

# 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. We're undertaking a \$36 million capital works program, which will deliver important upgrades and improvements across our municipality. This includes road, drainage and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, continued investment in Robinvale such as CBD works, riverfront development, new worker accommodation and a new off-leash dog park, along with tourism and connectivity projects on Pental Island, upgrades to sporting and recreation facilities, improvements to public spaces and community amenity, the rollout of the FOGO kerbside service, and a range of community-led projects across our towns. In addition, your rates help fund more than 70 essential services that support everyday life, from roads, parks and waste services to libraries, maternal and child health, youth programs, environmental initiatives and community facilities. They also play a vital role in renewing and maintaining critical infrastructure and help Council attract additional State and Federal funding to deliver major projects across the region. To ensure we can continue delivering these essential services and infrastructure, the 2026/27 Budget includes a 2.75 per cent rate increase, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap. This approach balances affordability for our community with the need to maintain and invest in the services and assets that support a growing 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.



**Mayor**  
**Cr Stuart King**  
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 2026/27 complies with the Victorian Government's rate cap of 2.75%. 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:

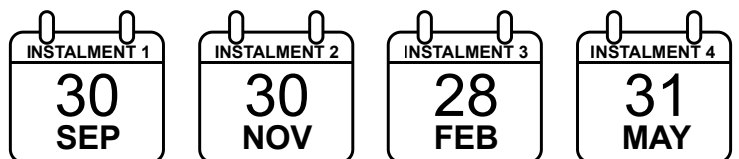
- The valuation of your property relative to the valuation of other properties in the municipal district.
- The application of any differential rate by Council.
- The inclusion of other rates and charges not covered by the Victorian Government's rate cap.

## 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 2026 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.



**Swan Hill Office**  
45 Splatt Street  
Swan Hill VIC 3585  
Phone: 03 5036 2333

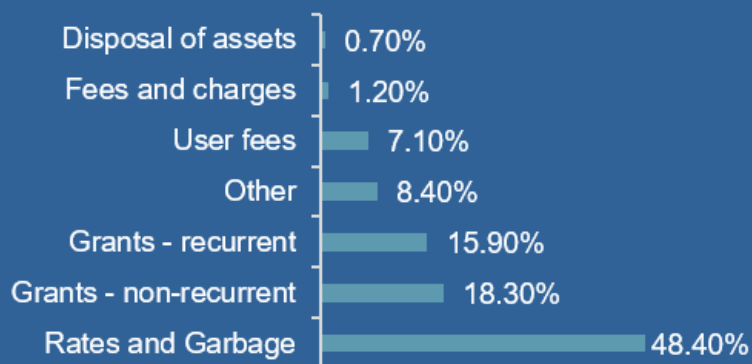
PO Box 488, Swan Hill VIC 3585  
[council@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@swanhill.vic.gov.au)  
[www.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

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

**Robinvale Office**  
68-72 Herbert Street  
Robinvale VIC 3549  
Phone: 03 5051 8000

## 2026/27 budget at a glance

Council receives funding from a number of sources and has a budgeted income of \$74.6 million in 2026/27.



## Budget Highlights

The 2026/27 Budget delivers a \$36 million capital works program, including:

- Road, drainage and stormwater upgrades (including Karinie Street and Swan Hill network works)
- Continued investment in Robinvale (CBD and riverfront works, drainage, housing and a new off-leash dog park)
- Pental Island tourism and connectivity projects, including replacement of the footbridge
- Upgrades to sporting and recreation facilities
- Public space improvements, including CBD upgrades
- Environmental initiatives, including the FOGO rollout

**Pay your rates online**

Visit [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au),  
or scan the QR code.



## For every \$100

### Roads infrastructure

Maintaining over 3,480 km of roads, footpaths, signs, street cleaning, and aerodromes.

**Total expenditure \$20.08M**

\$24



### Economic development and tourism

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

**Total expenditure \$11.83M**

\$15



### 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.

**Total expenditure \$11.18M**

\$13



### Cultural services

Performing Arts, Libraries, Art Gallery and Indigenous Affairs.

**Total expenditure \$3.66M**

\$4



### Other

Livestock exchange, residential land and housing development and management of Council owned property.

**Total expenditure \$0.98M**

\$1



\$18



### Recreation and community facilities

Leisure Centres, halls, parks, reserves, playgrounds, pools, sporting facilities and street beautification.

**Total expenditure \$15.07M**

\$13



### Public health and regulatory compliance

Animal control and registrations, parking, emergency management, lighting, building, planning, drainage, community health and immunisations.

**Total expenditure \$11.12M**

\$10



### Waste and environment

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

**Total expenditure \$8.33M**

\$2



### Family, youth and children's services

Services and support for families, children and youth.

**Total expenditure \$1.6M**

#### 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.