

# What do my rates pay for?

## From the Mayor

Council has worked hard this year to keep rate increases at an average of 1.47 per cent in 2021/22 and we continue our focus of striving for efficiency in our operations, while delivering high-quality services and facilities to the community.

Our community has had continued challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 and 2021. We are working hard to deliver services to a high standard in this constantly changing environment.

We have put together a comprehensive budget for 2021/22.

Our capital works program focuses on infrastructure creation and replacement, with \$7.88 million for road works as well as a number of major projects.

These include the Ronald Street housing development in Robinvale, Swan Hill Regional Soccer Hub, Our Place project and Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum carpark upgrade.

Our budget includes an increase in the differential rate paid by owners of vacant residential land in Swan Hill and Robinvale. It is targeted at Swan Hill and Robinvale where there is a shortage of residential land available for development. They are also in the locations with the greatest shortage in housing supply. It only comes into effect once that vacant land had been under the same ownership for three years.

Due to the increasing cost to process recycling, rubbish and recycling collection

charges will also increase – to \$343 for a 120-litre garbage bin and \$520 for a 240-litre garbage bin. The green waste collection charge will stay at \$95 for those who opt in.

Please look through the information in this flyer to learn more about the services that we deliver.

You can keep up to date on services and projects by visiting [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au) or by following our Facebook page.



Cr Bill Moar  
Mayor, Swan Hill Rural City Council

## How have valuations changed?

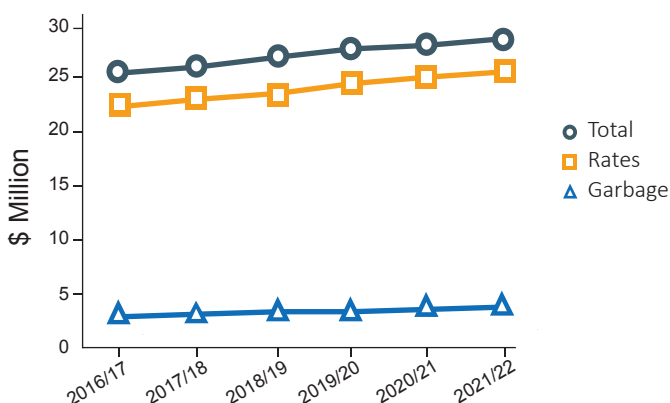
Municipal property valuations are now conducted every year. The Valuer-General Victoria is responsible for all valuations.

## Financial hardship

Should you be experiencing difficulty in making payments due to COVID-19, please lodge a financial hardship application available on our website at [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/hardship](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/hardship)

## Trends in rates and charges levied

The following graph shows total rates and garbage charges raised by Council each year since 2016/17.



## Rates capping

Council's rate increase for 2021/22 is 1.47 per cent, which is lower than the Victorian Government's rates cap of 1.5 per cent. 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 rates cap.

## Pay your rates in four easy instalments

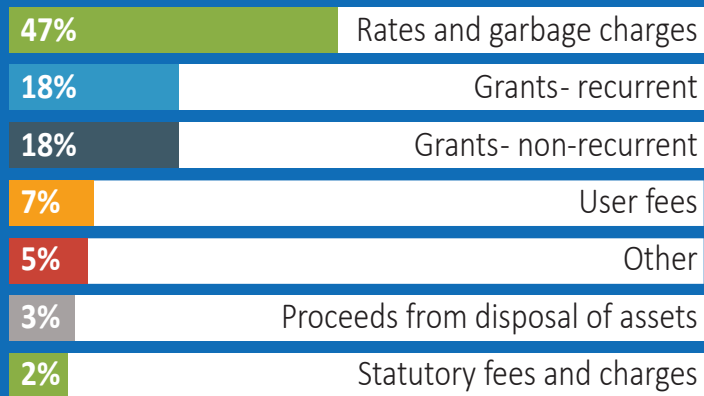
You can pay your rates in four instalments using any of the payment options listed on your rates notice.

The total amount outstanding can be paid at any time provided the set instalment amounts and dates are met.



# 2021/22 budget at a glance

Council receives funding from a number of sources and has a budgeted income of over \$63.7 million in 2021/22.



# Budget highlights

- Council's average rate increase is 1.47 per cent, which is lower than the 1.5 per cent rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government. The lower increase still maintains current service levels and provides for infrastructure, maintenance and replacement.
- **For every \$1 in rates, Council provides \$2.61 in services.**
- Roads and road maintenance (including external funding) \$8.4 million.
- Our Region Our Rivers projects \$7.8 million, including work on the new Swan Hill Gallery and Interpretive Centre.
- Aerodrome renewal works \$2.4 million.

## For every \$100

Swan Hill Rural City Council spends in 2021/22.



\* including external funding