



**Delivering services,
infrastructure and
community support**

2025/26

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 และบริการต่าง ๆ 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。

Rates 2025/26

In 2025/26, we're continuing to invest in essential services, infrastructure, and community priorities, whilst navigating significant financial challenges.

A key change this year is the introduction of the Victorian Government's Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), which replaces the Fire Services Property Levy.

This levy is set by the Victorian Government, and Council is required to collect it on their behalf. The full amount is passed directly to the Victorian Government. We are concerned that the ESVF will have significant financial impact on ratepayers, with increases of up to 57 per cent.

In an environment marked by external cost pressures – including state-imposed levies and inflation – we remain committed to financial sustainability, delivering more than \$137 million in cumulative savings since 2016/17, and continuing to provide support through targeted rebates and waivers for those experiencing financial hardship.

Your rates will help fund more than \$93 million in projects this year, from upgrading childcare centres and revitalising South Melbourne Market to expanding open space and improving pedestrian infrastructure.

Read on for more information on how rates are calculated, where your money goes, and how we're working to build a stronger, safer, and more connected community in Port Phillip.

Victorian Government Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund

The Victorian Government Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) replaced the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) on 1 July 2025.

The ESVF Levy is not a Council charge, and we are not responsible for setting the levy. This is effectively a state government tax determined by the Victorian Government state budget.

The ESVF is an annual levy paid by property owners via council rates notice to support emergency services. Council is required to collect this levy on behalf of the Victorian Government, to help support a broader range of emergency services including VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority and Fire Rescue Victoria.

This legislative change will have significant financial impact on our community and council.

The ESVF levy will raise approximately \$37.7 million in 2025/26, up from \$24 million in 2024/25 (FSPL). This means our community is obliged to contribute an additional \$13.7 million, which is a 57 per cent increase.

This is significantly more than the rates cap of 3 per cent, which will raise \$4.1 million for Council services and infrastructure.

The ESVF levy consists of a fixed charge and a variable rate based on the Capital Improved Value of your property. A comparison of current FSPL and ESVF rates for 2025/26 is outlined in the table below.

The fixed charge will increase by 3 to 3.4 per cent depending on property type, and the variable charge will increase by 98.9 per cent for residential, 100.3 per cent for commercial and 64 per cent for industrial properties.

We are very concerned to see that the impact on individual households is profound:

- A **\$500,000 apartment** will see its levy rise from **\$175.50 to \$222.50**, a \$47.00 or **27 per cent increase**.
- A **\$1.7 million detached house** will see its levy rise from **\$279.90 to \$430.10**, a \$150.20 or **54 per cent increase**.

More information

- ☎ 1300 819 033 (ESVF support line)
- 🌐 sro.vic.gov.au/esvf (General enquiries)
- 📧 service.vic.gov.au/evrs (Volunteers rebate enquiries)

PROPERTY TYPE	FSPL RATES		ESVF RATE		INCREASE %	
	Fixed \$	Variable	Fixed \$	Variable	Fixed	Variable
Residential	132	0.000087	136	0.000173	3.0%	98.9%
Commercial	267	0.000664	275	0.001330	3.0%	100.3%
Industrial	267	0.000811	275	0.001330	3.0%	64.0%
Vacant*	267	0.000290	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Benefit	267	0.000057	275	0.000057	3.0%	0.0%

* For ESVF, the vacant land category has been abolished and reallocated to existing property types.

Plan for Port Phillip

The Plan for Port Phillip and Budget 2025/26 reflect the priorities we heard during extensive community consultation and from our community panel and Councillors.

There were many consistent themes that we have embedded into the plan, which is our roadmap for serving our community, both now and for years to come. These themes include:



Community safety

The budget includes an additional \$250,000 to fund new actions arising from the community roundtable and the updated Community Safety Plan. We've also increased funding to provide an additional local laws officer and are investing in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) initiatives.



Community connection and cohesion

Additional \$250,000 to fund activities addressing loneliness and isolation, social connection and combating discrimination and racism and anti-Semitism including \$60,000 to fast track the delivery of the Multicultural Strategy. There's also a \$1.2 million allocation for affordable housing to be provided over two years, pending development of the updated housing and homelessness strategy.



Improved amenity

Additional \$200,000 to uplift city amenity, including increased street cleaning and pressure washing of main streets across Port Phillip, and an extra \$9 million over the next decade towards improving roads and local infrastructure.



Events and festivals

Consolidation of St Kilda Festival to enable an additional \$450,000 to be invested in arts and community strengthening initiatives. These may include increased grant opportunities and greater prioritisation of events and activations happening across the municipality.



Greener City, including access to open space

Additional \$400,000 to improve greening throughout the City, including development of urban forest precinct plans, and an extra \$4.5 million for the demolition and remediation of the newly acquired Sandridge public open space. Additional \$3 million for open space development in Lakeside Ward.

Budget 2025/26

Financial sustainability is a key objective of Budget 2025/26 and 10-year plan, as a sound financial base to continue to deliver valued services to our community. The budget ensures Council will stay financially sustainable while maintaining assets and services, responding to growth, and delivering on the priorities of Council and our community.

The 3 per cent average general rates increase is in line with this year's rates cap. Over the past four years, the Victorian Government's rates cap has been set significantly below inflation, which has put pressure on Council's ability to fund and deliver services. This is exacerbated by government cost shifting – via a congestion levy, landfill levy, and WorkCover – and insurance and inflationary pressures, combining to place additional pressure on our budget. Despite this, the budget maintains an ongoing efficiency target.

A key element of Budget 2025/26 is efficiency savings of \$0.84 million. This adds to \$6.9 million of savings delivered over the four budgets of the previous Council. Cumulative compounded savings since the introduction of rates capping in 2016/17 exceed \$137 million.

Revenue from rates is invested into quality services and projects to improve facilities for our community and to support maintenance of \$3.4 billion of infrastructure. Rates and charges account for around 55 per cent (\$159 million) of our total revenue of just under \$289 million this year.

Community assets

Budget 2025/26 includes a total project portfolio of \$93.5 million (\$12.5 million operating projects and \$81 million capital projects) to maintain, grow and improve services and assets, including:

- Continued investment at South Melbourne Town Hall, Lagoon Reserve and Sandridge Recreation Precinct, delivery of the Elwood Masterplan, and the upgrade of six childcare centres
- Major investment in the South Melbourne Market
- New and increased investments and initiatives including renewing Council's local roads, rain gardens, lighting, additional greening and safety initiatives, and footpath expansion
- Continued investment in developing new open space including the development of the recently acquired land in Fishermans Bend for the Sandridge Recreation Precinct
- Additional provision to fund affordable housing in Port Phillip
- Funding for master planning Council investments in Ripponlea, development of open space in Lakeside Ward, and update planning controls for the Balaclava supermarket site.

Our Community Vision

**A liveable and vibrant city
that enhances community
connection and wellbeing**

Rates and valuations

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 3 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 \$4.1 million of revenue from this increase is essential to ensure that Council stays financially sustainable while maintaining assets and services, responding to growth, and delivering on the priorities of Council and our community.

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 2025.

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 3 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 2025 is current for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, unless your property is subject to a supplementary valuation.

The 2025 general valuation is based on market conditions at, and immediately before, 1 January 2025. 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.

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 who's eligible to receive Council assistance.

These may include rebates, deferrals and waivers for eligible households. Please visit our website or contact us to discuss your eligibility and what assistance might be available to you.

Investing in our City - 2025/26 Projects

Albert Park Ward

- ▶ Catani Gardens irrigation upgrade
- ▶ Danks Street biolink
- ▶ Gasworks Arts Park park upgrade
- ▶ Langridge Street–Patterson Street traffic safety upgrade
- ▶ Mary Street–Park Street safety improvement
- ▶ Mills Street school crossing upgrade
- ▶ Pickles Street water sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- ▶ Richardson Street corridor analysis

Alma Ward

- ▶ Alma Park East multi-purpose court
- ▶ Alma Park sportsground lighting
- ▶ Argyle Street road and footpath construction
- ▶ Small Parks Program, including Marriott Street, Kalymna Grove and Lansdowne Road

Balaclava Ward

- ▶ Mitford–Dickens Street road safety upgrade
- ▶ Nightingale Street pedestrian crossing
- ▶ Ripponlea Place Plan
- ▶ Small Parks Program - Pakington Street Reserve
- ▶ Community Garden - Hewison Reserve

Elwood Ward

- ▶ Elwood foreshore facilities development
- ▶ Mitford–Dickens Street road safety upgrade

Lakeside Ward

- ▶ Albert Park Tennis and Hockey Club joint venture lighting renewal
- ▶ Argyle Street road and footpath construction
- ▶ Queens Lane pedestrian improvements

Montague Ward

- ▶ Johnson Street Park development
- ▶ Pickles Street permanent safety improvement
- ▶ Pickles Street water sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- ▶ Port Melbourne Town Hall auditorium HVAC renewal
- ▶ Richardson Street corridor analysis
- ▶ Sol Green Reserve upgrade

Port Melbourne Ward

- ▶ Beacon Cove boat landing upgrade
- ▶ Lagoon Reserve pavilion and park improvements
- ▶ Pickles Street water sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- ▶ Port Melbourne Life Saving Club
- ▶ RF Julier pavilion upgrade feasibility
- ▶ Sandridge Bay Trail safety upgrade

South Melbourne Ward

- ▶ Albert Park Bowls Club pavilion upgrade
- ▶ Amendment C219port (South Melbourne Structure Plan implementation)
- ▶ Emerald Hill Library upgrade
- ▶ Park Street Bike Link
- ▶ Park Street road construction
- ▶ South Melbourne Market renewal works
- ▶ St Vincent Gardens playgrounds

St Kilda Ward

- ▶ Acland Street Plaza greening
- ▶ Jackson Street footpath construction
- ▶ Mary Street–Park Street safety improvement
- ▶ Mitford–Dickens Street road safety upgrade
- ▶ Palais Theatre renewal
- ▶ Pumpkin Lane laneway upgrade

How rates and charges revenue will be spent

We deliver a broad range of services for our community. While some of these services generate minimal income and rely on external grants, they play a vital role in community wellbeing.

The income from these sources, along with revenue generated from rates, fees and charges, is invested in these services and infrastructure projects across Port Phillip.

For every \$100 of rates and charges revenue spent in 2025/26:

\$13.66 Public space	\$9.99 Waste management	\$9.15* Arts and culture
\$6.41 Asset and property management	\$6.01 Road management	\$5.24 City planning and urban design
\$3.48 Urban greening	\$3.35 Libraries	\$2.72 People, culture and safety
\$2.00 Environmental sustainability	\$1.67 Flood and water management	\$1.63 Customer experience

* Includes South Melbourne Town Hall refurbishment in partnership with Australian National Academy of Music.

^ Includes Council's corporate and financial systems, information infrastructure, and staff to support this critical service.

These services generate income and do not require rates funding.

\$1.11 Ageing and accessibility	\$0.94 Communications	\$0.87 Maternal and child health
\$0.43 South Melbourne Market	\$0.29 Municipal emergency management	\$0.19 Advocacy
\$8.28^ Technology	\$7.80 City amenity	\$6.85 Sport and recreation
\$4.94 Active and public transport	\$4.70 Children's services	\$4.39 Governance
\$2.55 Community building and inclusion	\$2.31 Festivals and events	\$2.13 Families and young people
\$1.58 Community safety	\$1.33 Affordable housing and homelessness	\$1.13 Economic development
\$0.80 Project governance and delivery	\$0.53 Community engagement	\$0.48 Health
(\$0.31)# Development and approvals compliance	(\$5.21)# Finance	(\$0.48)# Parking management

DIVERCITY

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP E-NEWS

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