.

For further information please contact Gabrielle Gordon - details as listed below.

To Contact FinPro:
Gabrielle Gordon – Executive Officer
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