

# 2009 Budget & Rates

## 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 2008. The next General Valuation will be conducted using levels set as at January 1, 2010.

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, and
- 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	\$340,000
General rate in the \$	.002489
Total general rates payable	\$846.25*
* Excludes Municipal Charge and Garbage Charge	

## Garbage charges

There has been no increase in the charge for residential and industrial garbage collection, as the bins and garbage trucks have now been fully paid. The amount for this year is therefore the same as last year.

Service	Amount
Residential 120 litre bin	\$193.00
Residential 80 litre bin	\$163.00
Residential second and subsequent bins	\$205.00
Commercial 240 litre bin (once per week)*	\$370.00
Commercial 240 litre bin (three times per week)*	\$770.00
Industrial 120 litre bin*	\$212.30
Industrial 80 litre bin*	\$179.30
Additional Recycling – Non-Residential	\$77.00

\* 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 per cent. Interest is charged daily from 1 July 2009.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Pensioner Rate Assistance Scheme

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

- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) issued by Centrelink or Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) or
- DVA Gold Repatriation Health Card—Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) or
- DVA Gold Repatriation Health Card—War Widow (WW).

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.

## Customer service 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 Council's Service Centres:

- **City Offices**, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood.  
8.30am to 7pm every Monday,  
8.30am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday.
- **Eastland**, Level 2, Eastland Shopping Centre, Ringwood.  
8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday,  
9am to 12noon Saturday.
- **Civic Square**, Civic Square, Croydon.  
8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Or visit us online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

## Delivering on our community's vision

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

Council's budget takes into consideration available government grants, other sources of income, rising costs, asset management and expenditure savings, and then balances these against the facilities and services required by the community.

The Budget is based on an overall general rate and charges increase of 5.9 per cent. This increase is based on a range of community enhancements and asset renewal (2.5%) with CPI increases of 3.2 per cent and accommodates major external cost impacts, including an \$825,000 reduction of income as a direct impact of the global economic crisis on interest rates.

I am very pleased that we have been able to maintain the same costs for our residential waste and recycling services as our bins and garbage trucks have now been fully paid.

Council's budget maintains the many services provided to the community and retains its commitment to Council's sustainable Long Term Financial Strategy, and Maroondah's financial future.

Take a moment to read this newsletter and view the many projects that will be delivered to the Maroondah community within this budget period.

The Council Plan 2009-2013 and Budget 2009-2010 are available for viewing at any of Council's Service Centres, at the Ringwood and Croydon Library, or on line at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

## Ensuring a sustainable future

With the adoption of the Maroondah Sustainability Strategy earlier this year, Council has confirmed its commitment to creating a sustainable community.

The Strategy provides direction for Council to protect and enhance all facets of the environment, with a detailed annual Action Plan developed to ensure the targets within the Strategy are met.

Several major initiatives have been outlined, including an investigation of energy efficient street lighting, which could cut Council's greenhouse emissions by 1,500 tonnes each year and slash \$100,000 from its energy costs; creation of a storm water harvesting project to irrigate ovals and parks in Croydon; and continued implementation of energy efficiency projects across the City.

Council has also committed to be Carbon Neutral by 2020. The first step has been investment in energy and water efficient plant and equipment, providing energy and cost savings which can be reinvested to further reduce our energy and water consumption.

Over the past years Council has committed over \$2 million to specifically meet the challenges of creating a sustainable environment for the Maroondah community, and this commitment continues with Council expending 25 per cent of its total budget on environmental works and services.

Council's role in creating a sustainable community is not just one of action but also of community leadership and education. To this end we have been involved in a range of activities and programs.

Free sustainable workshops have allowed the community to gain first hand experience on waterwise gardening, energy efficiency in the home and creating a successful veggie garden. Council's participation in the Solar Suburbs Bulk Purchase Program enabled residents to access discounted solar panel systems to produce emission-free, renewable energy for their home – a tangible way of making a difference to the environment.

Council's actions over the past years on water and energy conservation have ensured we are well positioned to take advantage of new technologies and developments that will continue to deliver the best long term solutions for a sustainable Maroondah.

Cr Peter Gurr  
Mayor of Maroondah



Mayor of Maroondah, Cr Peter Gurr and Rebecca Paslow, one of Council's Environment Planners, inspect the solar energy panels installed on the roof of the Braeside Avenue Civic Offices. The solar energy system offsets the energy consumed by a water pump, which is connected to a newly installed 173,000 litre rainwater tank to be used for toilet flushing throughout the building.

# Projects for the community

**Council's \$13.7 million capital works program ensures our assets meet the needs of our community.**

**We enjoy sporting reserves, community buildings, attractive streetscapes, reserves and open spaces for passive and active use. Roads, drains and footpaths are also a major component of our capital works program.**



Roads and footpaths receive funding of \$995,000 for upgrades and reconstruction, including bus shelters, carparks and specific funding of \$380,000 for the reconstruction of William Street, Ringwood.



\$3.6 million funding for building improvements including capital improvements to sporting and community group facilities on Council land managed by others and access upgrades. \$385,000 will be spent on upgrades to the Ringwood Aquatic Centre and \$187,000 for improvements to the Karralyka Theatre.



An extensive system of stormwater drains exist throughout Maroondah requiring monitoring, maintenance and renewal. Council's program for this year will see upgrade works for Georges Road stormwater and the second stage of Bridget Court works as part of the total drainage budget of \$760,000.



\$1.5 million will be spent on recreational improvements to sporting ovals and reserves, including the resurfacing of netball courts at Cheong Park and a shade shelter at the athletics track at Town Park, as well as \$240,000 to install a new synthetic pitch at Ringwood soccer ground.



Playgrounds at Quambee and Lockhart Road Reserves will benefit from the \$120,000 allocated to upgrade and renew playground equipment, similar to Brentwood Park, as part of Council's commitment to upgrading recreational areas, including paths, furniture and shade structures.



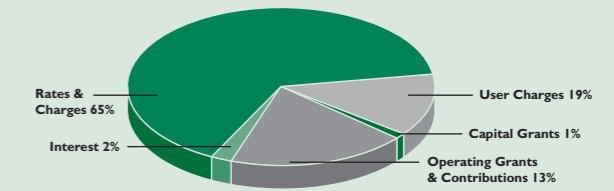
Major works will be undertaken throughout Maroondah as part of the ongoing Road Asset Enhancement program, with \$2.6 million allocated. Works will include upgrades to bicycle and shared pathways, as well as new asphalt overlays in Holloway Road, Great Ryrie Road and Eastfield Road.



Traffic through Barnsdale Way will be calmed with the installation of slow points from the \$320,000 budgeted for local area traffic management. Intersection treatments, roundabouts, traffic calming and raised pavements are used to make our local roads safer for all users.

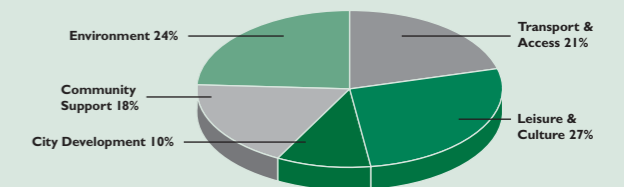
## The Services Budget for 2008-2009

### Sources of income



	\$'000
Rates & charges	53,099
Operating grants and contributions	11,045
Capital grants (State & Federal Government)	620
User charges	15,730
Interest	1,447
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>81,941</b>

### How the budget meets community needs



The major portion of Council's budget provides everyday services and facilities for the community.

The services and activities provided to the Maroondah community are as follows:

#### TRANSPORT & ACCESS

Asset Management, Fleet Maintenance, School Crossing Supervision, Main Roads, Local Roads & Bridges, Footpaths, Kerb & Channels, Traffic Control and Depot Operations.

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Family Day Care, Adult Day Care, Children's Services, After School Care & Holiday Program, Youth Services, Aged Planning, General Home Care & Maintenance, Food Services, Maternal & Child Health and Community Grants.

#### ENVIRONMENT

Public Safety, Law & Order, Health, Waste Management, Street Cleaning and Environment Services Management.

#### LEISURE & CULTURE

Community Facilities, Karralyka Centre, Libraries, Aquatic Facilities, Golf Courses, Sports & Leisure Centres, Maroondah Federation Estate and Wyreana Community Arts Centre.

#### CITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Construction, Business Development & Promotions, Infrastructure Planning & Management, Drainage, Landscape, Local & Main Roads Design, Statutory & Strategic Planning, Traffic Design, Waste Planning.

Council's Plan 2009-2013 and Budget 2009-2010 are available on line 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.

Festivals

Local Roads  
Footpaths

Aquatic Centres

Local Laws Officers

Community Events

Community Houses

Childcare

Playgroups

Vacation Care

Youth Services

Arts & Cultural Centres

Libraries

Community Planning

Small Business Assistance

Parks

Gymnasiums

Sports Stadiums

School Crossing Supervisors

Maternal & Child Health