

Survey of VIC Councils - Rates / Budgets 2020/21
Prepared by FinPro 8 July 2020 - Updated 11/09/2020

Municipality	Rate increase / decrease 20/21	Rate waivers / Hardship Provisions and other assistance offered to ratepayers	date adopted
Alpine Shire Council	2%	A number of assistance measures in place to help residents and business operators including financial hardship consideration, no interest on overdue residential rates since the shire was impacted by bushfires in early 2020, extension of payment of 4th rate payment 2019/20 and COVID-19 Business Support package in place.	16-Jun-20
Ararat Rural City Council	-1%	COVID-19 Hardship Policy in place and applications for this deferred to 30 September 2020.	17-Jun-20
Ballarat City Council	0%	COVID-19 Hardship Policy in place	8-Jul-20
Banyule City Council	2%	COVID-19 hardship policy and 2020/21 rating strategy updated	27-Aug-20
Bass Coast Shire Council	2%	No increases to fees and charges and some fee waivers, especially those paid by businesses. An enhanced rate hardship policy including a budget of \$250K for rate waivers that could be used for extreme cases of financial hardship.	19-Aug-20
Baw Baw Shire Council	2%	Penalty interest waiver provided where needed.	26-Aug-20
Bayside City Council	2%	COVID-19 hardship provisions available for ratepayers along with a small business economic package.	30-Jun-20
Benalla Rural City Council	2%	Offering waiver for interest until 30 September 2020.	29-Jul-20
Boroondara City Council	2%	No interest being charged on late payment of rates until Dec 31 2020. Council to meet quarterly throughout the year to assess any saving in the capital works program to be used to assist the community around COVID-19.	20-Aug-20
Brimbank City Council	0%	A waiver of 15% on the first three instalments of the 2020/21 municipal rates will be provided for COVID-19 affected business (Commercial / Industrial Developed) ratepayers upon meeting the following criteria: Annual business turnover of less than \$10m for 2019/20, and must be eligible for the JobKeeper Program, or demonstrate a decrease in turnover of 30% or more.	18-Aug-20
Buloke Shire Council	2%	A number of measures in place in order to support residents and businesses.	1-Jul-20
Campaspe Shire Council	2%	Interest being waived up to 30 Sept and no debt collection pursued.	23-Jun-20
Cardinia Shire Council	2%	Waiver of rates offered to those in financial hardship (upon application)	15-Jun-20
Casey City Council	2%	Flexibility being offered to those experiencing hardship - though freezes on interest on o/s rates from 1 March 2020 to 30 Sept 2020 and a decision not to pursue legal action on o/s rates in 19/20 until Oct 2020	23-Jun-20
Central Goldfields Shire Council	2%	Measures in place to assist ratepayers experiencing financial hardship (approved by application), businesses experiencing financial hardship (approved by application) as well as other business support initiatives.	11-Aug-20
Colac-Otway Shire Council	1.50%	Proposing no interest charges on rate through to 31 Dec 2020, no increase in 20/21 user fees and charges from 2019/20 levels, waiving 100% of food and health registrations, waiving selected commercial and rec leases, waiving 100% fees for street furniture and \$420K allocation of discretionary support to be decided by council.	22-Jul-20
Corangamite Shire Council	0%	Waivers on interest available upon application	23-Jun-20
Darebin City Council	2%	Deferral option on rates available to 30 June 2021. Ratepayers who elect to defer their rate payments are not required to make an application for financial hardship.	15-Jul-20

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East Gippsland Shire Council	0%	Offering a rebate of \$1M allocated across all Commercial / Industrial classified ratepayers. Shire also will have a rate waiver for all rate assessments where the main dwelling was destroyed in the 2019/20 bushfires.	25-Aug-20
Frankston City Council	2%	Waivers offered for ratepayers receiving jobkeeper and are owner-occupier. Applications open 1 July and close 20 sept 2020.	1-Jun-20
Gannawarra Shire Council	1.50%	Holding back on raising interest on properties where the ratepayer has claimed financial hardship due to COVID-19.	24-Jun-20
Glen Eira City Council	2%	Deferral of rates option to June 2021 offered with no interest being charged.	30-Jun-20
Glenelg Shire Council	0%	Rebates still remain for primary production of 30%. NO increase to fees and charges. Council also waiving commercial leases and sport and rec leases	23-Jun-20
Golden Plains Shire Council	2%	Assistance being offered to ratepayers by way of waiving interest charges up to 30 sept 2020, promotion of payment plans, Customer hardship assistance, financial hardship policy and payment plans offered for animal registrations.	23-Jun-20
Greater Bendigo City Council	2%	Assistance provided to ratepayers experiencing hardship including waiving interest and enabling deferrals through to 30 June 2021. Waiving or 50% cuts to a number of local laws / business fees over coming year(s). Freezing the majority of other fees & charges (500+) to 2019/20 levels. Opex recovery package worth \$3.3M + \$4.5M (WfV) = \$7.8M to support recovery (City's 2% rate increase is lower than this amount).	15-Jul-20
Greater Dandenong City Council	2%	Rate waivers for pensioners of \$100, \$200 for those on JobSeeker allowance and interest waived until 30 June 2020. Other proposals also being considered by council.	22-Jun-20
Greater Geelong City Council	1.90%	COVID 19 Support package in place. Some waivers also provided (1/4 rates) to commercial ratepayers in accordance with State Direction no. 5, ie to fully close. COVID-19 hardship policy also applies to ratepayers experiencing hardship.	30-Jun-20
Greater Shepparton City Council	2%	No penalty interest on o/s rates from 16 March 2020 to 30 Sept 2020, flexible payment arrangement for ratepayers experiencing difficult (subject to discussion with ratepayer).	16-Jun-20
Hepburn Shire Council	2%	Extended payment of rates offered to 30 September 2020 without interest being charged. Also, no interest on o/s amounts for 19/20 until after 30 Sept 2020.	21-Jul-20
Hindmarsh Shire Council	2%	Individual assessments will be made in line with Council's Hardship Policy. Council offers direct debit and payment options to suit individuals needs.	24-Jun-20
Hobsons Bay City Council	2%	The rate increase is being returned to the community (250%) through a targeted approach within Council's 3rd Community Support Package, worth an estimated \$5.2 million. This includes a rate adjustment (rebate) to offset the 2 per cent rate increase. Council has also reviewed its Hardship Policy and added a COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy.	25-Aug-20
Horsham Rural City Council	2%	Business and community COVID-19 relief measures worth \$1.148M are part of the budget package	27-Jul-20
Hume City Council	2%	\$11.5M to support local businesses, sporting clubs, community groups and its rate payers with a stimulus package that responds directly to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Package includes Rates waiver of up to \$50 for residential and rural properties where the property is the ratepayers principal place of residence and no interest on outstanding rates balances from 1 Jun until 31 December 2020. The package also includes a range of waivers and relief options for businesses and the community.	27-Jul-20
Indigo Shire Council	2%	Council has set aside additional funds to assist with business recovery. This will go towards initiatives to encourage visitors back into our town once it is safe to do so. The budget will be constantly reviewed and adjusted accordingly throughout the next 12 months.	28-Jul-20

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Kingston City Council	2%	A waste rebate of \$118 for each residential ratepayer that has a Council waste service. Funded from cash reserves initially, with a revised budget going to Council in September with identified savings from operational and capital projects. As well as an additional rebate equivalent to Council's pensioner rate rebate of \$112.20 to those residential ratepayers on JobSeeker or commercial ratepayers on JobKeeper. Deferral of rates for 12 months, or longer payment arrangements for those in hardship. No interest charged for any overdue rates for the whole of 2020/21	13-Jul-20
Knox City Council	2%	Offering some fee and interest waivers for a set period of time.	22-Jun-20
Latrobe City Council	0%	0% Rate increase and waiver of street trading and outdoor dining permits, health registrations and planning permit fees for commercial and industrial applications that fit the vicsmart Planning criteria. Providing an overall \$1.7M Business and Community Support Package.	3-Aug-20
Loddon Shire Council	2%	Utilising the rate increase plus a little more for COVID related support packages. Also has a COVID Financial Hardship Policy which has nil interest to be charged from the date the SOE was declared to 31 Dec 2020.	23-Jun-20
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	2%	A \$1.1M recovery fund to support the community and local business impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic is included in the budget	22-Jul-20
Manningham City Council	2%	Community support offered through a range of COVID-19 community relief measures announced as part of the budget in the order of \$3M for 2020/21 in addition to \$.75M in 2019/20)	28-Jul-20
Mansfield Shire Council	2%	A range of waivers are being proposed. Rates assistance package will be extended to 31 December 2020 (Freeze on interest charges, hold on debt recovery and ability to defer payment or enter into payment plans without applying through financial hardship)	4-Aug-20
Maribyrnong City Council	0%	Budget provides significant support to residents and businesses affected by COVID-19. COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy is in place as well as a number of other measures to assist the community and businesses.	21-Jul-20
Maroondah City Council	2%	Council has a Hardship Policy in place and has specifically budgeting for targeted relief and recovery funding of \$500K. Council also providing interest freeze on outstanding rates from the beginning of the crisis through until 30 September 2020 and providing relief on a case-by-case basis.	27-Jul-20
Melbourne City Council	0%	Assistance offered in severe hardship and within the policy plus other assistance offered though to ratepayers and businesses.	7-Jul-20
Melton City Council	0%	Council approved a waiver for those in hardship of \$200 on the 4th instalment of 19/20 rates (on application)	31-Aug-20
Mildura Rural City Council	2%	Waivers on specific fees such as outdoor dining and A Frames. Also waiving interest on late rate payments and a \$1.5M recovery fund set up to help with relief recovery.	29-Jul-20
Mitchell Shire Council	2%	Deferral of rates an option upon referral only and waiving some business fees for applications/ / planning	22-Jun-20
Moira Shire Council	2%	Rate payment plans being offered based on individual application status	24-Jun-20
Monash City Council	2% increase and 10% waiver	10% waiver to every ratepayer (20/21 rates) plus a deferment (on application) on paying rates till 30 June 2021 without interest charges	25-Aug-20
Moonee Valley City Council	2%	Waivers being offered on interest charges. (We are currently discussing if our policy covers all rates debt incurred in State of Emergency or only those seeking hardship.)	23-Jun-20
Moorabool Shire Council	2%	Pandemic recovery fund equal to 2% increase has been established to assist those in hardship.	15-Jul-20
Moreland City Council	2%	Interest on rates being on hold until 30 June 2021 and a hardship policy in place including \$50 waiver for pensioners and \$50 waiver for healthcare card holders.	8-Jul-20

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Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	2%	Hardship policy in place and has been extended to all properties until 31 August upon application. Also, until 31 August no interest will be applied for outstanding rates and charges. This will continue to be reviewed by Council on a quarterly basis and adjusted as required.	18-Aug-20
Mount Alexander Shire Council	2%	Deferral of rates and option upon application. Council have adopted a COVID-19 financial hardship policy which includes ratepayers to enter into arrangements to pay rates, payment deferral until 30 Sept 2020 with an extension of up to Dec 2020 if certain measures are met, interest will be waived for any COVID-19 financial hardship ratepayers from 16 March to 30 Sept 2020, and possibly extended to Dec 2020 if appropriate. Also there will be no debt collections action for those experiencing hardship.	18-Aug-20
Moyness Shire Council	0%	Assistance provided through applying rate freeze, easing the application of interest on overdue rates from 31 March 2020, including the 4th instalment, payment arrangements for ratepayers experiencing financial stress, no increase on fees and charges that apply to local residents for the 2020/21 financial year, rent waiver for at least 3 months for commercial properties and prioritising works that can engage local tradespeople.	23-Jun-20
Murrindindi Shire Council	0%	Expanded hardship policy covering business. Commercial properties, \$500K budget allocation to support recovery and interest free period applied from 16 March to 30 June 2020 and hardship provision will apply on application.	24-Jun-20
Nillumbik Shire Council	0%	Hardship policy in place and ratepayers can apply for payment deferral for business and investment properties and no penalty interest will be charged up until 30 September 2020. Council will then review the policy at that time.	23-Jun-20
Northern Grampians Shire Council	2%	COVID-19 related financial support package and deferral of interest from March 16 to Sept 30 2020. This will be reviewed during September 2020.	10-Aug-20
Port Phillip City Council	2%	Rate Deferral and option via applications and Financial hardship provisions in place. COVID-19 Economic and Social Relief Package of \$5.6M for 2021/21 included in budget.	19-Aug-20
Pyrenees Shire Council	2%	Standard hardship provisions are being applied but assistance to food businesses being closed due to COVID-19 in the way of registrations.	21-Jul-20
Queenscliffe Borough Council	2%	2% rate increase used in full to provide a one-off rebate on waste mgmt charges and no interest to be charged until 30 Sept 2020 in line with the COVID 19 hardship policy.	18-Jun-20
South Gippsland Shire Council	2%	Payment plans and interest free deferrals are offered under COVID hardship policy). Some fees will also be waived.	24-Jun-20
Southern Grampians Shire Council	1.75%	Total 1.75% rate increase quarantined for Special Hardship Policy adopted specifically for COVID affected ratepayers and businesses.	8-Jul-20
Stonnington City Council	2%	Waiver: That in accordance with Section 171(1)(b) of the Act Council resolves to grant a waiver of 2.0 percent to be applied to the uniform rate of residential properties in the 2020/21 Financial Year. For residential property owners/residents who have been determined to be suffering financial hardship as a result of the COVID19 Pandemic. Concessions: That in accordance with Section 169(1)(a) of the Act Council resolves to grant a concession of 2.0 percent on the uniform rate of commercial properties in the 2020/21 Financial Year. The concession is for commercial properties to assist the proper development of the municipal district, in consideration of financial hardship of the COVID19 Pandemic and impact on trade.	31-Aug-20
Strathbogie Shire Council	1.90%	Discussions still being held around what assistance will be provided.	14-Jul-20
Surf Coast Shire Council	2%	Rate rebates for businesses	25-Jun-20
Swan Hill Rural City Council	1.86%	Considering rebates for businesses adversely affected by COVID-19	21-Jul-20
Towong Shire Council	0%	Payment plans and interest deferment assistance offered	25-Aug-20
Wangaratta Rural City Council	2%	Budget incorporates new financial assistance measures valued at \$484K as a response to COVID-19	30-Jun-20

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Warrnambool City Council	2%	Offering deferrals, waiver on interest for deferrals and late payments, debt recovery options on hold and waiver on a number of business permits & registrations. Other business assistance also being offered.	6-Jul-20
Wellington Shire Council	0%		16-Jun-20
West Wimmera Shire Council	2%	Policy for deferment of payment and the waiving of interest in place.	Jul-20
Whitehorse City Council	2%	A \$4.5M Recovery and Stimulus Package was included in the budget.	22-Jun-20
Whittlesea City Council	2%	Offering deferrals under Council's COVID hardship policy	7-Jul-20
Wodonga City Council	0%	Hardship provisions in place.	29-Jun-20
Wyndham City Council	2%	Budget includes a \$5M WynLocal Economic Support Package included in budget and a COVID-19 rates hardship policy is in place.	18-Aug-20
Yarra City Council	2%	Hardship policy in place.	4-Aug-20
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	2%	Council will be giving the 2020-21 rate increase back to the ratepayers as a waiver so that no one will pay more than 2019-20 rates and some will pay even less. Lost revenue from this is \$3.3 million. In addition a \$4 million Covid recovery and assistance fund has been created. Council has also expanded its rates hardship categories to include businesses and will not charge penalty interest for those facing hardship till June '21.	11-Aug-20
Yarriambiack Shire Council	1.95%	Interest on rates is waived until 30 Sept 2020 and ratepayers are encouraged to contact council if they are having difficulties paying their rates.	24-Jun-20