



# 2024/25 Rates and Valuations.

Rates are an important source of revenue for Council. Rates help to fund the delivery of important services and community infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, kindergartens, and sporting reserves. Rates are a property-based tax. Therefore, the rates you pay are based on the value of the property you own.

## What is the rate increase for 2024/25?

The rate increase is capped at **2.75 per cent** in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS), which this year has influenced an average residential rate rise of approximately **\$19** for homeowners in Baw Baw. The 2.75 per cent increase applies to the total rates revenue received by Council, not to individual ratepayers. More information about the FGRS can be found on the Local Government Victoria website.

The residential garbage charge per rateable property for 2024/25 decreased by an average of 4.9 per cent, rounded to the nearest dollar, compared to 2023/24 levels. The average residential garbage charge is \$464 per rateable property in comparison to \$488 in 2023/24.

## What will Council collect in rates for 2024/25?

The total revenue from rates service and charges for 2024/25 is **\$76.26M** (including supplementary valuations and interest on rates and charges).

## How are rates calculated?

Council uses an established rating structure common to most local governments, which comprises two key elements:

- Property values, which reflect capacity to pay based on Capital Improved Value (CIV), and,
- Differential rates in the dollar to reflect usage of services provided by Council.

Striking a proper balance between these elements provides equity in the distribution of the rate burden across residents. The importance of rates income as a funding source has been balanced with community sentiment towards rates increases and its capacity to pay.

## What do I get in return for my rates?

Here's a list of services, infrastructure, and assets that Council provides due to its income from rates:

- Road maintenance
- Waste and bin collection,
- Parks and playgrounds
- BMX tracks
- Family Day Care educators
- Maternal Child Health services
- Myli Library services
- Swimming and aquatic facilities, and
- Footpath upgrades

Just to name a few!



# Rates and Valuations.

## What can I do if I object to my rates?

If you feel your property is incorrectly valued, please contact Council's Revenue team to discuss the matter. If the response does not completely satisfy you, you can lodge an objection to the Valuer-General.

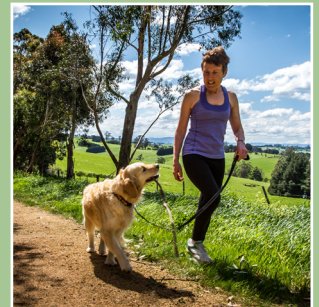
Any formal objections must be lodged within two months of the date of issue of the Rate and Valuation Notice. Late objections will not be accepted in accordance with government legislation.

**Valuation objections are managed by the Valuer General of Victoria's office as per the *Valuation of Land Act* and is a process independent from Council.**

## What if I can't afford to pay my rates?

Council will continue to provide rates assistance for those facing financial hardship through the Hardship Policy. Ratepayers have the opportunity to present their case and to ensure they are treated in a consistent, equitable and confidential manner. Where applicable, flexible payment arrangements (weekly or fortnightly payments) can be made.

Council has maintained its \$50 eligible pensioner rebate, in addition to the State Government rebate.



## Community consultation:

This year, Council's 2024/25 Draft Budget, Draft Long-Term Infrastructure Plan, Council Plan 2021-25 Annual Review, Draft Revenue and Rating Plan and Draft Long Term Financial Plan will be accessible for review and feedback via Baw Baw Connect, Council's dedicated community engagement platform.

You can provide feedback between Thursday 18 April and Wednesday 8 May. Simply scan the code on this page to **have your say, your way.**

