

# What do my rates pay for?



## From the Mayor

I'm pleased to share some of the exciting work Council will be delivering across our region in the year ahead.

This year, we're undertaking our largest-ever capital works program, with \$42.1 million allocated to new infrastructure, upgrades to existing facilities, and projects that support community wellbeing, liveability, and economic growth. Much of this work is funded by State & Federal Governments - a major win for our municipality and a testament to our strong advocacy and strategic planning.

Delivering more than 70 essential services across our municipality remains our top priority - from maintaining roads, footpaths, drainage and waste management to providing parks, playgrounds, sporting and recreation facilities, maternal and child health care and youth support. To ensure we can continue providing these vital services, our rate increase has been set at 3%, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap. This approach balances affordability for our community with the need to maintain and enhance the services that support daily life and long-term regional growth. Our focus remains firmly on building a stronger, more connected region through projects that reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

This budget reinforces our commitment to advocating for vital projects that, while not directly Council's responsibility, are essential to the future of our region.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working together to deliver for our community and keep building a vibrant, thriving region for everyone.

**Cr Stuart King**

Mayor,  
Swan Hill Rural City Council



## How have valuations changed?

Municipal property valuations are now conducted every year. The Valuer-General Victoria is responsible for all valuations.

## Rates capping

Council's rate increase for 2025/26 complies with the Victorian Government's rate cap of 3%. The cap applies to the average annual increase in rates.

The rates and charges for your property may have increased or decreased by a different amount for the following reasons:

- The valuation of your property relative to the valuation of other properties in the municipal district.
- The application of any differential rate by Council.
- The inclusion of other rates and charges not covered by the Victorian Government's rate cap.

## Payment plans and financial hardship

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates by the instalment due date/s, payment plans are available.

If you are experiencing hardship please lodge a Financial Hardship Application available on our website at [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/hardship](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/hardship) or contact the Revenue Team for a confidential discussion.

## Pay your rates in four easy instalments

You can pay your rates in four instalments using any of the payment options listed on your rates notice. You can also prepay all four instalments by 30 September 2025 or any other combination of instalments before their due dates. Payments can be made on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis between July and May, but each instalment must be paid in full by the legislated due date.



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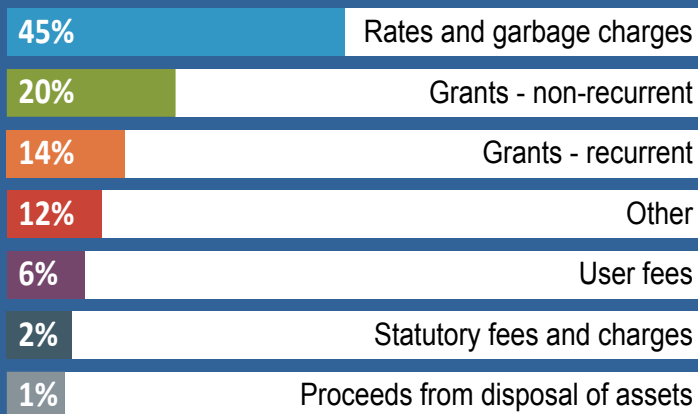
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Join the conversation at [letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

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# 2025/26 budget at a glance

Council receives funding from a number of sources and has a budgeted income of \$77.4 million in 2025/26.



## Budget highlights

- Council's average rate increase complies with the 3% rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government
- For every \$1 in rates, Council provides \$2.55 in services
- Roads and road maintenance (including external funding) has increased by \$3.1 million to a total of \$16.1 million
- Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub (construction)
- Art Gallery Redevelopment (construction)
- Robinvale Key Workers Accommodation

## Pay your rates online

Visit [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/paymyrates](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/paymyrates)

### For every \$100

#### Transport services

Maintaining over 3,480 km of roads, footpaths, signs, street cleaning, tree maintenance and the aerodrome.

i.e. Sealed roads \$11.15 million, Roads to Recovery \$2.53 million\*, Unsealed roads \$2.44 million.

\$24



#### Governance and administration

Municipal offices in Swan Hill and Robinvale, Council depots, Councillor support, media and community engagement, information technology, human resources management and procurement and contracts management.

\$10



#### Environmental and waste management

Recycling services, garbage collection, landfills, drainage and environmental management.

i.e. Landfill operations \$6.86 million, Robinvale Pump Station Drainage Upgrade \$1.3 million.

\$9



#### Economic development and marketing services

Business development and investment, regional marketing, and caravan park leasing.

i.e. Economic development and business attraction \$913,000, Information Centre and marketing \$790,000, Event Support and Community Development Funding \$748,000.

\$7



#### Pioneer Settlement

Managing, marketing, maintaining and developing this premium tourist attraction.

i.e. Completion of the Tourism Hub creating a new and exciting visitor entry and information centre.

\$5



#### Family, youth and children's services

Services and support for families, children and youth.

i.e. Maternal and child health programs \$1.65 million\*, Youth Support services \$606,000\*, After school and vacation care programs \$479,000.

\$3



\$16



#### Recreation and community facilities

Leisure Centre's, halls, parks, reserves, playgrounds, pools, sporting facilities and street beautification.

i.e. Swan Hill Showgrounds Regional Hub and Sporting Precinct, Recreation Reserve Lighting and Irrigation renewals.

\$10



#### Public health, safety and regulatory compliance

Animal control and registrations, parking, emergency management, lighting, building, planning, community health and immunisations. i.e. Building and Planning \$1.36 million, Regulatory Services \$902,000, Public Health \$703,000, Parking and school crossings \$500,000.

\$10



#### Other

Livestock exchange, residential land and housing development. i.e. Tower Hill Residential Development, Robinvale Key Workers Accommodation Development, Operation of the Regional Livestock Exchange.

\$6



#### Cultural services

Performing Arts, Libraries, Art Gallery and Indigenous Affairs. i.e. Library services \$1.43 million\*, Library collection purchases \$160,000, Completion of new Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery.

### Victorian Government Emergency Service Volunteer Fund

The Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) replaces the Fire services Property Levy. Council must collect the ESVF on behalf of the Victorian Government. Property classifications for the ESVF are based on Australian Valuation Property Classification Codes (AVPCC) set by the Valuer General Victoria. Call the ESVF support line on 1300 819 033 or visit [sro.vic.gov.au/esvf](http://sro.vic.gov.au/esvf) for more information.

\* including external funding