

# Budget & Rates

## Back in the black

### Valuation

A property valuation is required under the State Government Land Act (1960) every two years. This rate notice is based on valuation levels determined by the market on January 1, 2010. The next General Valuation will be conducted using levels set as at January 1, 2012.

A General Valuation does not increase or decrease revenue for Council. It establishes the value of property relative to all other properties within the municipality, which is used to distribute the rate burden in a fair and equitable manner.

### Rates and budget

In determining the level of rate income, Council carefully considers

- the long-term vision, aspirations and needs of the community
- capital works and services required throughout the year
- all sources of non-rate income, such as government grants and fees and charges.

This process then determines the total revenue required to meet the delivery of capital works and services for the coming year. This is then calculated and distributed as a 'rate in the dollar' for each dollar of property value. Hence the higher the property value, the more rates paid; the lower the property value, the lower rates paid.

### How a property's rates are calculated

Rates are calculated by multiplying the rate in the dollar amount by the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of the property ascertained by revaluations.

Eg: CIV	\$385,000
General rate in the \$	.002579
Total general rates	*\$992.90

\*Excludes Municipal Charge and Garbage Charge

The 2009/2013: Year 3 Council Plan and 2011/2012 Budget are available online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au) or printed copies are available from Council's Service Centres. All of the projects planned for the coming financial year are set out along with the budgeted amounts.

### Garbage charges

Council has maintained the same level of garbage charges that applied in 2010/11.

Service	Amount
Residential 120 litre bin	\$204.00
Residential 80 litre bin	\$172.00
Residential second and subsequent bins	\$216.00
Commercial 240 litre bin (once per week)	*\$392.00
Commercial 240 litre bin (three times per week)	*\$820.00
Industrial 120 litre bin	*\$225.00
Industrial 80 litre bin	*\$190.00
Additional Recycling – Non-Residential	\$82.00

\* These fees include GST, which applies to these services.

### Overdue rates

Late payment of rates will incur interest charges that are fixed by the State Government at 10.5 per cent. Interest is charged daily from 1 July 2011.

### Why interest is charged

When rates are received after the due date, the planned income changes and projects must be financed from more expensive funding sources. The charging of interest on overdue rates offsets the additional costs of alternative sources of funding.

### Pensioner Rate Assistance Scheme

Council's Pensioner Rate Assistance Scheme provides concessions to people who hold the following concession cards:

- Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink or Department of Veteran Affairs
- DVA Gold Repatriation Health Card – Totally and Permanently Incapacitated
- DVA Gold Repatriation Health Card – War Widow.

The card must be held by the person who is named as the ratepayer on the account, and must be registered to the same address as the rateable property.

Ratepayers who hold the above cards can apply for a concession on their rates payment either by attending a Service Centre in person to complete an application form and have their pension card sighted, or by requesting an application form by mail, completing and returning the form with a photocopy of their pension card.

### Privacy

Maroondah City Council is committed to complying with the provisions of privacy legislation. Council provides a diverse number of services to the community and information such as name, address and contact numbers are important to the delivery of these services. This information will remain for the use of Council and will not be disclosed except as required by law, unless consent is provided to do so. An individual is able to gain access to their personal information.

### Council's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

Council's Financial Hardship Policy assists those ratepayers who were adversely affected by the introduction of CIV rating. This allows a property owner to apply for a waiver of up to 75 per cent of the net increase in rate liability since 2002/03, after deduction of the year-to-year Council-determined increase in the rate level. This is subject to a minimum levied rate amount of \$300 per annum.

Waivers will be considered on the general rate. To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate that they do not have assets or an income base that would reasonably enable them to meet full general rate costs in the current year.

Applications for the waiver must be made in writing on the appropriate form. All details provided on the form are protected under Council's Information Privacy policy and will be used only for the express purpose of determining eligibility for the waiver. Waivers will be granted at the discretion of Council.

Further information and copies of the application form are available by contacting Revenue Services on **1300 88 22 33**.

### Service Centre hours and further information

Our Revenue Services staff are able to answer specific questions about your rate charge or valuation.

Phone 1300 88 22 33 or visit one of our Service Centres:

- City Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood 8.30am to 7.00pm every Monday 8.30am to 5.00pm Tuesday to Friday
- Eastland, Level 2, Eastland Shopping Centre, Ringwood 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12 noon Saturday
- Croydon, Civic Square, Croydon 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 131 450

National Relay Service (NRS): 133 677

Visit Council online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

The 2011/12 Budget and Long Term Financial Strategy will ensure enhanced services, protection of Council's \$1.2 billion in assets and the delivery of many new major capital projects.

The current budget brings Council into the black straight away and establishes the ground work for a strong financial future enabling Council to invest more into community facilities and services.

The 2011/12 budget will also allow us to fund a number of community enhancements including:

- An additional \$115,000 in funding for Ringwood and Croydon libraries to provide books and computer access for all members of the community, with over 1 million library books borrowed each year
- \$184,000 to provide ongoing maintenance on new capital works projects, such as the Heathmont Pavilion and Ringwood soccer multipurpose pavilion synthetic surface
- A further \$245,000 to provide additional maintenance for ageing infrastructure
- An extra \$50,000 to develop the Ringwood East Neighbourhood Centre structure plan to guide the future development of this important local transport hub and shopping precinct
- \$5 million for the first year of design and preliminary works for the Ringwood District Aquatic and Leisure Centre

This will all happen in the context of a more financially sustainable future, without the need for major rate increases over the next 10 years.

This favourable situation comes as a result of an organisation-wide review of services to reduce the cost of the day-to-day services funded by Council.

The largest capital project ever to be undertaken by Council is the Ringwood District Aquatic and Leisure Centre which will provide for the aquatic and leisure needs for current and future generations. It is important to note that Council can deliver on this new centre without unduly impacting on the ratepayer.

Please take a moment to read this newsletter and view the many projects and services that will be delivered to the community this financial year.

Cr Tony Dib JP  
Mayor of Maroondah



Tom and Kaithrin talk with the Mayor of Maroondah, Cr Tony Dib. This is an exciting time as we move forward, sure in the knowledge of a strong financial future, which includes a new aquatic and leisure centre in Ringwood, meeting the expectations and needs of the growing Maroondah community into the next 50 years.



### Creating financial sustainability

Each year, Council's budget is prepared to deliver ongoing services, new initiatives, asset maintenance and a range of capital works for the Maroondah community. This budget flows out of the 2009/2013: Year 3 Council Plan, which is the strategic blueprint Council follows to achieve the community's vision described in Maroondah 2025 – A Community Planning Together.

The 2011/12 Budget is based on a general rate and charges increase of 5.6 per cent. This is made up from:

CPI (ABS Dec 2010)	3.1%
Infrastructure Levy for renewal works and capital maintenance	2.5%

### Rate payment options expanded

To assist the Maroondah community with their rate payments, Council has a nine payment option, which is payable by direct debit.

Register for this payment option by contacting Council on 1300 88 22 33 and requesting a Maroondah City Council Direct Debit Authority form, visiting one of Council service centres, or downloading it from Council's website. Please return the form to Council by 20 September 2011.

# Projects for our community

Council's \$20.56 million capital works program ensures our assets meet the needs of our community now and into the future

An allocation of \$5 million has been made in the 2011/12 capital works budget to fund the design and contribute to the cost of building the Ringwood District Aquatic & Leisure Centre.

The key elements in the new facility include a 760sqm gymnasium, a 50 metre pool, a diving pool with 10 metre tower, a dedicated learn to swim pool, and a 400sqm children's play pool.



Indicative image only



Over 475 km of road and 600 km of constructed footpaths will receive funding of \$5.343 million for upgrades and reconstruction, including \$1.3 million for extensive works to be undertaken on Bryson's Road, Warranwood as part of the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery project. In addition, over \$400,000 will be directed towards reconstructing the road pavement, kerb and channel and drainage infrastructure on Dublin Road between Mt Dandenong Road and the railway line.



A total of \$3.572 million has been allocated to the 337 Council buildings and structures, including \$100,000 on Heathmont Pavilion and \$995,000 for building renewal works as identified in the Building Condition Audit. Some of the facilities to benefit include Norwood Preschool, Croydon Seniors Citizen Centre, Mountain District Horse and Pony Club, Lipscombe Park Kindergarten and EV's Youth Centre.



An allocation of \$2.071 million has been made to maintain and upgrade our playgrounds, bicycle paths, sportsfields and walking bridges, including \$70,000 to provide extra lighting and replace furniture in Croydon Parklands. The Croydon Youth Space will receive \$372,000. Sporting facility upgrades include \$105,000 to apply a new surface to the HE Parker netball courts and \$200,000 for drainage and irrigation works at Dorset and Ringwood golf courses. An extra \$390,000 will be spent to fully renovate Croydon Park oval.



Maroondah's extensive system of stormwater drains will receive \$860,000 for improvement works that will include flood mitigation for the Croydon Civic Square area. Works will improve the distribution of stormwater during major storm events into the Melbourne Water retarding basin on Norton Road.

# Serving our community



Council provides more than 120 different services and facilities to the 106,000 members of our community, including:

- Over 100 immunisation sessions per year delivering 7500 vaccinations to babies, children and adults
- Activities for our young people with more than 3000 visits from young people to EV's each year
- 90,000 hours of Home Care services each year
- 7 Maternal and Child health centres and 18 caring nurses attend to 1300 new babies each year
- A strong commitment by residents sees a total of 13,044 tonnes of plastics, glass and paper recycled and 12,125 tonnes of green organics collected annually
- Events such as Maroondah Festival, Carols by Candlelight, Australia Day and Reconciliation Week, attract over 25,000 people each year
- 20 Morning Music shows, 13 shows during the Professional Theatre Season and 6 pantomimes during school holidays at Karralyka
- 9 exhibitions at Maroondah Art Gallery attract 7500 visitors, and 10 exhibitions at Wyreana attract 8600 visitors
- Council owns and maintains 21 kindergartens catering to 3 & 4 year olds
- 55,000 delivered and centre based meals
- Over 750,000 trees, 433 parks, 42 bush reserves and 132 playgrounds covering 605 hectares of Council land with 33km of off road shared trails
- 75 school crossings are patrolled each school day, rain, hail or shine



## What does all this cost?

For the ratepayer living in a median priced house in Maroondah:

\$56.70 increase in annual rates and charges or \$1.09 extra per week

### Total revenues

Rates & charges	\$62.15m	66%
Operating grants & contributions	\$12.47m	13%
Capital grants	\$0.62m	1%
User charges	\$17.10m	18%
Interest	\$2.24m	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94.58m</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Total operating expenditure

Transport & Access	\$22.45m	24%
Environment	\$22.86m	25%
Community Support	\$17.13m	18%
Leisure & Culture	\$22.77m	25%
City Development	\$7.54m	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92.75m</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Rates & charges spent per \$100

