

# What do my rates pay for?



## From the Mayor

Council will continue to provide high-quality, infrastructure, facilities and services to our community, in the 2024/25 financial year.

In line with the Victorian Government rate cap, Council has adopted a rate increase of 2.75%. This is significantly less than CPI, other cost of living indexes, and the increases in costs to the delivery of projects and services. However, Council will ensure that we continue our focus of striving for efficient, high-quality services and facilities, strong financial management and a superior capital works program.

We are set to embark on several exciting projects, in the coming year including:

- Pental Island – Pioneer Settlement Pedestrian Bridge replacement
- “Ten Steps” replacement
- Robinvale Terrace Wharf project
- Swan Hill Art Gallery redevelopment
- Swan Hill Cultural and Tourism Hub construction
- Ultima Compost Facility establishment - Stage 2
- Nyah Cricket Practice Nets and Community Event space
- Robinvale drainage works - Stage 2
- Tower Hill Residential Development - Stage 16
- Swan Hill Recreation Reserve master planning
- Sealed and unsealed road renewal works
- Karinie Street reconstruction
- Renewal works to community buildings
- Continued funding for Riverfront Masterplan projects

We look forward to working alongside our communities and enhancing our thriving municipality and wonderful region in the coming year.

**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 2024/25 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 2024 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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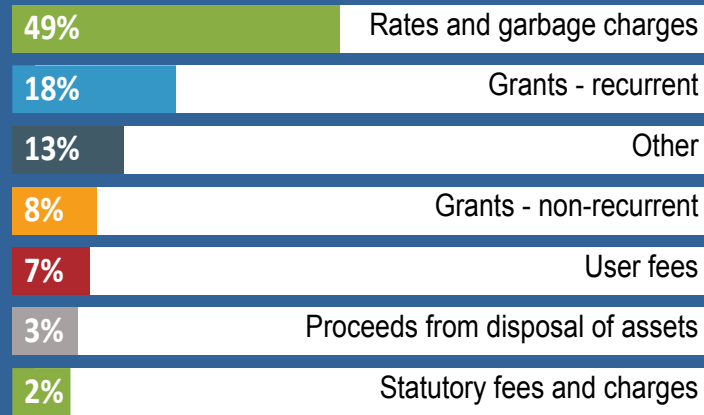
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Join the conversation at [letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

# 2024/25 budget at a glance

Council receives funding from a number of sources and has a budgeted income of \$67.7 million in 2024/25.



# Budget highlights

- Council's average rate increase complies with the 2.75% rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government
- For every \$1 in rates, Council provides \$2.41 in services
- Roads and road maintenance (including external funding) has increased by \$3.8 million to a total of \$12.9 million
- Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub (construction)
- Art Gallery Redevelopment (construction)
- Compost Facility establishment

## For every \$100

### Transport services

Maintaining over 3,650km of roads, footpaths, signs, street cleaning, tree maintenance and the aerodrome.  
i.e. Sealed roads \$9.23 million, Unsealed roads \$2.23 million, Roads to Recovery \$1.50 million\*

**\$24**



### Environmental and waste management

Recycling services, garbage collection, landfills, drainage and environmental management.  
i.e. Landfill operations \$5.82 million, Ultima Compost Facility (establishment- Stage 2) \$1.48 million\*, Roadside weeds and pest management \$85,000.

**\$10**



### 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 \$1.46 million, Public Health \$633,000, Regulatory Services \$581,000, Parking and school crossings \$474,000.

**\$8**



### Pioneer Settlement

Managing, marketing, maintaining and developing this premium tourist attraction.  
i.e. Net operating cost to Council \$833,000.

**\$4**



### Cultural services

Performing Arts, Libraries, Art Gallery and Indigenous Affairs.  
i.e. Library services \$1.28 million\*, Library collection purchases \$171,000, Fairfax Festival contribution \$30,000, Under the Stars event \$110,000.

**\$4**



### Other

Livestock exchange, Tower Hill Residential Development, Regional Growth Fund projects.  
i.e. Art Gallery redevelopment\*, Tourism and Cultural Hub construction\*, Tower Hill Residential Development.

**\$20**



### 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.

**\$11**



### Recreation and community facilities

Halls, parks, reserves, playgrounds, pools, sporting facilities and street beautification.  
i.e. Nyah Community Centre changeroom renewal\*, Lake Boga Sporting Complex Pavilion redevelopment.

**\$9**



### Economic development and marketing services

Business development and investment, marketing of the region and leases of caravan parks.  
i.e. Economic development and business attraction \$942,000, Information Centre and marketing \$673,000, Event Support and Community Development Funding \$577,000.

**\$7**



### Family, youth and children's services

Services and support for families, children and youth.  
i.e. Maternal and child health programs \$1.59 million\*, After school and vacation care programs \$493,000, Youth Support services \$644,000\*.

**\$3**



### Property numbering

Street numbers are vital for property identification purposes, particularly for Police, Fire, Ambulance and SES to locate and access properties in emergency situations.

Please ensure that your property can be easily located by having clear, unobstructed numbering affixed to your house, business, fence line or other prominent location.

\* including external funding