



## A snapshot of this year's budget

- A **\$35.6 million** capital works program comprising **\$15.2 million** for building projects, including the North Fitzroy Community Hub, GTV9 community centre in Richmond, Gold Street Child Care Centre and refurbishment of the Richmond Town Hall reception area to improve accessibility
- **\$8.6 million** for more than 100 road, footpath, drainage and tree root management projects
- **\$4.5 million** for more than 20 parks and open space projects
- **\$2 million** in community grants to support local not-for-profit projects
- **\$250,000** for the planning and management of special events in local parks over New Year's Eve and Australia Day
- **\$100,000** for new lighting in Edinburgh Gardens
- **\$25,000** to establish a Live Music Acoustic Fund that will assist local live music venues to respond to issues associated with the operation of venues in Yarra. It is anticipated that the fund will operate in close collaboration with Music Victoria.

## FREE\* Swim or Gym Voucher

This voucher entitles you to a free family or individual swim session, or an individual gym entry at one of Council's leisure facilities.

- **Fitzroy Swimming Pool** Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy 9205 5180
- **Richmond Recreation Centre** Gleadell Street, Richmond 9205 5032
- **Collingwood Leisure Centre** cnr Turnbull and Hoddle streets, Clifton Hill 9205 5522

Offer expires 30 June 2015 \*only valid on presentation of original voucher



## Paying your rates

You can pay your rates:

- In full as one payment – due by Monday 16 February 2015
- In quarterly instalments by the following dates:  
First instalment – Tuesday 30 September 2014  
Second instalment – Monday 1 December 2014  
Third instalment – Monday 2 March 2015  
Fourth instalment – Monday 1 June 2015
- In 10 monthly instalments on the 15th of the month (or next business day), starting in September 2014 and ending in June 2015. This form of payment can only be made by direct debit.

## Payment methods

### Direct Debit – Quarterly and Monthly Instalments

Quarterly and monthly instalments can be made by direct debit.

To choose this option, you must fill out the direct debit request form. To request the form, call Council on 9205 5025 or visit [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/how-to-pay/](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/how-to-pay/)

This form must be submitted by Wednesday 10 September 2014.

Your rates will then automatically be debited from your bank account on the day they fall due.

**Please note:** if you made payments by direct debit last year and wish to do so again, you do not need to fill out a form.

We will continue to debit your account, until you advise us otherwise in writing.



## Other payment methods -

### Payment in full and quarterly instalments

Payment in full and quarterly instalments can be made using the following methods:

- Over the counter at any post office, at Richmond Town Hall (333 Bridge Road, Richmond) or at Collingwood Town Hall (140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford).
- By mail using the enclosed envelope
- By Post Billpay over the telephone or internet
- By BPay over the telephone or internet
- By Yarra ePay credit card, telephone or internet payments.

## Pensioner rebates

Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Gold Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to War Widows or Totally/Permanently Incapacitated Veterans are eligible for a \$160 Council rebate on their rates for their principal place of residence.

This rebate is in addition to the State Government rebate of \$208.

For more details, please contact Council's Rates Department on 9205 5406.

## Financial hardship

If you're experiencing difficulty paying your rates, please call Council's Rates Department on 9205 5406 as soon as possible to discuss an alternative payment arrangement.



FOR INFORMATION IN YOUR LANGUAGE ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT OR ABOUT COUNCIL, PLEASE CALL 9280 1940 AND QUOTE THE REF NUMBER BELOW.

### ARABIC

للمعلومات باللغة العربية، حول هذا المستند أو عن المجلس البلدي، نرجو الإتصال هاتفياً على الرقم 9280 1930 وأنكر رقم المرجع REF المذكور أدناه.

### CANTONESE

欲知有關本文檔或議會的粵語版本資訊，請致電9280 1932並報上下列REF號碼。

### GREEK

ΓΙΑ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ ΣΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΣΧΕΤΙΚΕΣ ΜΕ ΑΥΤΟ ΤΟ ΈΓΓΡΑΦΟ Ή ΤΗ ΔΗΜΑΡΧΙΑ, ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΟΥΜΕ ΚΑΛΕΣΤΕ ΤΟ 9280 1934 ΚΑΙ ΑΝΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΙΘΜΟ REF ΠΑΡΑΚΑΤΩ.

### ITALIAN

PER AVERE INFORMAZIONI IN ITALIANO SU QUESTO DOCUMENTO O SUL COMUNE, SI PREGA CHIAMARE IL NUMERO 9280 1931 E CITARE IL NUMERO DI RIFERIMENTO (REF NUMBER) SOTTOINDICATO.

### MANDARIN

欲知有关本文档或议会的普通话版本信息，请致电9280 1937并报上下列REF号码。

### SPANISH

PARA INFORMACIÓN EN CASTELLANO SOBRE ESTE DOCUMENTO O SOBRE EL AYUNTAMIENTO, LLAME AL 9280 1935 Y CITE EL NÚMERO DE REF DE MÁS ADELANTE.

### VIETNAMESE

ĐỂ BIẾT THÔNG TIN BẰNG TIẾNG VIỆT VỀ TÀI LIỆU NÀY HAY VỀ HỘI ĐỒNG, XIN HÃY GỌI SỐ 9280 1939 VÀ NÊU SỐ REF DƯỚI ĐÂY.

## REF 14074

**Yarra City Council** PO Box 168 Richmond VIC 3121  
**Collingwood Town Hall** 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford  
**Richmond Town Hall** 333 Bridge Road, Richmond

**T** 9205 5555 **F** 8417 6666 **TTY** 133 677 then 9205 5555  
**E** [info@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@yarracity.vic.gov.au) **W** [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au)

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For a large print version call 9205 5042.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.



## Yarra City Council Rates

Your investment in your community  
2014/15





## Mayor's Message

Your rates represent a vital investment in local services and facilities that benefit our community today and into the future.

The value of rates can be seen around Yarra every day – in the 30,000 rubbish bins emptied each week, the 13,000 metres of footpath upgraded each year, or the 360 kindergarten places that cater to our growing number of families with children.

Your rates also help create new community assets. This year, Council will spend \$15.2 million on a range of exciting building projects, including the North Fitzroy Community Hub (incorporating a library and maternal and child health centre), a new community facility in the former Channel 9 site in Richmond, and the redevelopment of the Gold Street Child Care Centre in Collingwood.

As our residential population soars, protecting and enhancing Yarra's liveability continues to be a key priority for Council. Your contribution helps fund projects that improve the daily experience of living in Yarra, such as upgrades to our local road and bike path network and improvements to open space. This year, we will transform a disused freeway ramp in Richmond into a beautiful new park.

We have also established initiatives to support Yarra's thriving music and arts scene.

Providing essential services and investing in infrastructure, while keeping rates at an affordable level, requires considerable balancing and reorganisation of priorities by Council. This year, rates will rise by an average of 5.4% to meet the cost of keeping Yarra running.

I invite you to read further information in this brochure about how Council invests your rates to meet the diverse needs of our community.

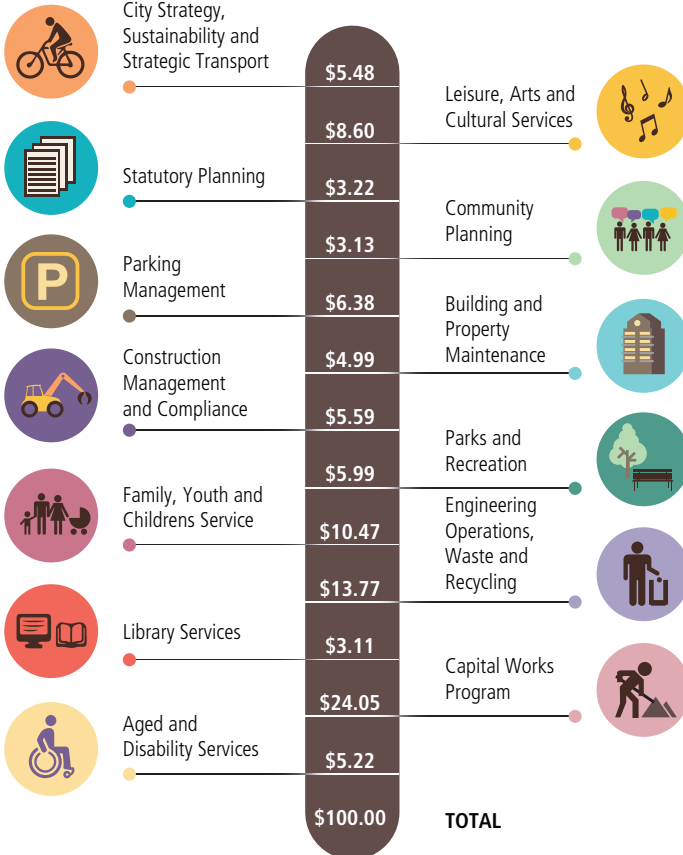
*Cr Jackie Fristacky*

Cr Jackie Fristacky  
Mayor, City of Yarra

## What services do my rates pay for?

Your rates are distributed across a range of community services.

### EVERY \$100 OF RATES REVENUE IS INVESTED IN...



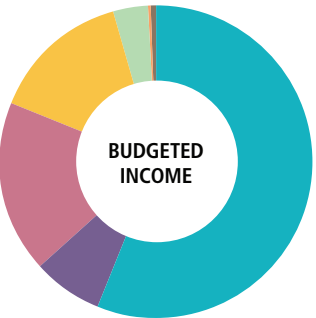
*\*Please note*, this illustration is a guide only. Internal functions, such as finance, governance, customer service and communications were divided equally between each service for the purpose of this exercise.

## Our budget

Council's budget provides for a total income of \$162 million, of which \$91.5 million or 56% comes from rates.

The remainder is from fees and charges, parking revenue, government grants and interest from investments.

BUDGETED INCOME		
2014/15	\$,000	%
Rate Revenue	\$91,458	56.37%
Government Grants	\$11,488	7.08%
Parking Revenue	\$29,059	17.91%
Charges, Fees and Other Fines	\$23,417	14.43%
Reimbursements and Contributions	\$5,653	3.48%
Net gain on sale of assets	\$450	0.28%
Interest on Investments	\$722	0.45%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$162,247</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Calculating your rates

Each year, Council considers how much money it needs to deliver all services, manage assets, improve local infrastructure and carry out local government functions.

This amount is then divided among property owners to be paid in rates.

This year, Council decided to increase its general rate revenue (rates charged to property owners) by 5.4% to \$89 million to meet the needs of municipality.

*Please note, this figure does not include income from new properties, interest and other charges. This additional income brings Council's total rates revenue to \$91.5 million (see the Budgeted Income table).*

The general rates revenue of \$89 million is divided by the total value of properties to give the 'rate in the dollar'. The rate in the dollar for the 2014/15 year is 0.04423.

To calculate your rates, Council works out the Net Annual Value (NAV) of your property. The Net Annual Value is fixed by state legislation to be 5% of the Capital Improved Value (CIV) for residential properties (see example to the right).

The amount for commercial or industrial properties is not set but must be a minimum of 5%. The NAV is then multiplied by the rate in the dollar.

## Revaluations

Council is required by the State Government to revalue properties ever two years. Property values in Yarra were reassessed at 1 January 2014.

Properties in Yarra increased by an average of 7.95% between 2012 – 2014.

Property revaluations do not increase the total amount of rate revenue collected by Council. Rather the revaluations reallocate each ratepayer's contribution based on their property value.

Owners of properties that increased in value above the average will be required to make a higher contribution to the rates that Council collects. Conversely, owners of properties with below average increases in value will receive below average increases in their rates or, in some cases, actual decreases.

## Example

Ms Smith's property was revalued by Council and the value of her property increased from \$650,000 to \$700,000

Therefore: 5% of \$700,000 (CIV) = \$35,000 (NAV)  
\$35,000 (NAV) x 0.04423 (new rate in the dollar)  
Rates Bill = \$1,548.05  
(compared to \$1,482.33 in 2013/14, when her property was valued at \$650,000 and the rate in the dollar was 0.04561).

Ms Smith's rates have therefore increased by 4.45%.

Ms Smith's rates increased by less than the 5.4% rate increase because her property increased in value below the average 7.95% valuation increase.

## Objecting to your valuation

Under the Valuation of Land Act, you have two months from the date of issue on your rates notice to object to the valuation of your property.

To object to your valuation, please contact Council's Valuations Unit on 9205 5271 or at [info@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

If your issue cannot be resolved, Council will provide you with the objection form prescribed under the Valuation of Land Act.

If you object to a valuation you must still pay your rates by the due date.

## Fire Services Levy

Your rates notice includes a Fire Services Levy.

Councils have been directed by the State Government to collect the levy, which was previously charged through insurance premiums.

The Fire Services Levy is not a Council charge for Council services.