

Ballarat City Council

Group: regional city

This fact sheet uses graphs and data to examine this council's revenue, expenditure and financial sustainability over recent years. The information aims to help readers understand the impacts of rate capping. This was introduced in 2016–17 to restrict the amount councils can increase their general rates and municipal charges each financial year.

You can compare this council's data against its 'group' by looking at the fact sheet for regional city councils. Further information is available at <http://www.esc.vic.gov.au/outcomes-reports>. You'll find an interactive version of this fact sheet, a reader's guide to help you understand key terms and information about the sector as a whole.

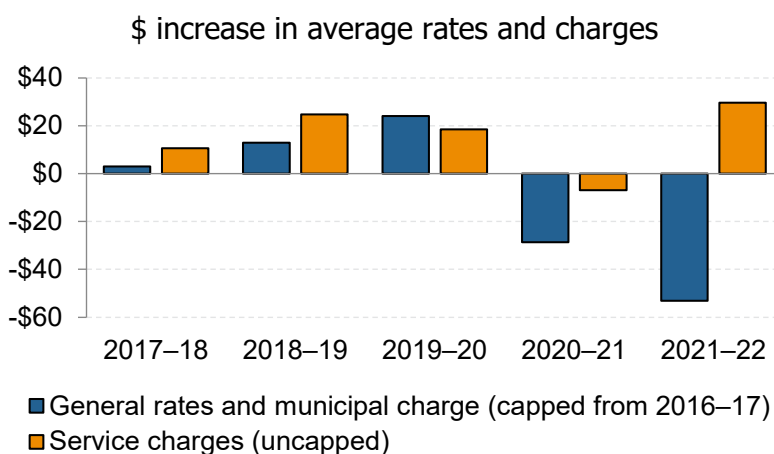


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Key facts	
Population (June 2021):	113,482
Size (km ²):	739
Length of local roads (km):	1,473
Population per km of roads:	77
Council employees (FTE, 2021–22):	798
Higher cap approved for any year between 2016–17 and 2021–22	No

Rates

What happened to average rates and charges (2021–22 dollars)?



Year	Average rates and charges	Applicable rate cap
2016–17	\$2,275	2.50%
2017–18	\$2,288	2.00%
2018–19	\$2,326	2.25%
2019–20	\$2,369	2.50%
2020–21	\$2,333	2.00%
2021–22	\$2,310	1.50%

Rates (continued)



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information.
Note: The numbers in this fact sheet have been adjusted for inflation and are expressed in 2021–22 dollars.

Did council's average rates comply with the applicable rate caps?

2020–21 (2.00%)	2021–22 (1.50%)	2022–23 (1.75%)
Yes	Yes	Yes

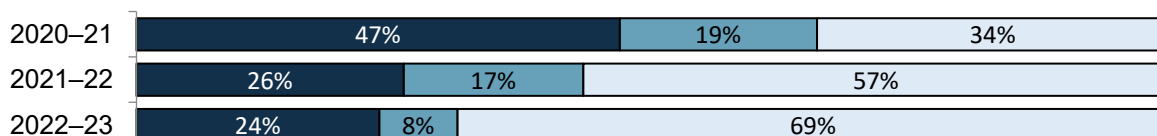
How did rates change for different ratepayers?

Council's rating strategy 2022–23

Council applies 6 differential rates for different types of property and recovers the cost of waste services using service charges. The adopted budget contains more information about rate categories and charges.

Distribution of rates increases and decreases

The applicable rate cap is applied to council's average rate. So, some individual rates increased by more and some increased by less than the applicable cap (or even decreased).



- % of rates notices decreasing
- % of rates notices increasing by less than the applicable cap
- % of rates notices increasing by more than the applicable cap

Ratepayers by property class (2021–22 dollars)

	Residential ratepayers	Commercial ratepayers	Industrial ratepayers	Rural ratepayers
	90% of ratepayers in 2021–22	4% of ratepayers in 2021–22	3% of ratepayers in 2021–22	2% of ratepayers in 2021–22
	\$100.6m (74%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22	\$21.1m (16%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22	\$9.7m (7%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22	\$3.6m (3%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22
	1.1% average annual change between 2017–18 and 2021–22"	-1.3% average annual change between 2017–18 and 2021–22"	-2.8% average annual change between 2017–18 and 2021–22"	2.1% average annual change between 2017–18 and 2021–22"

Source: Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (unaudited data). Includes both capped and uncapped rates and charges. 'Other' category of property class has been omitted.

Revenue



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information.
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Where did council's money come from?

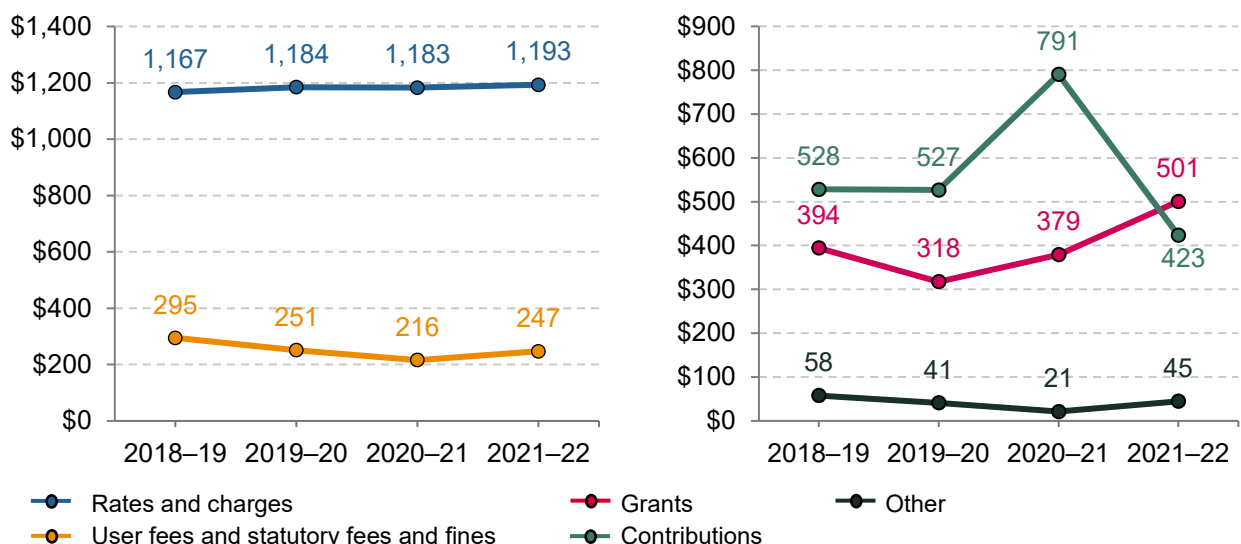
Revenue (2021–22 \$m and % of total revenue)

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22	
	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%
Rates and charges	125.5	(48%)	129.9	(51%)	131.8	(46%)	135.4	(50%)
User fees and statutory fees and fines	31.7	(12%)	27.5	(11%)	24.1	(8%)	28.0	(10%)
Grants	42.4	(16%)	34.8	(14%)	42.3	(15%)	56.8	(21%)
Contributions	56.8	(22%)	57.7	(23%)	88.1	(31%)	48.1	(18%)
Other	6.2	(2%)	4.5	(2%)	2.3	(1%)	5.1	(2%)
Total	262.6		254.5		288.6		273.3	

Ballarat City Council's total revenue increased in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22, reflecting increases in revenue from grants and rates and charges.

Rates and charges, and contributions were the largest sources of council's revenue, accounting for 72 per cent of total revenue between 2018–19 and 2021–22.

Revenue per person (2021–22 dollars)



In terms of revenue per person (which adjusts for changes in population), revenue from rates and charges, and grants increased between 2018–19 and 2021–22. This compares with a downward trend in revenue per person from user fees and statutory fees and fines, contributions and 'other' revenue. There was a spike in contributions in 2020–21.

Expenditure



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information.
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How much money did council spend?

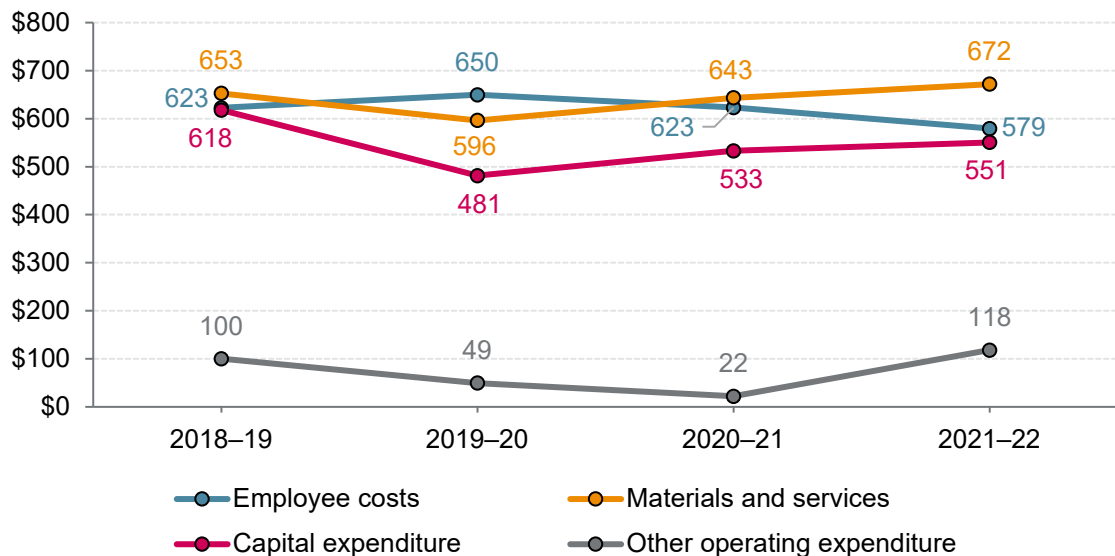
Expenditure (2021–22 \$m and % of total expenditure)

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22	
	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%
Operating expenditure	147.9	(69%)	142.0	(73%)	143.6	(71%)	155.4	(71%)
Employee costs	67.0	(31%)	71.2	(37%)	69.5	(34%)	65.8	(30%)
Materials and services	70.2	(33%)	65.4	(34%)	71.7	(35%)	76.3	(35%)
Other operating expenditure	10.7	(5%)	5.4	(3%)	2.4	(1%)	13.4	(6%)
Capital expenditure	66.4	(31%)	52.8	(27%)	59.4	(29%)	62.5	(29%)
Total	214.3		194.8		203.0		217.9	

Ballarat City Council's total expenditure increased in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22. This reflected increases in expenditure on materials and services and 'other operating expenditure'.

Materials and services was the largest area of expenditure, accounting for 34 per cent of total expenditure between 2018–19 and 2021–22.

Expenditure per person (2021–22 dollars)



In terms of expenditure per person (which adjusts for changes in population), council's expenditure on employee costs decreased between 2018–19 and 2021–22. This compares with an upward trend in expenditure on materials and services per person. Capital expenditure increased from 2019–20 and 2021–22, following a decrease in 2019–20.



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Did council's capital expenditure pattern change?

Capital expenditure (2021–22 \$m and % of total capital expenditure)

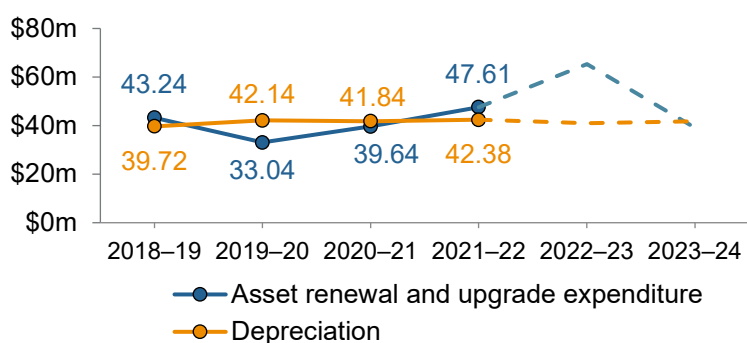
	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22	
	\$m		\$m		\$m		\$m	
Renewal	34.8	(52%)	27.8	(53%)	37.0	(62%)	34.3	(55%)
Upgrade	8.4	(13%)	5.3	(10%)	2.6	(4%)	13.3	(21%)
Expansion	0.3	(1%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
New	22.9	(34%)	19.7	(37%)	19.8	(33%)	14.9	(24%)
Total	66.4		52.8		59.4		62.5	

Ballarat City Council's spending on asset renewal fluctuated between 2018–19 and 2021–22. Asset renewal accounted for the highest share of capital expenditure over this period (56 per cent).

Council's spending on asset upgrades increased in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22, while spending on new assets and asset expansion declined.

Did council renew assets (such as roads, parks and buildings)?

Council assets: comparing renewal and upgrade expenditure with depreciation (2021–22 dollars)



Renewal & upgrade expenditure as a percentage of depreciation

2018–19	109%
2019–20	78%
2020–21	95%
2021–22	112%
2022–23	160% (forecast data)
2023–24	94% (forecast data)

Council's spending on renewing and upgrading assets trended upwards in real terms between 2019–20 and 2021–22, following a decrease in 2019–20. Renewal and upgrade expenditure decreased below the amount of depreciation (the decline in value of council's assets caused by age and use) in 2019–20, before increasing above 100 per cent of depreciation in 2021–22. It was forecast to continue to be above the amount of depreciation in 2022–23, before decreasing in 2023–24.



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Which service areas did council spend its money on?

Expenditure by function (2021–22 \$m and % of total services expenditure)

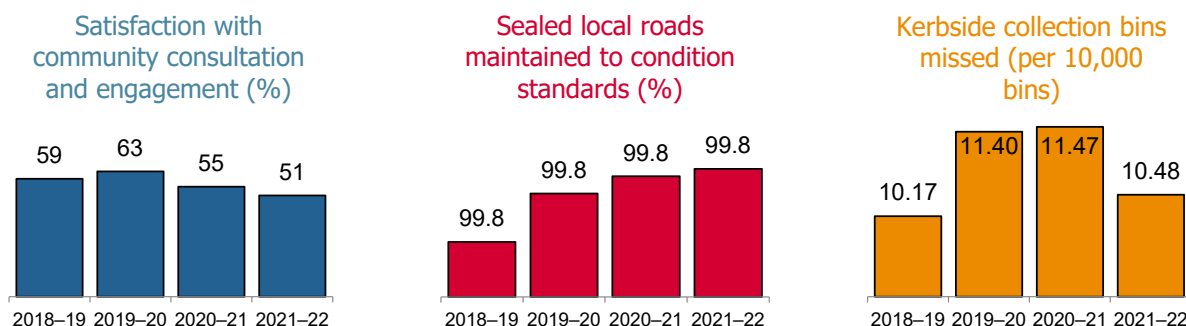
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Aged and disabled services	6.3 (3%)	6.0 (3%)	6.4 (3%)	6.3 (3%)
Business and economic services	23.5 (13%)	15.8 (8%)	17.8 (10%)	24.3 (12%)
Environment	9.4 (5%)	1.2 (1%)	11.2 (6%)	9.5 (5%)
Family and community services	12.4 (7%)	11.0 (6%)	11.2 (6%)	10.8 (5%)
Governance	33.7 (18%)	50.0 (27%)	39.7 (21%)	34.7 (17%)
Local roads and bridges	41.2 (22%)	31.4 (17%)	30.8 (16%)	31.0 (16%)
Recreation and culture	31.0 (17%)	34.1 (18%)	37.3 (20%)	35.7 (18%)
Traffic and street management	9.6 (5%)	17.2 (9%)	14.5 (8%)	12.3 (6%)
Waste management	20.4 (11%)	19.3 (10%)	18.6 (10%)	24.5 (12%)
Other	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	10.1 (5%)
Total	187.6	186.1	187.4	199.1

Which areas experienced the biggest changes from 2018–19 to 2021–22?



Source: Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (unaudited). Council Annual Reports may provide further explanation of these expenditure changes.

Did service quality or community satisfaction change?



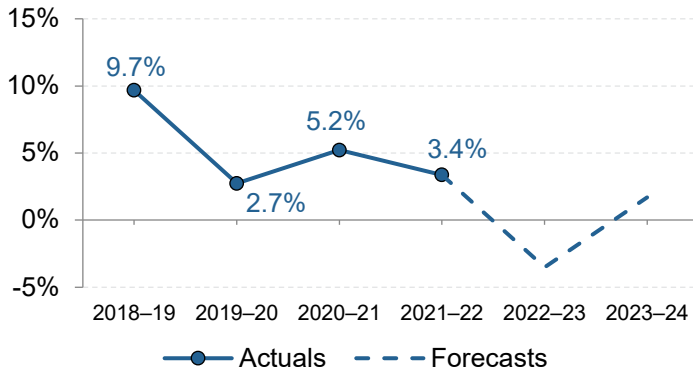
Financial position



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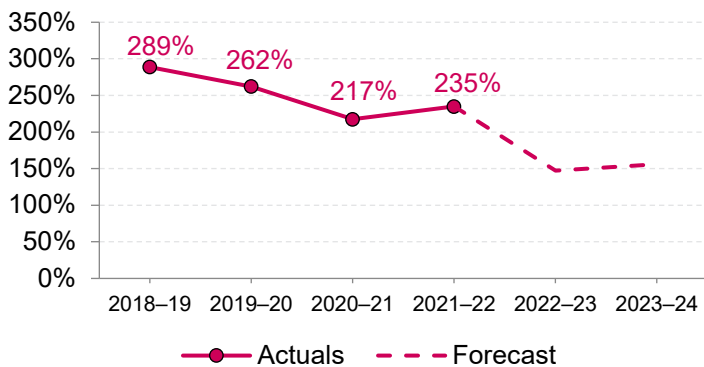
Did council operate sustainably?

Adjusted underlying result
 (adjusted underlying surplus or deficit as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue)



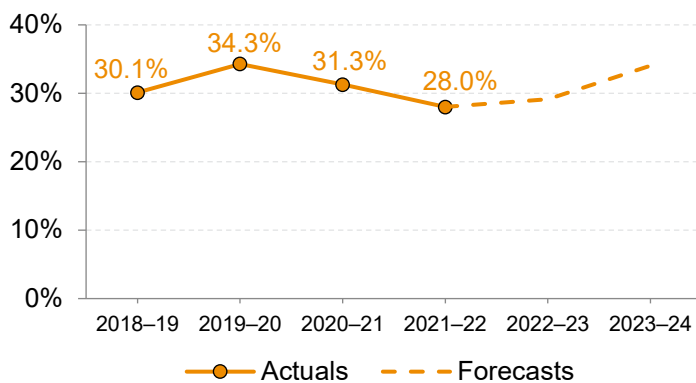
Between 2018–19 and 2021–22, Ballarat City Council reported an average **adjusted underlying result** of 5.3 per cent. An ongoing positive result suggests ongoing revenue can fund the current level of service provision.

Working capital (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities)



Council could meet its current financial obligations with a reported average **working capital ratio** of 251 per cent between 2018–19 and 2021–22.

Indebtedness (non-current liabilities as a percentage of own-source revenue)



Between 2018–19 and 2021–22, council reported an average **indebtedness ratio** of 30.9 per cent. The lower the percentage, the greater a council's ability is to repay debt from revenue it controls.

Note: Some of the year-on-year changes in these financial indicators may be due to changes to accounting standards or the impact of coronavirus. See the reader's guide for more information.