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-  **By Phone**  
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-  **In Writing**  
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-  **Website**  
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-  **Facebook**  
facebook.com/cityofvictorharbor
-  **Elected Members**  
Contact details for your Elected Members can be found at victor.sa.gov.au



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## Keep up with the City of Victor Harbor's latest news

Victor Viewpoint is the City of Victor Harbor's monthly e-newsletter. It's one of many ways Council communicates with the community and shares important information.

By subscribing to Victor Viewpoint, you can stay up to date with what's happening at Council and find out about exciting projects. Visit [www.victor.sa.gov.au/viewpoint](http://www.victor.sa.gov.au/viewpoint) to subscribe!

# Your Voice On Council

The City of Victor Harbor's Council Members have been elected to represent the community. You can share your ideas or concerns with your Council Members at any time. Contact details are provided below.

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# City of Victor Harbor 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget Summary



## Message from the Mayor Working with our community for Victor Harbor's future

As we begin the new financial year, we find ourselves in a challenging economic time. I have personally heard stories of those doing it tough, and there is no denying that many families, individuals and businesses are feeling the pinch.

In preparing this year's budget, Council has aimed to identify cost saving initiatives where possible and minimise rate rises for our community. However, it is important that we continue delivering our essential services and projects.

Like households across the country, the Council is also facing inflationary pressures. We have managed to absorb a significant portion of cost increases through frugal planning, but a rate rise (less than March Quarter CPI) is still necessary to keep Victor Harbor moving forward.

This summary provides an overview of what Council has achieved over the past year and what is planned for the next twelve months.

I encourage you to jump online and visit [victor.sa.gov.au/abp](http://victor.sa.gov.au/abp) if you would like to view our plan in detail.

My fellow Council Members and I are committed to working with you to achieve the best outcomes. Our contact details are available on the back page of this document and I invite you to contact us to discuss any local matters.

It is a privilege to serve our vibrant community, and I am excited for Victor Harbor's bright future.

*Dr Moira Jenkins*  
City of Victor Harbor Mayor

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## Budget at a glance

- Rates**
- 6.6% average rates payable increase
- Operating Budget**
- \$36 million resulting in a deficit budget of \$1,485,200
- The deficit is attributed to expenses for Council's corporate systems project which will be funded through borrowings to achieve intergenerational equity and minimise the rate increase.
- Capital Budget**
- \$10.4 million offset by grants and other revenue of \$1.6 million
- Investing in our future**
- To keep Victor Harbor as a place of choice to live, work, invest and visit, we plan to spend:
- **\$8.5 million** on roads, footpaths, bridges and other infrastructure
  - **\$5.1 million** on open space and recreation
  - **\$3.4 million** on environment and coastal protection
  - **\$2.6 million** on community wellbeing services
  - **\$1.8 million** on tourism and economic development



# Budget Overview

The 2023/24 budget aims to balance the provision of essential services and projects to keep Victor Harbor moving forward, while also acknowledging current cost of living pressures.

The 2023/24 budget has no frills. It's been paired back and no new initiatives have been added to help keep the rate increase less than CPI.

The budget forecasts a capital works program worth \$10.4 million, offset by \$1.6 million of grants and other revenue, and operating expenditure of \$36 million resulting in a \$1,485,200 deficit.

The budget deficit can be attributed to the Council's corporate systems replacement project, a once-in-a-generation project that will see an overhaul of the software that underpins operations. In recognition that this project will have an impact on generations to come, and to reduce the burden on current ratepayers, it will be funded through borrowings and paid back over a number of years to ensure intergenerational equity.

A summary of how Council will allocate its budget is provided over the following pages. It includes a breakdown of how we plan to spend every dollar of your Council rates, significant projects and our 2023/24 Rating Policy.

Further detail is provided online at [victor.sa.gov.au/abp](https://victor.sa.gov.au/abp) or at the Civic Centre (1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor).



## Investing in a bright future for Victor Harbor

### How we plan to spend every dollar of your Council rates

The following shows how the City of Victor Harbor plans to spend every dollar of your Council rates in 2023/24 to ensure Victor Harbor remains a great place to live, work, visit and invest in.

<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b> <b>7c</b> on creating connections, supporting and building resilience in our community	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b> <b>4c</b> on projects, initiatives and enforcement functions to keep our community safe	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>6c</b> on initiatives and projects that protect our coast, rivers and natural environment	<b>BUSINESS ACTIVITIES</b> <b>2c</b> to support the running of the iconic horse tram service and caravan park
<b>ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> <b>5c</b> on encouraging people to live, work, visit and invest in Victor Harbor	<b>PROPERTY</b> <b>5c</b> on community facilities	<b>LIBRARY AND CULTURE</b> <b>7c</b> on our library, operating the Victa Cinema and delivering arts and culture projects	<b>DEPOT</b> <b>8c</b> on plant, machinery and infrastructure delivery
<b>ROADS AND FOOTPATHS</b> <b>18c</b> on roads, footpaths, bridges and initiatives that enhance our streets	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b> <b>7c</b> on waste and recycling services	<b>RECREATION</b> <b>9c</b> on parks, playgrounds, sports facilities and more!	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>15c</b> on support services that keep Council running
	<b>CAR PARKING</b> <b>3c</b> on maintaining car parking, CCTV and public lighting		<b>TOWN PLANNING</b> <b>4c</b> on development assessment and strategic planning

### Looking back at 2022/23

## Highlights & Achievements



### Mainstreet Precinct Upgrade Stage 4

The \$8.8 million reinvigoration of the southern end of Ocean Street and Albert Place was completed a month ahead of schedule and celebrated with an epic community street party in the lead up to Christmas.



### Connecting Through the Art of Ageing

Community members have been challenged to explore perspectives about ageing through a project that focuses on starting conversations about life, and connecting with other generations.



### Recycling success over festive season

Our waste diversion rate improved from 56% to 70% over the peak summer period, with yellow recycling bins and green food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bins collected weekly in December/January.



### Safety upgrades to roads across our city

Repair and maintenance works were undertaken on a number of important routes. Three Gullies Road, Waitpinga Road and Waggon Road were some of the roads to receive a significant safety upgrade.



### 2022 Local Government Elections

Residents, ratepayers and businesses across South Australia were asked to cast their vote in November, with 46.16% of eligible voters in the City of Victor Harbor returning their ballot papers.



### Installation of toilets at the Bluff Boat Ramp

A simple toilet block with disability access has been installed at one of Victor Harbor's most popular destinations, catering to the many locals and visitors that use the Bluff Boat Ramp.



### Culture and creativity at Coral Street Art Space

A rolling exhibition program has attracted visitors to Victor Harbor's artistic centre throughout the year. The 'Modern Beach Homes' and 'Water People' exhibitions were two of the key showcases.



### A vibrant calendar of festivals and events

Hundreds attended our Australia Day Celebrations, Winter Whale Fest and New Year's Eve Celebrations. The Tour Down Under, Illuminate Adelaide and Red Hot Summer Series also came to visit.



### Caring Neighbourhood Program Anniversary

A special anniversary celebration event was held to acknowledge 25 years of offering an inclusive and supportive environment to those who are aged over 65 and feeling isolated.



### Sow. Grow. Eat. Repeat. at Victor Harbor Library

Green living tips, sustainable lifestyle practices and gardening techniques were promoted through a series of educational events and initiatives delivered over a three-month period.



### Replacing local footpath networks

Harvey Avenue, Ozone Street, Swain Road and Bay Road were four locations determined as part of a priority network receiving footpath maintenance or footpath construction during the year.



### A modern and inviting new Visitor Centre

Renovations to the Railway Goods Shed were completed, enabling the consolidation of the Visitor Centre and SA Whale Centre, and a modern venue to cater for our 1.2 million annual visitors.





The following pages outline a summary of highlights and achievements for the City of Victor Harbor during 2022/23



Embracing our cultural diversity

Twenty-two new citizens were welcomed to the City of Victor Harbor, bringing heritage from the Philippines, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Greece, United Kingdom, Malaysia and South Africa.



Nurturing young environmental warriors

The Fleurieu Youth Climate Summit was held for its second year, bringing together students from across our region to listen, learn and be inspired to take action on our changing climate.



Prioritising First Nations relationships

Based around core pillars of relationships, respect and opportunities, the City of Victor Harbor's first Reconciliation Action Plan outlines how the Council can create genuine change.



Protecting our local environment

With a heightened risk of rising sea levels, heatwaves, storm surges and bushfires, taking action towards mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change continues to be a priority of the Council.



Listening to the voices in our community

Council was out and about in schools, shopping hubs and open spaces chatting to every facet of our community, gathering feedback and workshopping ideas on 16 formal consultation projects.



Using goats to reduce blackberry weeds

Council crews trialed the use of goats to control invasive weeds. Using goats to control weed growth can assist traditional control methods and enable efficient, sustainable reserve management.



Making a mark on the digital stage

The launch of our new tourism website, [visitvictorharbor.com](https://visitvictorharbor.com) is a major step towards engaging and connecting with potential visitors to the Fleurieu Peninsula and enticing them to visit Victor Harbor.

Council Rates

The City of Victor Harbor's Council rates are made up of two components – a fixed charge and differential rate.

Fixed Charge

The fixed charge is a base amount paid by all rateable properties irrespective of their value that contributes to the delivery of services, programs and projects that support each property.

The Council adopted a fixed charge of \$479.

Differential Rate

Due to significant capital valuation growth, Council has reduced differential rates in 2023/24.

The differential rate proportion is based on whether the land is used for residential, commercial, primary production, industrial, vacant land or other purposes. It is calculated by multiplying the individual property value (which is provided to Council by the Valuer General) by the differential rate in the dollar adopted for the relevant land use category.

Land Use	Rate in the \$
<b>Residential</b> Base rate	0.003279
<b>Commercial</b> Base rate + 30%	0.004262
<b>Industrial</b> Base rate + 15%	0.003770
<b>Primary Production</b> Base rate - 10%	0.002951
<b>Vacant Land</b> Base rate + 50%	0.004918
<b>Other</b> Base rate	0.003279

How your rates are calculated:

Fixed Charge + Differential Rate  
(Capital Value X Rate in the \$)  
e.g. Rates for a \$500,000 house would be \$2,118.50:  
\$479 + \$1,639.50 (500,000 x 0.003279)

More information is provided in the Rating Policy summary on page 4.

Significant Projects

What we will do in 2023/24

In addition to our many ongoing services and responsibilities, Council has identified a number of capital projects and strategic initiatives to be undertaken in 2023/24.

A selection of these activities are listed on this page. For the full list, refer to the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan online at [victor.sa.gov.au/abp](https://victor.sa.gov.au/abp) or view a hard copy at the Civic Centre.



Progressing The Precinct

Council will continue to progress through planning, design, due diligence and funding stages.



Corporate Systems Replacement

Phase one of the new corporate software system will be implemented.



Jagger Road Upgrade (Stage 1)

Jagger Road will be upgraded from Bluff Road to Passatt Street. Stage one will be complete in 2023/24.



Business Victor Harbor Partnership

Council will continue its partnership with Business Victor Harbor through a funding contribution.



Coastal Protection Works

A range of coastal protection projects will be delivered including works along Franklin Parade and The Esplanade.



Junior Scooter Park Construction

A new junior scooter park (pump track) will be constructed within the Victor Harbor Oval Complex.



Implementing The Bluff Master Plan

Following its adoption in June 2023, Council will commence implementation of actions from The Bluff Master Plan.



Representation Review

A review of the current representation structure will be undertaken to consider if changes would provide greater benefit to community.



Planning for Victor Harbor's future

The significant review of Council's Urban Growth Management Strategy will continue and include a review of the Community Plan.



Simplifying Council Grant Processes

The broad range of Council grant programs will be streamlined to make it easier for community to apply for grants and acquire funds.



# 2023/24 Rating Policy

## Method Used To Value Land

Council continues to use Capital Value as the basis for raising rates. This includes the land and improvements.

A ratepayer may object to the valuation referred to in their rate notice by writing served personally or by post on the Valuer-General within 60 days after the date of service of the notice.

But note:

- if you have previously received a notice or notices under the Local Government Act 1999 referring to the valuation and informing you of a 60 day objection period, the objection period is 60 days after service of the first such notice;
- you may not object to the valuation if the Valuer-General has already considered an objection by you to that valuation.

An objection is a formal process and there are specific legislative requirements for both you and the Valuer-General. See the back of your rate notice for more information about how to lodge a formal objection.

## Notional Values

Certain properties may be eligible for a notional value, where the property is the principal place of residence of a ratepayer. Application for a notional value must be made to the Valuer General.

## Business Impact Statement

Council considers the impact of rates on all businesses in the Council area including primary production. In considering the impact, Council assessed the equity of distribution of rate responsibility and the business profile within the Council area.

## Differential General Rates

Council applies differential general rates based on land use categories outlined within the Local Government (General) Regulations. The differential rate takes into account the range of services Council provides, standard of the services, if there are any specific budget expenses that are unique to or benefit a specific land use, and new initiatives that target a specific sector. Land use categories, differential general rates and approximate revenue are outlined in the table below.

## Fixed Charge

Council will impose a fixed charge of \$479 to all rateable properties. The fixed charge establishes a base payment for each assessable property within the Council area and recovers approximately 18% of its total rate revenue, with the remaining rate revenue funded via differential rating, based on valuation. Where two or more adjoining properties have the same owner and occupier, or where there is a single farm enterprise comprising more than one property, only one fixed charge is payable by the ratepayer.

## Rates Postponement (State Seniors Card)

Rates may be postponed on a principal place of residence by Seniors Card holders who meet certain criteria. Interest is charged and the accrued debt is payable on disposal of the property.

## Hardship Relief

Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates, they are encouraged to contact our Rates Officers to discuss the matter. Council treats these enquiries confidentially.

## Regional Landscape Levy

The State Government requires Council to impose a separate rate which is payable to the Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Board. This is the Regional Landscape Levy (previously known as the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Levy).

The rate will be based on the capital value of all rateable properties as follows:

- \$0.010102022 cents in the dollar to raise a total of \$670,713

## Rebates (Rate Capping)

Council will provide relief against what would otherwise amount to substantial change in rates payable by the ratepayer due to changes in valuation. Council will, on application, offer rate capping to general rates for the 2023/24 financial year. Rate capping will apply where the general rate amount payable exceeds the 2022/23 general rate payable by 15% for residential properties which are the owner's principal place of residence or a primary production property.

The rebate will not apply where:

- the property has been acquired by the ratepayer or has become their principal place of residence after 1 January 2022
- the increase in the general rate payable is due in whole or in part to an increase in valuation of the property attributable to improvements.

## Further Information

The full Rating Policy can be viewed in the 2022/23 Annual Business Plan at [www.victor.sa.gov.au/abp](http://www.victor.sa.gov.au/abp) or in hard copy at the Civic Centre.

For rating enquiries call one of our Rates Officers on 8551 0500.

## Rates Payments Due

Rates are due on 7 September 2023 or by quarterly instalments.

1<sup>st</sup> instalment - 7 September 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> instalment - 7 December 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> instalment - 7 March 2024

4<sup>th</sup> instalment - 7 June 2024

Category	Fixed Charge	Cents in the \$	Base Differential	Revenue (approx)
Residential	\$479	0.3279	Base rate	\$22.3 million
Commercial	\$479	0.4262	Base + 30%	\$1.9 million
Industrial	\$479	0.3770	Base + 15%	\$0.1 million
Primary Production	\$479	0.2951	Base - 10%	\$1.8 million
Vacant Land	\$479	0.4918	Base + 50%	\$1.6 million
Other	\$479	0.3279	Base rate	\$0.2 million

# Looking back at 2022/23



Photos: 1 – Consultation listening post at Victor Central. 2 – Volunteers and stakeholders at the opening of the new Visitor Centre. 3 – Illuminate Adelaide at Warland Reserve. 4 – Victor Harbor Street Party in December. 5 – Australia Day Smoking Ceremony. 6 – Winners of the 2022 Mayor's Short Story Challenge. 7 – Works underway on the Mainstreet Precinct Upgrade Stage 4. 8 – Knitting group at the Victor Harbor Library.