

## NOT JUST ROADS AND RUBBISH

Did you know that local councils have come a long way from the days of just roads and rubbish?

Today, \$100 of rates paid are distributed across a wide range of services to meet our community's needs, both now and into our future. Some of these services include Maternal and Child Health services, Kindergartens and Family Day Care, youth services, library services, recreation programs, park, facility and garden maintenance and aged care services, just to name a few!

For every \$100 of rates paid:



## 2018 PROPERTY REVALUATIONS

In accordance with State Government requirements, the 2018-19 financial year is a revaluation year. The new valuations are based on the level of value as at 1 January 2018. Up until now and including the 2018 revaluation, property valuations occurred every two years. From 2019, valuations will be centralised under Valuer-General Victoria and conducted annually.

If you believe that you could not achieve the Capital Improved Value (CIV) if you were to sell your property and would like to object to the valuation, please contact Customer Service as soon as possible on 5220 7111. Objections must be completed and lodged with Council **within 60 days** from the date of issue on your rate notice.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A PENSION REBATE?

If you hold an Australian Pensioners Card (not a Centrelink Health Care Card) and you pay rates on your principal place of residence (including farm houses), you may be entitled to a rates discount. Please contact Customer Service for further information.

## DON'T BE LATE — DON'T MISS YOUR RATES DUE DATE!

**Paying in full?** Your rate payment is due by 15 February 2019.

**Paying by instalment?** Your payments are due:

- Instalment 1 – 30 September 2018
- Instalment 2 – 30 November 2018
- Instalment 3 – 28 February 2019
- Instalment 4 – 31 May 2019

**Did you know you can make regular ongoing payments towards your rates?** Please call our Rates and Valuations team to find out more.

## ABOUT THE GARBAGE CHARGE & THE NATIONAL RECYCLING CRISIS

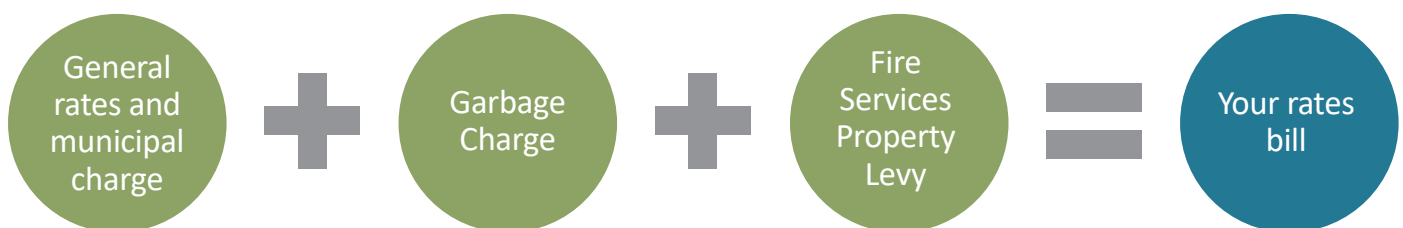
The 'National Sword Policy' implemented by China's General Administration of Customs has severely disrupted recycling markets worldwide, including significant impacts on Victoria. As a result of the global and local situation, the Garbage Charge has increased to \$330 per year.

Council officers have worked tirelessly with our suppliers and the State Government to ensure the impact on residents is as low as possible, but the overall situation is not within Council's control. We recognise and respect that this will concern some residents and want to reassure you that we are taking every possible action to minimise the effect on ratepayers and residents. Find out more about the Garbage Charge below.

## THE COMPONENTS OF YOUR RATES NOTICE EXPLAINED

The 2018-19 rate cap has been set by the Minister for Local Government at 2.25%; while individual ratepayer's increases may be more or less than this, the average Golden Plains Shire rate increase is 2.25% and meets the rate cap.

Please note this cap **only** applies to your General Rates and Municipal Charge and not any of the additional charges on your rate notice.



### General Rates

Council collects rates from residents and businesses in the municipality to help fund local infrastructure and services. Council is required to use property values as the basis for distributing the rating burden across the municipality. This involves determining the total amount of rate revenue required to deliver Council services and dividing this across the total value of rateable properties in the Shire to establish the rate in the dollar.

The rate in the dollar is then multiplied by each individual property's capital improved value (CIV) to calculate how much each property owner pays. Rates usually make up about half of a Council's income, and they are a form of property tax.

### Municipal Charge

The Municipal Charge is a flat charge of \$225 applicable to all assessments to cover some of the administrative costs of Council, such as IT, utility costs and processing services. The total amount raised from a municipal charge cannot be more than 20% of the total raised from the combination of municipal charge and general rates. Applying a fixed municipal charge is a way of ensuring that all properties make a standard contribution towards a Council's administrative costs.

### Garbage Charge

The Garbage Charge pays for the kerbside collection of your household waste and recycling, landfill rehabilitation, waste management and recycling education, street sweeping and public event waste management and waste management in community parks, reserves, townships and shopping districts. This charge also contains the State Government Landfill Levy – a charge Council must pay when disposing waste into landfill.

### Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL)

The Fire Services Property Levy is collected with every Victorian property owner's council rates. This means all property owners contribute to funding Victoria's fire services, not just those with adequate insurance. All FSPL funds collected by councils are passed onto the State Government to fund vital services provided by Victorian Fire Authorities twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This includes personnel, training, infrastructure and equipment. The FSPL is made up of two components; a fixed charge and a variable charge based on the property's capital improved value. You can find out more at [www.firelevy.vic.gov.au](http://www.firelevy.vic.gov.au).