

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Group: large shire

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 large shires. 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.

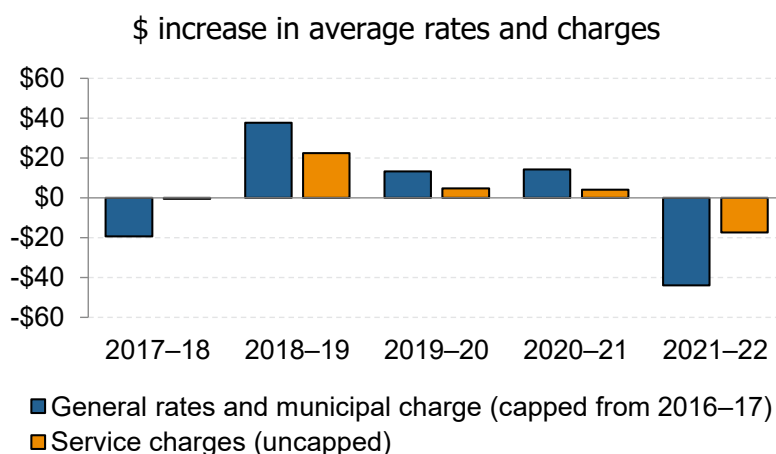


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| Key facts | |
|--|--------|
| Population (June 2021): | 20,106 |
| Size (km ²): | 1,530 |
| Length of local roads (km): | 1,426 |
| Population per km of roads: | 14 |
| Council employees (FTE, 2021–22): | 180 |
| Higher cap approved for any year 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 | \$2,079 | 2.50% |
| 2017–18 | \$2,059 | 2.00% |
| 2018–19 | \$2,119 | 2.25% |
| 2019–20 | \$2,137 | 2.50% |
| 2020–21 | \$2,156 | 2.00% |
| 2021–22 | \$2,094 | 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 5 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).

| | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| 2020–21 | 43% | 11% | 46% |
| 2021–22 | 43% | 10% | 47% |
| 2022–23 | 45% | 7% | 48% |

- % 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 and Industrial ratepayers | Rural ratepayers |
|--|--|--|--|
| | 86% of ratepayers in 2021–22 | 6% of ratepayers in 2021–22 | 8% of ratepayers in 2021–22 |
| | \$21.6m (84%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22 | \$1.6m (6%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22 | \$2.6m (10%) of rates and charges revenue in 2021–22 |
| | 0.6% average annual change between 2017–18 and 2021–22 | -10.0% average annual change between 2017–18 and 2021–22 | 5.7% 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.
 Note: The numbers in this fact sheet have been adjusted for inflation and are expressed in 2021–22 dollars.

Where did council's money come from?

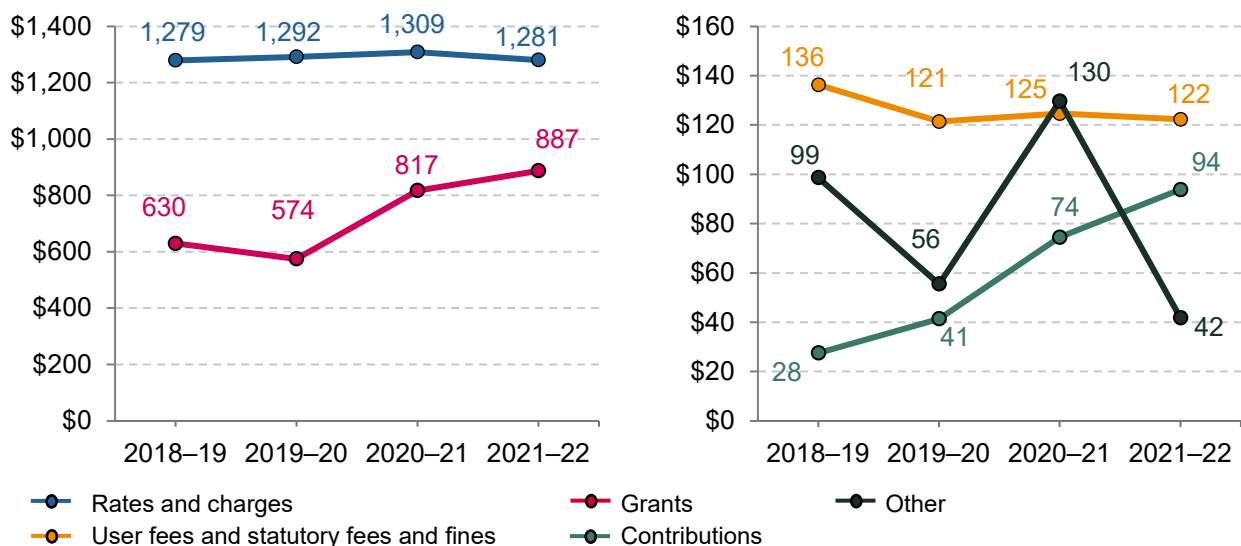
Revenue (2021–22 \$m and % of total revenue)

| | 2018–19 | | 2019–20 | | 2020–21 | | 2021–22 | |
|--|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | \$m | % | \$m | % | \$m | % | \$m | % |
| Rates and charges | 24.9 | (59%) | 25.4 | (62%) | 26.1 | (53%) | 25.7 | (53%) |
| User fees and statutory fees and fines | 2.7 | (6%) | 2.4 | (6%) | 2.5 | (5%) | 2.5 | (5%) |
| Grants | 12.3 | (29%) | 11.3 | (28%) | 16.3 | (33%) | 17.8 | (37%) |
| Contributions | 0.5 | (1%) | 0.8 | (2%) | 1.5 | (3%) | 1.9 | (4%) |
| Other | 1.9 | (5%) | 1.1 | (3%) | 2.6 | (5%) | 0.8 | (2%) |
| Total | 42.3 | | 41.0 | | 48.8 | | 48.8 | |

Mount Alexander Shire Council's total revenue increased in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22, reflecting increases in revenue from grants and contributions.

Rates and charges, and grants were the largest sources of revenue, accounting for 88 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, grants and contributions 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, while 'other' revenue fluctuated over this period.

Expenditure



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

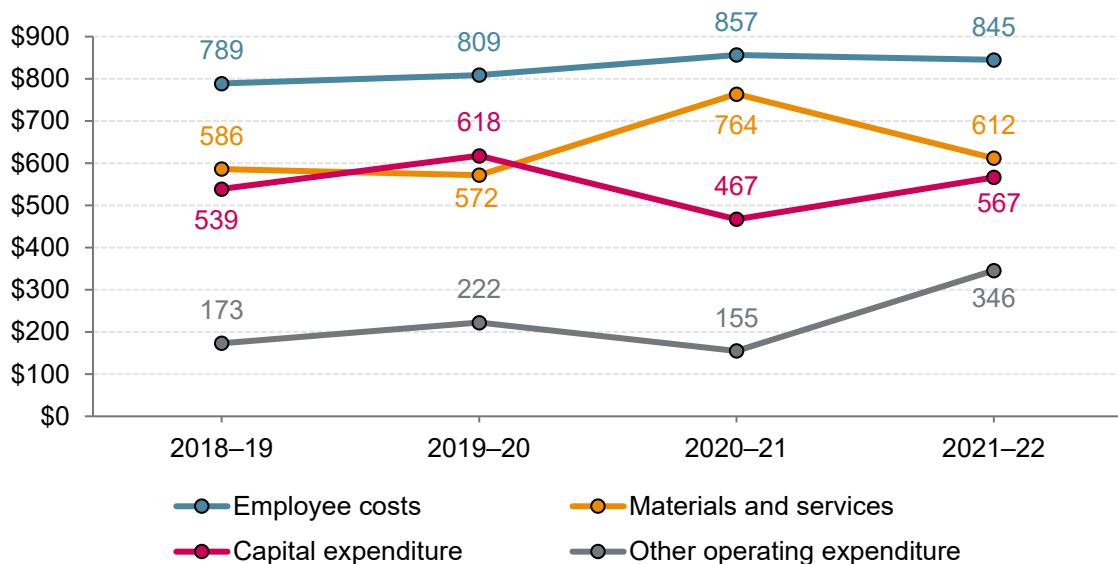
Expenditure (2021–22 \$m and % of total expenditure)

| | 2018–19 | | 2019–20 | | 2020–21 | | 2021–22 | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | \$m | % | \$m | % | \$m | % | \$m | % |
| Operating expenditure | 30.2 | (74%) | 31.5 | (72%) | 35.4 | (79%) | 36.3 | (76%) |
| Employee costs | 15.4 | (38%) | 15.9 | (36%) | 17.1 | (38%) | 17.0 | (36%) |
| Materials and services | 11.4 | (28%) | 11.3 | (26%) | 15.2 | (34%) | 12.3 | (26%) |
| Other operating expenditure | 3.4 | (8%) | 4.4 | (10%) | 3.1 | (7%) | 7.0 | (15%) |
| Capital expenditure | 10.5 | (26%) | 12.2 | (28%) | 9.3 | (21%) | 11.4 | (24%) |
| Total | 40.7 | | 43.7 | | 44.7 | | 47.6 | |

Mount Alexander Shire Council's total expenditure increased in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22. This reflected increases in all expenditure categories.

Employee costs was the largest area of expenditure, accounting for 37 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 employee costs, materials and services and 'other operating expenditure' increased between 2018–19 and 2021–22, while capital expenditure fluctuated over this period.



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information.
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Did council's capital expenditure pattern change?

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

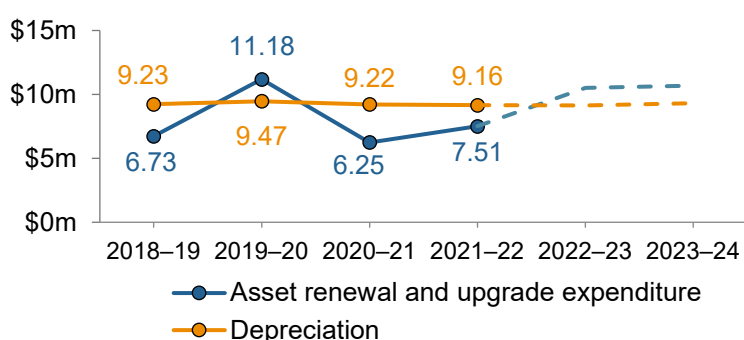
| | 2018–19 | | 2019–20 | | 2020–21 | | 2021–22 | |
|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | \$m | | \$m | | \$m | | \$m | |
| Renewal | 6.7 | (64%) | 10.1 | (83%) | 5.6 | (60%) | 7.5 | (66%) |
| Upgrade | 0.0 | (0%) | 1.1 | (9%) | 0.7 | (7%) | 0.0 | (0%) |
| Expansion | 0.0 | (0%) | 0.0 | (0%) | 0.1 | (1%) | 0.0 | (0%) |
| New | 3.8 | (36%) | 1.0 | (8%) | 3.0 | (32%) | 3.9 | (34%) |
| Total | 10.5 | | 12.2 | | 9.3 | | 11.4 | |

Mount Alexander Shire Council's spending on asset renewal trended fluctuated in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22. Asset renewal accounted for the highest share of capital expenditure over this period (69 per cent).

Council's spending on new assets increased in real terms between 2018–19 and 2021–22.

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 | 73% |
| 2019–20 | 118% |
| 2020–21 | 68% |
| 2021–22 | 82% |
| 2022–23 | 115% (forecast data) |
| 2023–24 | 115% (forecast data) |

Council's spending on renewing and upgrading assets trended downwards in real terms between 2019–20 and 2021–22, after reaching a peak in 2019–20. Renewal and upgrade expenditure increased above the amount of depreciation (the decline in value of council's assets caused by age and use) in 2019–20, before decreasing below 100 per cent of depreciation in 2020–21. It was forecast to increase above the amount of depreciation in 2022–23 and 2023–24.



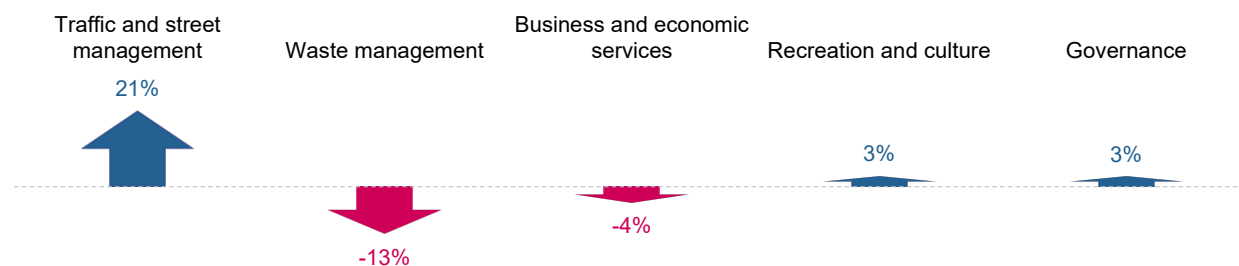
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Which service areas did council spend its money on?

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

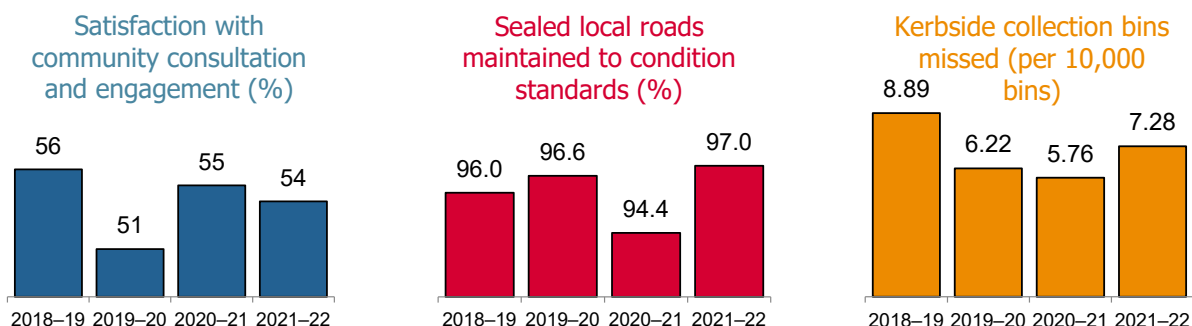
| | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| Aged and disabled services | 2.5 (7%) | 2.3 (6%) | 2.5 (6%) | 2.7 (7%) |
| Business and economic services | 3.4 (9%) | 3.4 (9%) | 3.5 (8%) | 2.9 (7%) |
| Environment | 1.4 (4%) | 1.7 (4%) | 1.7 (4%) | 1.8 (4%) |
| Family and community services | 0.8 (2%) | 0.9 (2%) | 1.0 (2%) | 1.4 (4%) |
| Governance | 9.3 (24%) | 9.9 (25%) | 10.9 (25%) | 10.0 (25%) |
| Local roads and bridges | 8.2 (21%) | 7.9 (20%) | 8.3 (19%) | 8.2 (20%) |
| Recreation and culture | 7.1 (18%) | 7.3 (19%) | 7.7 (18%) | 7.7 (19%) |
| Traffic and street management | 1.4 (4%) | 1.5 (4%) | 4.4 (10%) | 2.5 (6%) |
| Waste management | 4.7 (12%) | 3.8 (10%) | 3.4 (8%) | 3.1 (8%) |
| Other | 0.0 (0%) | 0.0 (0%) | 0.0 (0%) | 0.0 (0%) |
| Total | 38.8 | 38.7 | 43.4 | 40.3 |

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?



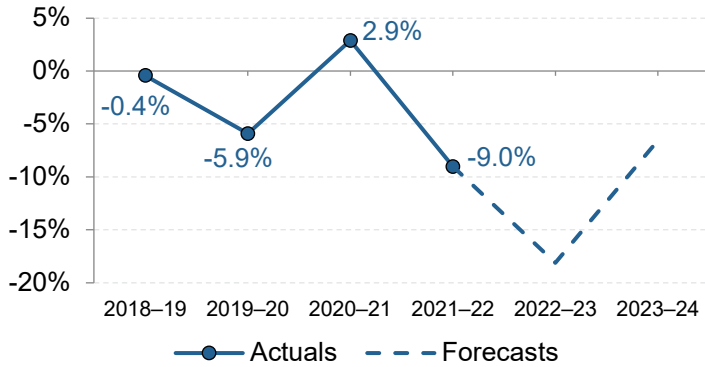
Financial position



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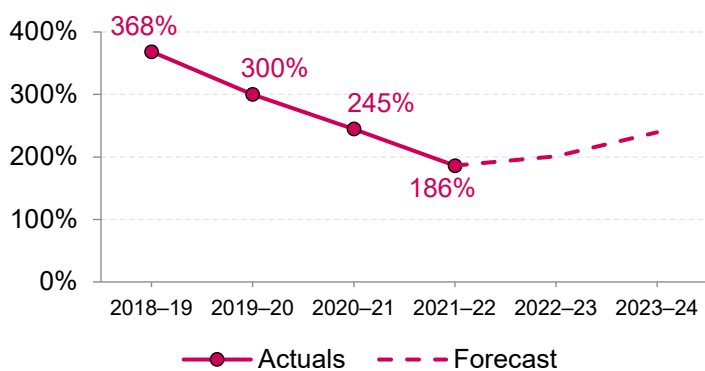
Did council operate sustainably?

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



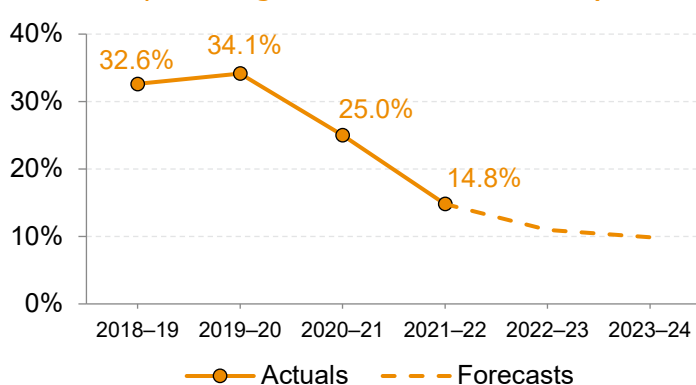
Between 2018–19 and 2021–22, Mount Alexander Shire Council reported an average **adjusted underlying result** of -3.1 per cent. An ongoing negative result suggests that, without an increase in ongoing revenue or receipt of one-off grants, ongoing revenue may not fund the range and level of services being provided.

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 275 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 26.6 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.