



2020/21 BUDGET NEWS



Dear Vincent community,

In a short space of time, we have experienced significant challenge and change as we focus on our health during COVID-19.

Together we have faced the public health challenge with resolve, as the economic impact of the pandemic unfolds.

Local businesses have been on the economic frontline, with many closing their doors and reducing operations. Friends and neighbours have experienced job loss and hardship.

Vincent has seen the heaviest decline in revenue in our history. \$3.8 million was lost in the last quarter of 2019/20 and a further \$10 million loss is forecast this year.

As we confront this difficult financial situation, support for our community remains critical.

This budget delivers an overall reduction in rates revenue and a zero increase in fees and charges. And for the first time, you can use Rates Smoothing to pay your rates weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Support for those in need is here with a new financial hardship fund, \$1 million in special-purpose charitable grants and relief for our arts industry through developer contributions.

High quality core services remain, whilst community priorities stay at the forefront - more trees, cost-saving solar energy and engaging with you on the October 2021 FOGO three bin system roll out.

We're backing economic rebound with priority capital works, town centre improvements and red tape relief for local businesses adapting to new ways of working.

This year, the Valuer General's Gross Rental Valuations (GRV) revaluation must be applied to rates by local governments. This adds volatility to individual residential rates, despite the reduction in overall rates. We're tackling this head on with financial hardship measures to help.

In the face of this, Vincent rates remain low. Last year, we ranked the fourth lowest average rate in comparison to 29 metropolitan Councils.

The support and spirit shown in our community has been outstanding. My Council colleagues and I are so thankful to be of service to our Vincent community.

Emma Cole **Mayor**

MAYOR



Emma Cole

SOUTH WARD



Cr Susan Gontaszewski
(Deputy Mayor)



Cr Jonathan Hallett



Cr Ashley Wallace



Cr Joshua Topelberg

NORTH WARD



Cr Alex Castle



Cr Joanne Fotakis



Cr Sally Smith



Cr Dan Loden



Connected Community

\$1 million of Leederville Gardens Trust Funds for charities to support Vincent residents experiencing financial hardship, food insecurity, homelessness, domestic violence and mental health impacts during the pandemic.

A focus on youth, with the Youth Action Plan to be launched and more cost-effective Pop Up Play for big kids aged 8–15.

Work begins on our next **Reconciliation Action Plan** as we continue our long term commitment to reconciliation.

Loftus Community Centre to undergo an upgrade to be a more welcoming place for seniors.



Innovative and Accountable

Delivery of **a responsible budget at a difficult time**, with a focus on support for our community, new hardship measures and a financial hardship fund.

Tight controls on spending, freezing salaries and allowances, and use of special purpose reserves for COVID-19 relief and recovery.

Quarterly review of the budget during the year to keep across changing community need, public health restrictions and responsiveness to economic context.

Major focus on economic stimulus

through renewal of ageing buildings and community facilities, including \$2.9m for significant works on the Beatty Park indoor pool and renewal of outdated changerooms.

Ongoing public health support for our community and businesses as we continue to focus on being COVID Safe.

Enhanced Environment

295 trees to be planted and continuation of our popular Native Plant Sales, Adopt-a-Verge program and eco-zoning in parks.

Energy efficiency upgrades for Beatty Park Leisure Centre indoor pool.

Upgrading old **vehicle fleet to hybrid**, including rubbish trucks, to reduce fuel costs.

Investment in sustainable projects to ease energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint, including cost-saving solar PV systems on Vincent-owned community facilities.



Engagement with our community on the October 2020 roll out of the **FOGO three bin system**.

Thriving Places

Economic Rebound to be a major focus for the year, boosting our Town Centres and main streets and aiding local economy recovery.

Arts Relief Grants for our struggling local arts industry by unlocking \$526,000 Developer Contributions for Public Art.

Local business support to cut red tape and on ground health advice to make it easier to adapt, diversify and start up.

Cash-in-lieu car parking reserves to provide more parking, better access and signage to link transport connections in our town centres.

Financial assistance for our tenants during COVID-19 to keep them up and running.



Accessible City

\$1.9 million investment in resurfacing 4.8kms of roads, \$615,000 on footpaths, bus shelters and cycling infrastructure, \$745,000 on traffic management and safety improvements and \$190,000 on drainage improvements.

New shared path to connect Glendalough station to the soon-to-be upgraded intersection of Scarborough Beach Rd, Main and Brady Streets.

Florence Street Safe Active Street to be delivered with State Government support, connecting Cleaver Precinct to Beatty Park and North Perth.

Improved Town Centre signage to help visitors get around, locate parking and help our local economy.

Sensitive Design

Delivery of a **comprehensive planning framework** for Leederville to guide future development in our largest town centre.

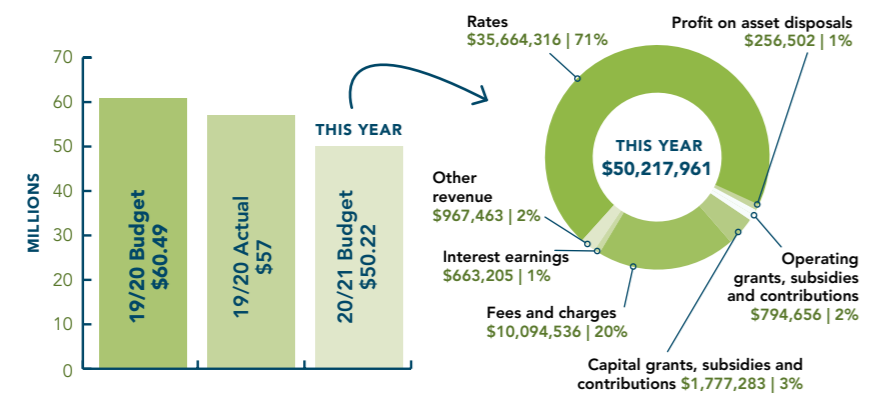
Improvements to Vincent's Built Form Policy to provide for more green, sustainable and thoughtfully designed developments on main roads and residential streets.

Working with Mt Hawthorn residents on a small **Character Retention Area precinct** that is resident-led and provides a model for other Vincent neighbourhoods.



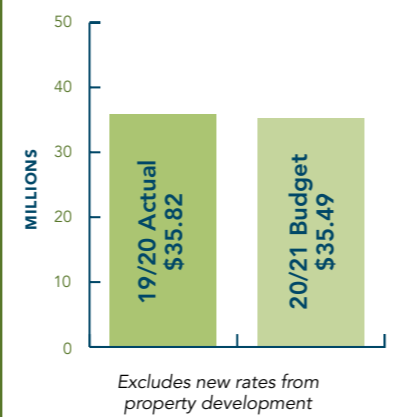
REVENUE

We lost \$3.8M in the last quarter of 2019/20 due to COVID-19. Revenue is conservatively expected to drop \$10M this year.

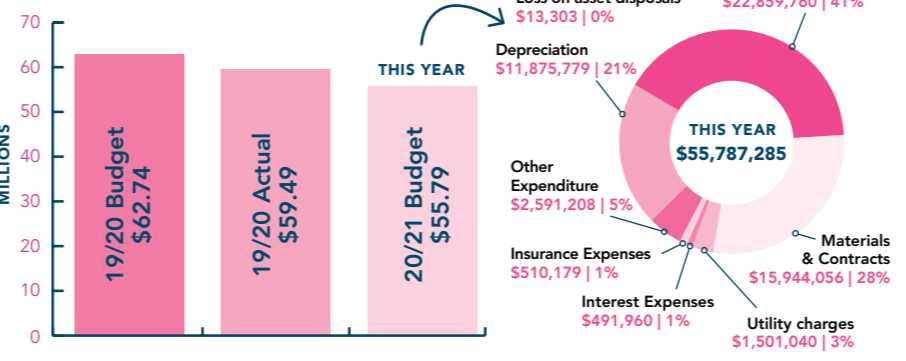


RATES REVENUE

Rate revenue has been cut by \$291,464 compared to last year (excluding any rates adjustments made during 2020/21 from property development).



EXPENDITURE



BUDGETING DURING COVID-19

This is the most challenging budget in Vincent's history. Our residents, community groups and businesses have experienced the harsh realities of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Vincent's finances have been heavily impacted.

We have reduced spending whilst focusing on community support and hardship measures. Quarterly budget reviews will assist us to adjust to changing community needs throughout the year and to address this year's small deficit.

Saving money as revenues fall

- Reduction in expenditure by \$6.8m
- Freeze on salaries and wages
- Restricting use of consultants
- Capital renewal works prioritised to aid local economy
- Discretionary spending cut including sponsorship of events

Supporting ratepayers and community groups

- Overall decrease in total rates revenue
- Zero increase in fees and charges
- Rent waivers for community groups
- Support for our most vulnerable through \$1m charitable grants
- COVID-19 support for local clubs and groups
- Community Support Network established

Ramping up financial hardship provisions

- New \$250,000 financial hardship fund
- \$135,000 towards interest and fee waivers
- \$50,000 to implement rates smoothing with weekly, fortnightly and monthly payments
- Interest rate reductions on payments

Supporting local business

- Prioritising Economic Rebound Plan
- Lease waivers and deferrals for commercial tenants
- Simplified planning approvals for change of business use
- COVID Safe support for local businesses

INVESTING IN OUR AGEING ASSETS

\$2,900,000

Beatty Park

\$170,000

Loftus Community Centre

\$190,000

Royal Park Hall

\$300,000

Leederville Oval

\$180,000

Loton Park Tennis

\$181,000

Loftus Recreation Centre

\$150,000

Hyde Park Public Toilet

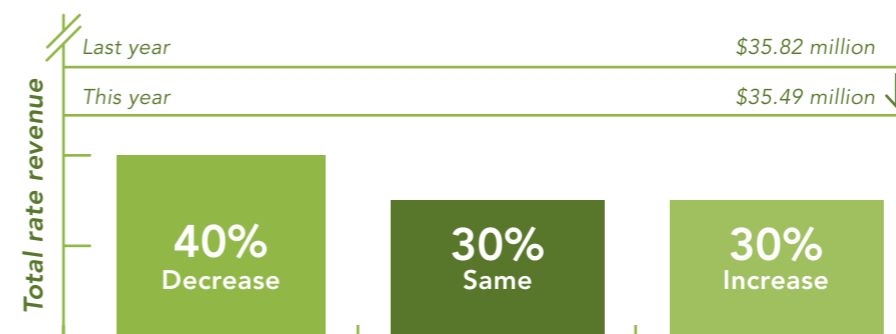


UNDERSTANDING YOUR RATES

Gross Rental Valuations

Volatility in rate setting has arisen this year as the Valuer General's independent GRV revaluation must be applied to rates by local governments.

Whilst Vincent has reduced the overall rates yield by \$290,000, the GRV revaluation means a rates freeze for all individual ratepayers has not been possible.



2020/21 Distribution of GRV revaluation on residential ratepayer

Introducing Rates Smoothing

We understand that you may need more flexible payment options to choose from. You can now use Rates Smoothing to make direct debit payments throughout the year.

To set up a direct debit, please complete the form on our website or call us for assistance.

We understand this may cause concern and we have strengthened hardship measures to assist our residents. Vincent rates remain low, with the fourth lowest average rate in comparison to 29 metropolitan Councils in 2019/20.

Financial Hardship Support

We have invested \$435,000 in financial hardship measures to provide assistance at this difficult time.

We have introduced a \$250,000 Financial Hardship Fund for those in greatest need. \$135,000 has been provided towards interest and fee waivers and \$50,000 has enabled us to introduce Rates Smoothing.

If you need assistance with paying your rates or hardship support via our charity partners, please contact us.

\$1 million support via Local Charities

Using purpose-specific funds from the Leederville Gardens Trust, we've distributed crisis funding to Public Benevolent Institutions to support the most vulnerable in our community – including seniors and people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence and food insecurity. Support is available to our residents via the YMCA, People Who Care, RUAH, St Vincent de Paul, Uniting WA, Foodbank WA and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services.



Backing the Arts Industry

The pandemic has been particularly devastating for our local arts industry, with events and projects cancelled en masse. Arts Relief Grants, funded by developer contributions specifically provided for public art, are being distributed to local artists to provide a diversity of public art across Vincent. This will aid economic rebound and add vibrancy to our recovering town centres.

STAY IN TOUCH



In Person

Located inside the Vincent Library,
99 Loftus Street, Leederville

P: 9273 6000



Experts on Demand

Planning, Building & Health
244 Vincent Street, Leederville

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W: vincent.wa.gov.au