

# What do my rates pay for?

## From the Mayor

In 2023/24 Council will continue to provide high-quality services and facilities to our community.

Last year was a busy year of projects. A rate increase of 3.5% will ensure that we can continue our focus of striving for efficient, high-quality services and facilities, strong financial management and a superior capital works program.

It's an exciting time for our Local Government with many projects on the horizon or set to commence soon, including:

- Robinvale Leisure Centre Splash Park
- Centenary Park Nature Play Precinct
- Art Gallery redevelopment Cultural and Tourism Hub development

- Waste management site compliance and improvements
- Empower Youth Initiative
- Swan Hill Stormwater Model and Strategy
- Street lighting upgrades
- Robinvale Skate Park

We have much more in the pipeline, from initiatives to enhance our Maternal Child and Health services, a tree planting program, an extensive capital works schedule for Council's road networks and the popular community and events grant programs.

I encourage you to please look through the

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

We are proud of the projects and services we have delivered over the past 12 months and we cannot wait to continue to grow and enhance our wonderful region in the coming year.

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 Les McPhee  
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 2023/24 complies with the Victorian Government's rate cap of 3.5 percent. 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.

## 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. Full or part 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.



**Your Council. Your Voice.**  
JOIN THE CONVERSATION.  
[letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au)  
Email: [council@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@swanhill.vic.gov.au)

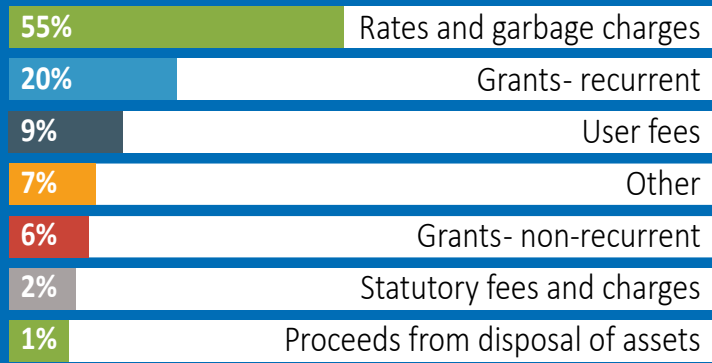


Robinvale Resource Centre  
68-72 Herbert Street, Robinvale. Victoria 3549  
Phone: (03) 5051 8000

Swan Hill Business Centre  
45 Splatt Street, Swan Hill. Victoria 3585  
Phone: (03) 5036 2333

# 2023/24 budget at a glance

Council receives funding from a number of sources and has a budgeted income of almost \$59 million in 2023/24.



# Budget highlights

- Council's average rate increase complies with the 3.5% rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government.
- **For every \$1 in rates, Council provides \$2.76 in services.**
- Roads and road maintenance (including external funding) \$9.1 million.
- Construction of the Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub \$5.0 million.
- Robinvale Centenary Park Nature Play Precinct and Skate Park \$1.7 million.

## For every \$100

For every \$1 raised in rates, Council provides \$2.76 in services\*



### Transport services

Maintaining over 3,650km of roads, footpaths, signs, street cleaning, tree maintenance and the aerodrome. i.e. Sealed roads \$5.17 million, Unsealed roads \$2.13 million, Roads to Recovery \$1.44 million\*.

### Governance and administration

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

### Public health, safety and regulatory compliance

Animal control and registrations, parking, immunisations, emergency management, lighting, building, planning and community health. i.e. Building and Planning \$1.30 million, Regulatory Services \$609,000, Public Health \$560,000, Parking and school crossings \$415,000.

### Economic development and marketing services

Business development and investment, marketing of the region and leases of caravan parks. i.e. Information Centre and marketing \$650,000, Economic development and business attraction \$650,000, Event Support and Community Development Funding \$361,000.

### Community care

Domestic assistance and property maintenance for our seniors. i.e Home care in the municipality \$2.32 million\*, Social support planned activities \$160,000.

### Environmental and waste management

Recycling services, garbage collection, landfills, drainage and environmental management. i.e Landfill operations \$6.75 million, Establish compost Facility \$1.56 million, Roadside weeds and pest management \$75,000.

### Recreation and community facilities

Halls, parks, reserves, playgrounds, pools, sporting facilities and street beautification. i.e. Robinvale Leisure Centre splash park \$500,000, Centenary Park Robinvale Nature Play Precinct \$1.39 million, Robinvale Skate Park \$295,000.

### Pioneer Settlement

Managing, marketing, maintaining and developing this premium tourist attraction. i.e. Net Cost to Council \$746,000.

### Cultural services

Performing Arts, Libraries, Art Gallery and Indigenous Affairs. i.e. Library services \$1.29 million\*, Library collection purchases \$168,000, Host Fairfax Festival \$156,000\*, Under the Stars event \$110,000.

### Family, youth and children's services

Services and support for families, children and youth. i.e. Children's services \$2.60 million\*, Empower Youth Initiative \$210,000\*, Youth Council \$35,000.

### Other

Livestock exchange, Tower Hill Residential Development, Regional Growth Fund projects. i.e. Art Gallery redevelopment \$6.65 million\*, Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub \$5.0 million\*, Tower Hill Residential Development \$1.45 million, Livestock exchange \$563,000.