

Dear Ratepayer,

In a bid to ensure your rates payment is as simple as possible, this year you are again able to access a ten monthly instalment option. This is available via direct debit on the 15th of each month from September 2022 to June 2023. You can also pay your rates in quarterly instalments by 30 September 2022, 30 November 2022, 28 February 2023 and 31 May 2023, or you can make a lump sum payment by 15 February 2023. You may also choose to receive your rates notices via email. For details on payment methods please refer to your notice.

How are my rates calculated?

This year, Council has adopted a rate cap of 1.75 per cent set by the Victorian Government. This means the **average property rate amount will increase** by 1.75 per cent. **Individual property rate changes will vary** and may be **higher or lower** than the rate cap depending on property valuations. The key to determining your share of the total rates paid in the City of Ballarat is how your property value has moved in comparison to the average movement of properties in the city.

The 2022 general revaluation, carried out by the Valuer-General Victoria, has resulted in an increase in residential property prices across the state. In Ballarat, residential and rural residential valuations increased on average by 26.9 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Commercial and industrial properties have experienced lower levels of growth at 7.6 per cent and 10.9 per cent. The combined effect of 2022 valuation changes reduces the share of rates paid by commercial and industrial and moves a higher proportion to residential and rural residential properties. Increases in property values do not result in increased rate revenue for Council; total rates collected are capped. As property values increase, the rate in the dollar figure decreases to ensure Council complies with rate capping requirements.

For more information on how your rates are calculated, please visit ballarat.vic.gov.au.

What do my waste charges pay for?

Your Waste Management and Green Waste Service Charges (if applicable) are shown separately on your rates notice. There is no increase in the Green Waste Service Charge, and the Waste Management Service Charge has increased by 6.25 per cent (\$26 per property) due to increases in the Victorian Government's Environmental Protection Authority Levy.

Waste services include:

- Weekly collection of your general waste bin
- Fortnightly collection of your green and recycling bins
- Collection of community general waste and recycling bins
- Collection of glass from the Pass on Glass drop-off points
- Leaf collection from residential kerbsides
- Street cleaning across the city
- Operation of the Ballarat Regional Landfill
- Operation of the Ballarat Transfer Station
- Two vouchers for the Ballarat Transfer Station
- eWaste and hazardous materials disposal through the Ballarat Transfer Station and various drop-off points

What if I can't pay my rates?

If you are having difficulty paying your rates and charges, you may be eligible for rate relief under the City of Ballarat's Financial Hardship Policy. For more information and to apply, please visit ballarat.vic.gov.au.

If you hold a pensioner concession card, you are entitled to apply to the City of Ballarat for a State Government-funded concession of \$253.20 for your rates and \$50 for your *Fire Services Property Levy* (FSPL). **Please note, if you're a Health Care Card holder, you are not entitled to a rebate or concession for Council rates or the FSPL.*

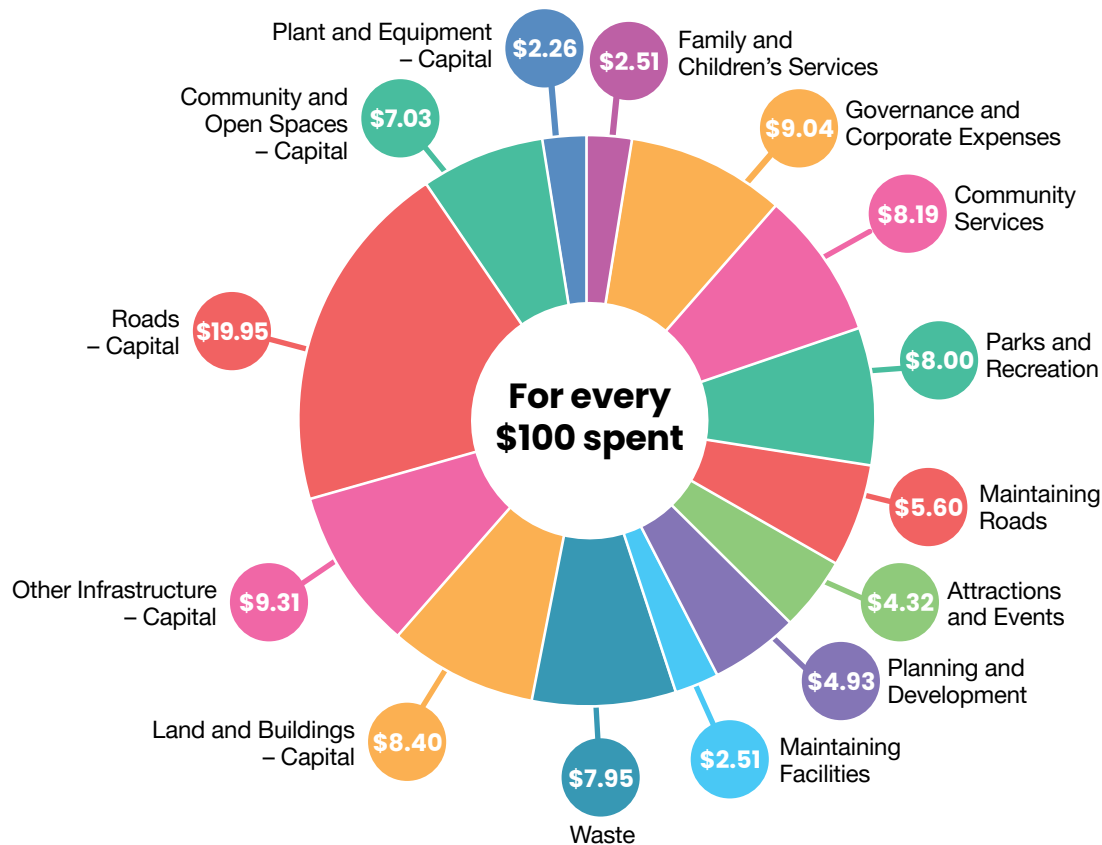
Your rates create a Ballarat that is prosperous, connected and thriving. They allow us to build roads, bridges and bikeways. They support the places where we come together including sporting clubs, libraries, community centres. They allow us to deliver infrastructure while maintaining our existing assets. They keep our streets clean and help lost pets find their home. They support everybody in our community – from older residents to babies. Your rates create the city we love.



Cr Daniel Moloney
Mayor, City of Ballarat

Your rates at work

In 2022/23 your rates will contribute to the City of Ballarat's overall budget spend and will help fund a range of services and projects that are city-shaping and create better long-term outcomes for all in our community. The critical revenue, combined with \$45.8 million in Victorian and Australian Government grants, will support more than 80 services, 98 projects, \$127.3 million in capital works and maintenance of \$2 billion worth of assets. The diagram below shows how many dollars are allocated to each key area for every \$100 dollars spent.



Key highlights from the past 12 months



8,901 Children

Supported in the Maternal and Child Health Program



300 Hours

Provided through the First Parent Group Activity



475,499 Loans

Through Ballarat Libraries



1,016 Animals

Adopted through the Ballarat Animal Shelter



6,750 Lights

Replaced with energy efficient LEDs



1,032km

Sealed roads maintained



373km

Unsealed roads maintained



843km

Footpaths maintained



1,400 Tonnes

Glass collected from Pass on Glass drop-off points



6,450 Tonnes

Recyclables collected across the city



24,000 Tonnes

Rubbish taken to Ballarat Regional Landfill



1,900 Trees

Planted, including street trees and reserves