



Government
Services

Local Government Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Thursday 23 May 2024

The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Local Government



Continuing to support our local councils

For 2024-25 Victorian Government funding for local government has increased by \$161 million



Victorian Government grants and transfers budgeted to increase from \$714 million (2023-24) to **\$875 million (2024-25)**



Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants budgeted to increase from \$747 million (2023-24) to **\$787 million (2024-25)**



Total grants and transfers to local government budgeted to increase from \$1.446 billion (2023-24) to **\$1.67 billion (2024-25)**

Financial Sustainability

The local government sector is in good financial shape



Rates and Rate Cap



Waste Charges



Funding to sector



Emergency Management Support

In partnership with the Victorian Government, councils have provided significant support to their communities following recent emergency events

Victorian councils have been impacted by a significant number of emergency events during 2023/24, including major storms on six different occasions. There have also been significant bushfire events in September and February.



State Emergency Impacts

47 of 79 councils impacted during 2023-24



Storm and Flood Support

\$8 million through Council Support Funds provided to 28 councils



Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program

\$4.89 million provided to 64 councils

Councils across Victoria are still undertaking recovery works from previous major events such as the October 2022 floods. Recovery is a long-term process that takes years after the event has occurred.



Good governance is key

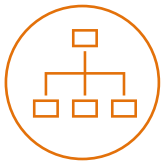
In 2023-24 the Victorian Government took action to support good governance across the local government sector



11 Municipal Monitors at six Councils appointed to support good governance



Suspension of Strathbogie Shire Council and appointment of administrator



Local Government Performance Reporting Framework



Councillor Conduct Framework



Mandatory councillor integrity requirements

Supporting our Public Libraries

Investing in public library services and programs across the state

Public libraries funding to continue in the 2024-25 financial year:



Public Libraries
Funding Program



Premiers' Reading
Challenge Book Fund



Living Libraries
Infrastructure Fund



Local Government Fair Jobs Code

The Victorian Government is committed to promoting secure jobs and building the local government workforce through a tailored Fair Jobs Code.



This year - Development and testing

Established the Local Government Fair Jobs Code Advisory Committee

Developed the Local Government Fair Jobs Code

Undertaken workshops to refine and test the Local Government Fair Jobs Code and the operational standards



Next year - Implementation and Evaluation

Government endorsement of the Local Government Fair Jobs Code

Stage 1 implementation of the Code

Select group of councils to pilot and develop implementation standards

Evaluation of Stage One

Local Government Fair Jobs Code to be rolled out to all councils.

A future focus for local government

Victorians deserve local governments that reflect the needs of their communities.

Looking to the local government October 2024 elections and beyond, the focus is on:



Governance and
Accountability



Sector Resilience and
Emergency Management



Partnering with
councils

