



Budget 2024/25

Your rates in 2024/25

Delivering services, infrastructure and community support

2024/25

Investing in our City

This message is about Council rates, budget and services. To find out more in your language please call TIS on 13 14 50 and ask for the City of Port Phillip on 03 9209 6777.

Это сообщение касается муниципальных налогов, бюджета и услуг. Чтобы получить дополнительную информацию на вашем языке, позвоните в TIS по номеру 13 14 50 и попросите связаться с муниципалитетом Port Phillip по номеру 03 9209 6777.

Este mensaje trata de las cuotas, el presupuesto y los servicios del ayuntamiento. Para obtener más información en su idioma, llame a TIS al 13 14 50 y pida que le comuniquen con la Municipalidad de Port Phillip (City of Port Phillip en inglés) en el 03 9209 6777.

Ta wiadomość dotyczy czynszów, budżetu i usług Rady Miasta. Aby uzyskać więcej informacji w swoim języku, prosimy zadzwonić do TIS pod numer 13 14 50 i poprosić o rozmowę z City of Port Phillip pod numerem 03 9209 6777.

ข้อความนี้เป็นเรื่องเกี่ยวกับอัตราค่าธรรมเนียม (Council Rates) งบประมาณ และบริการต่างๆ ของสภาเทศบาล หากต้องการข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมในภาษาของคุณ โปรดติดต่อ TIS ที่หมายเลข 13 14 50 และขอให้ต่อสายไปยัง City of Port Phillip ที่หมายเลข 03 9209 6777

Το μήνυμα αυτό αφορά τα δημοτικά τέλη, τον προϋπολογισμό και τις υπηρεσίες. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το TIS στο 13 14 50 και ζητήστε να μιλήσετε με τον Δήμο του Port Phillip στο 03 9209 6777

Ini adalah pesan tentang tarif, anggaran belanja dan pelayanan Pemda (Council). Untuk informasi lebih lanjut dalam bahasa Anda, silakan menelepon TIS di 13 14 50 dan minta disambungkan dengan Pemda (Council) Port Phillip di 03 9209 6777.

这是有关市政府的市政费、预算和服务的讯息。要用中文了解详情，请致电 13 14 50 联系 TIS，然后要求转接 City of Port Phillip (菲利浦港市) 的电话 03 9209 6777。

Our Budget 2024/25 reflects the many economic challenges being experienced by our City and its diverse community. Balancing the challenges of inflation and continuing service delivery with the cost-of-living pressures faced by many of our residents, this year's Budget is aimed at providing the best possible outcomes for residents now, and in years to come.

The dilemma for Council is that the costs of providing services and looking after infrastructure to the standards required by our community are growing much more than inflation and the Victorian Government's rates cap.

This year's budget continues to provide targeted relief for those who need it most as we understand that inflation and cost of living pressures, including interest rates, mean that many members of our community are doing it tough right now.

Council considered all options when crafting the Budget. Delaying key capital works or much needed public space land acquisitions for Port Phillip's growing community, however, would ultimately result in higher costs. We are also increasingly having to take on costs passed on by governments.

Despite all these challenges, careful financial management, including extra efficiency savings, has provided a strong foundation to deliver a comprehensive, balanced budget.

DIVERCITY

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP E-NEWS

Key measures in our 2024/25 Budget:

- An average rate increase of 2.75 per cent, within the rates cap and well below the 3.4 per cent forecast inflation rate. As the 2023/24 Budget's 2.8 per cent average rate rise was lower than the rates cap, this Budget's proposed rise will be calculated off last year's lower figure.
- A 2.72 per cent rise in the default waste charge to \$203.60, which follows rising waste costs being experienced by all councils.
- Efficiency savings of \$1.5 million, providing for a total of \$6.4 million in permanent savings to be delivered over this Council's four-year term.
- Project investment of \$114.3 million to maintain, grow and improve services and assets (including more than \$44.9 million for land acquisition to provide more public open space).
- Zero debt (no borrowings).
- Council-funded pensioner rates rebate increased by 4.8 per cent to \$220.
- Continuing business support offered under the Economic Recovery Package until June 2025.
- An extra \$40,000 for food relief.
- Most user fees and charges increasing 3.65 per cent, which is 0.25 per cent above forecast inflation. Some will be higher and some lower to reflect reasonable user pays charges.

Budget 2024/25 will allow us to keep delivering what makes our City so special, from key infrastructure projects and local economy boosting events and activations to the many services our residents deserve and expect.



Stay informed and keep up to date with everything you need to know from around our neighbourhoods.

Sign up to the Divercity newsletter for the latest news affecting your community, delivered straight to your inbox.

portphillip.vic.gov.au/divercity

Scan the QR code

To sign up now



Rating Strategy

As it's best practice to ensure our Rating Strategy remains relevant for our community, this year we have introduced higher differential rates for derelict and vacant land and unactivated retail land, to incentivise landowners and discourage neglect linked to safety and amenity concerns. This will assist with ensuring the timely development, use and activation of all land and property within our City.

Our rating strategy is supported by a set of principles, including:

- Rates are levied in accordance with a ratepayer's capacity to pay as measured by the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of property owned within the municipality. Rates levied are therefore directly proportional to the CIV of individual properties. Other measures such as concessions, payment deferrals and discounts to fees and charges are applied to address equity and access issues.
- Higher differential rates are set for commercial and industrial properties than residential properties due to their greater capacity to pay based on taxation benefits and higher rental yields.
- Consistent with our rating principles to manage the impacts of change, any major differential rating changes take into consideration the annual general property valuation and demographic changes as part of the budget development process.

- We do not have a municipal charge because such a charge would increase the rates burden on ratepayers who have a lower ability to pay.
- Separate waste service charge to recover the cost of waste services that are direct or private benefits (such as kerbside collections, hard waste collection, and Resource Recovery Centre operations). To ensure equitable outcomes in the community, waste charges include a mix of concessions, bin sizes and exemptions to incentivise positive behaviours.
- Special rates are levied against retail tenants in various shopping precincts and this rate income is then distributed to centralised trader associations to spend on improving the shopping strip for the benefit of all traders.
- Rate concessions are available for recreational land and pensioners. We are one of only a few councils that provide a pensioner rate rebate in addition to the Victorian Government pensioner rate rebate.

Council Plan 2021/31

Delivering our community vision

**Proudly Port Phillip:
A liveable and vibrant City
that enhances the wellbeing
of our community**

Your rates in 2024/25

Rates revenue is invested into quality services, projects to improve facilities for community and maintenance of \$3.6 billion of infrastructure. Rates and charges account for around 57 per cent (\$151 million) of our total revenue of just under \$266 million this year.

Vacant, derelict and unactivated retail land

Port Phillip applies differential rating to maintain fairness and relative consistency in the distribution of rates between property classes and a ratepayer's ability to pay.

This year, three new categories of property are subject to differential rates:

- Derelict land
- Vacant land
- Unactivated retail land
(such as vacant retail properties).

Applying higher rates to these properties will help improve the local area's vibrancy, amenity and safety, by disincentivising leaving land unused.

The rates for derelict land and unactivated retail land are 400 per cent (or four times) of residential rates; and rates for vacant land are 300 per cent (or three times) of residential rates.

Financial assistance

With increasing cost of living pressures impacting more people in our community, rates relief, payment arrangements and other resources are available to anyone experiencing financial hardship and eligible to receive assistance from Council.

These include:

- Council-funded rebates for pensioners
- Self-funded retirees are entitled to request a deferral of their rates indefinitely at a discounted interest rate, being half the official penalty interest rate set by the Victorian Government (5 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year)
- People experiencing financial hardship may also apply to access this rates deferral benefit
- A 50 per cent waiver of the general rate for housing accommodation that provides reduced rentals for older persons of limited means
- A one-off waiver of a maximum of \$750 (on application to the Chief Financial Officer) in cases of extreme financial hardship
- Support such as other rate deferrals and payment arrangements for residents and ratepayers experiencing hardship.

Additional support such as grants and financial assistance are also available for businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

Please visit our website or contact us to discuss your eligibility and what assistance might be available to you.

Got a question or having difficulty paying your rates?

📞 ASSIST 03 9209 6777

🌐 portphillip.vic.gov.au/rates-concessions-and-hardship-relief

Scan the QR code



Victorian Government Fire Levy

The Victorian Government Fire Services Property Levy is an annual levy paid by property owners via council rates to support emergency services. Council is required to collect this levy on behalf of the Victorian Government, to fund the state's fire services including equipment, vehicles, fire response, staff and volunteers, training, infrastructure and community education.

In their Budget 2024/25 the Victorian Government announced a significant increase to the Fire Levy. Whilst they have collected below statutory levels for this levy in previous years (due to funding from consolidated revenue), this year they are collecting revenue in line with the statutory parameters of the Fire Services Act, which means an increase in what Victorian ratepayers will be charged.

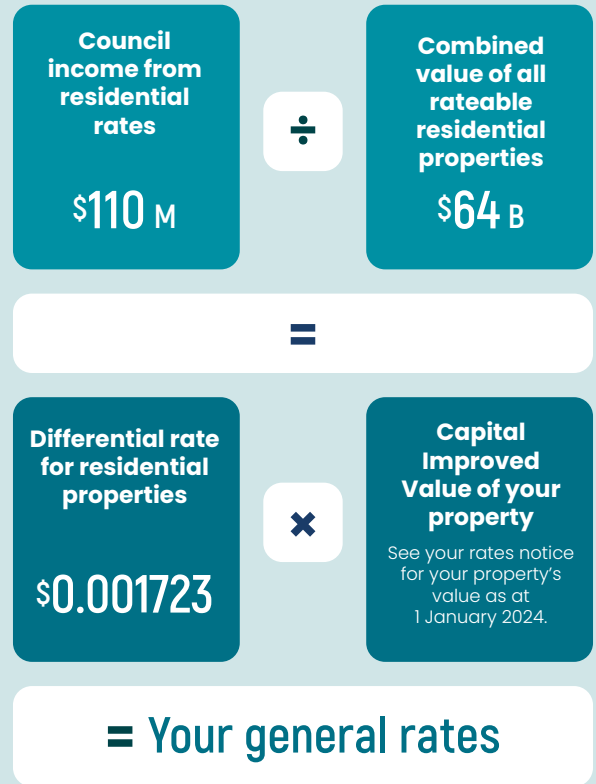
Per the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012*, the Fire Levy consists of a fixed charge and a variable percentage on Capital Improved Value (CIV).

The fixed charge will increase by 5.1 to 5.6 per cent depending on property type, and the variable charge is expected to increase by 89 per cent for residential, 18 per cent for commercial and 4 per cent for industrial properties.

For residential ratepayers, the Victorian Government's Fire Levy is expected to increase between \$30 to \$140, depending on the value and type of property.

Council's role is limited to collecting this levy on behalf of the Victorian Government. The Fire Services Levy is not a Council charge, and Council is not responsible for setting the levy as this is determined by the Victorian Government state budget.

Calculating general rates for residential properties



What else may I need to pay for?

Waste charge

Default waste charge is \$203.60.
Additional charges or rebates may apply.
Refer to the back of your rates notice for details.

**Victorian Government
Fire Services Property Levy**

[🌐 firelevy.vic.gov.au](https://firelevy.vic.gov.au)

How are rates set?

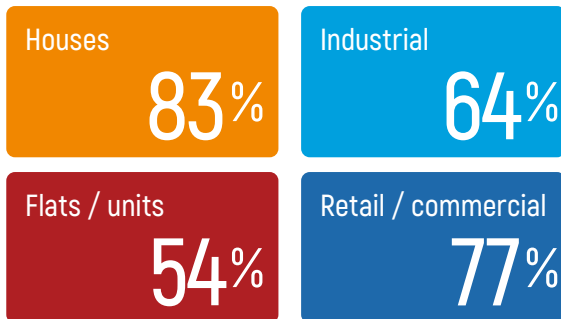
Each year the Victorian Government sets a cap that restricts how much total revenue a Council can raise from rates. This year the cap is set at **2.75 per cent**. Your rates will change depending on the valuation of your property, compared with other properties of the same type (residential, commercial or industrial).

The extra \$3.6 million of revenue from this increase will go towards continued investment in community assets, support for local businesses and our most vulnerable community members, and managing cost inflation well above the rates cap.

How do rates compare this year?

The 2.75 per cent cap does not apply to individual rates notices. How much each property owner pays is determined by the value of their property.

Per cent of property types that will see rates increase by less than 2.75 per cent



Waste charges and the Victorian Government's fire services property levy are excluded from the rates cap.

Your valuation

The value of your property is listed on your rates notice as Capital Improved Value (CIV). CIV is the approximate amount you could expect to sell your property for on the open market.

How do valuations affect my rates?

Rates are calculated based on annual property valuations as at 1 January 2024.

Change in the value of your property and all other properties of the same type (residential, commercial or industrial) will determine your rates bill.

The total amount of rates we raise will increase by 2.75 per cent. The variations in change in property values will determine the percentage change for each individual property.

How are valuations conducted?

Valuation services are carried out by independent, qualified valuers. Each stage of the valuation process is approved and certified by the Valuer-General Victoria. The general valuation on 1 January 2024 is current for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, unless your property is subject to a supplementary valuation.

The 2024 general valuation is based on market conditions at, and immediately before, 1 January 2024. For all properties, the market value of the land, excluding buildings and improvements (referred to as the Site Value - SV) is assessed during the valuation process.

Investing in our City

A small sample of the major projects, upgrades and community support initiatives we're working on across our City during the life of the Council Plan.

Major projects 2024/25

Lagoon Reserve Pavilion and Sports Field	\$3.3 M
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JL Murphy Community Pitch Synthetic Field	\$3.6 M
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Palais Theatre and Luna Park Precinct	\$1.1 M
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Public Space Expansion Strategy	\$45.9 M
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Gasworks Arts Park Upgrade	\$3.2 M
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South Melbourne Town Hall Renewal Upgrade	\$10.0M
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EcoCentre Redevelopment	\$3.3 M
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Elder Smith Netball Courts and Pavilion	\$1.8 M
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Social and economic recovery initiatives	\$0.7 M
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How rates and charges revenue will be spent

24.1%

Waste, amenity and sustainability



16.2%

Traffic and parking



14.3%

Parks and recreation



14.6%

Family and community



8.2%

Arts, culture and markets



1.9%

City planning and local laws



7.6%

Asset management



13.1%

Customer and Corporate services



Building, infrastructure and property management.

Customer service, finance, technology, human resources, governance and communications.

For a full list of how we deliver services, infrastructure and community support portphilip.vic.gov.au/council-plan

Discover what's on and what events are happening in Port Phillip



ST KILDA
WHAT'S ON
SOUTHSIDE

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our newsletter and find out where to go and what to do in St Kilda and southside.



  @whatsonstkildasouthside

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For general rates enquiries and to request a large print version

 ASSIST 03 9209 6777

 portphillip.vic.gov.au/rates-valuations

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