



City of
KINGSTON

YOUR RATES **EXPLAINED**

2020/21

A brief guide to how we are
supporting and investing in
your local community

Rates
Assistance
Available
kingston.vic.gov.au
to apply



Cr Georgina Oxley
MAYOR, CITY OF KINGSTON

In the coming year our focus is to support our community through these challenging times.

To assist ratepayers in our community who are struggling, Council has introduced a \$12 million COVID-19 economic support package. It includes:

- \$118 rebate for all ratepayers with a residential bin service
- Extending the \$112.20 Pensioner Rebate to residential ratepayers who are on JobSeeker and to businesses on JobKeeper
- No interest charged on overdue rates during 2020/21
- Rates can be deferred for payment until 30 June 2021, and payment arrangements are available.

We will continue to invest ratepayer funds to provide high-quality services for all ages – from maternal and child health, kindergarten and youth services, right through to our leisure centre, libraries, immunisations and aged care services.

We continue to invest in our beautiful foreshore, and maintaining vital infrastructure including footpaths, roads and drainage.

COVID-19 has seen us all adapt to changing circumstances. We will keep looking for new ways to drive efficiency improvements to contain and reduce costs without negatively impacting on service-levels for the community.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR THE FREE PLANT PROGRAM

Council is disappointed that the free plant program has been delayed by COVID-19 this year. We hope to run it at a later date. Visit kingston.vic.gov.au/plantprogram for more and to join the mailing list for updates.

COVER PHOTO

A recently completed mural by Geoffrey Carran on the Chelsea Sports Women's Centre. The artwork pays homage to the sharp-tailed sandpiper which migrates from Siberia all the way to the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands each year.

APPLY FOR RATES ASSISTANCE

Council has developed an assistance package for our community and businesses to help alleviate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rates assistance package includes:

To apply for any of these assistance options please visit kingston.vic.gov.au/rates

FOR RESIDENTS:

- ✓ \$118 rebate for all ratepayers with a residential bin service (shown on your rates notice).
- ✓ Extending the \$112.20 Pensioner Rebate to residential ratepayers who are on the JobSeeker allowance.
- ✓ Rate payments deferred until 30 June 2021 for residents who apply under Council's Hardship Policy.
- ✓ No interest on overdue rates until June 2021.

FOR BUSINESSES:

- ✓ Extending the \$112.20 Pensioner Rebate to commercial businesses who are on the JobKeeper allowance.
- ✓ Rate payments deferred until 30 June 2021 for businesses who apply under Council's Hardship Policy.
- ✓ No interest on overdue rates until June 2021.

For more information on other support available for residents, businesses and community groups during this time, please visit: kingston.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

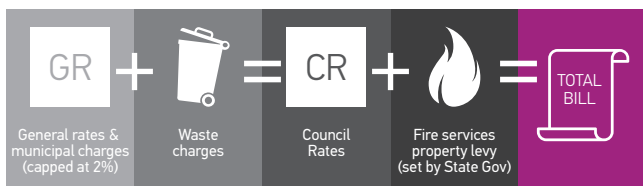
WHAT DO MY RATES PAY FOR?

Your rates fund over 100 services across Kingston, including libraries, our leisure centre, immunisations, and meals on wheels deliveries – to name just a few. Your rates also fund important new facilities for the community and vital infrastructure such as roads, drainage, street lighting and footpath maintenance.

Providing all these services costs more than the total rates we collect, with further funding provided through government grants plus other fees collected.

HOW ARE MY RATES CALCULATED?

Your share of the total rate amount is set by the value of your property plus a municipal charge, a user-pays waste charge and a Fire Services Levy. This year, all ratepayers with a residential bin service will receive a \$118 waste rebate as part of our COVID-19 assistance package.



HOW MUCH IS COUNCIL ALLOWED TO COLLECT?

The Victorian Government has determined a rate cap of 2% this year. This means that local councils can only increase the average amount of rates and municipal charge collected by 2%.

It is important to note that the rate cap does not mean that rates for each **individual** property will increase by 2%, the cap applies to the average rates bill – not individual properties.

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE'S RATES GO UP BY MORE THAN 2% WHILE OTHER'S GO DOWN?

Not everyone's rates will go up by 2%. Your rates could increase by more or less than 2% because rates are affected by changes in the value of your property. Properties right across Kingston are now independently valued every year, by the Victorian Valuer-General. Higher value properties pay a greater share, while lower valued properties pay a smaller share.

As at 1 January 2020 (the date of Kingston's valuations) the majority of properties in Kingston increased in value, however some properties increased by more than others. The key issue in determining your share is how your property value has moved in comparison to the average movement of properties in Kingston.

CASE STUDIES

RESIDENT 1 – NAOMI

Naomi's rates notice has increased. This is because her property value has increased by more than the average in Kingston. Naomi's property now has a higher relative value than the average in Kingston, therefore her share of the overall rates increases.

RESIDENT 2 – JOHN

John's rates notice has decreased, even though his property value has increased. This is because other properties in Kingston have risen by more than John's property. Because John's property valuation has risen by less than the average in Kingston, his share of the overall rates decreases.

HOW IS MY PROPERTY VALUE DETERMINED?

Each year every property is valued, as required by the Victorian Government. Your property value was calculated by the Victorian Government's Valuer-General as at 1 January 2020 and is shown on your rate notice.

WHAT DO I DO IF I THINK MY PROPERTY VALUATION ISN'T RIGHT

You can query your property valuation via:

Online: kingston.vic.gov.au/valuationenquiry

Mail: Property Data Department ,
PO Box 1000 Mentone VIC 3194

Phone: 1300 653 356 (enquiries only)

DO YOU OFFER A PENSIONER REBATE?

The City of Kingston provides a pensioner rates rebate of \$112.20 in addition to the Victorian Government rebate.

The Victorian Government rebate is a 50% deduction on council rates – up to a yearly maximum of \$241.

There is also a \$50 rebate on the Fire Services Levy for pensioners.

WHAT ARE WASTE CHARGES?

The Victorian Government charges a landfill levy on all waste disposed at landfills. As part of the State Government's Recycling Victoria package, levy charges will increase from 1 January 2021.

Disposing of waste is getting more and more expensive – which is why Council has introduced new initiatives such as food waste recycling.

Waste charges are set according to the size of the household waste, recycling and garden waste bins you have selected for your property and cover the costs of garbage collection and the fees set by landfill operators to dispose of household waste.

WHAT IS THE FIRE SERVICES LEVY?

The Fire Services Levy helps fund firefighting services from Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV). It is set by the Victorian Government – not Council.

As of 1 July 2020, the Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA) have come together under the new FRV organisation as part of Victoria's fire services reform. Find out more: vic.gov.au/fire-services-reform

For more information about the levy visit firelevy.vic.gov.au

Council passes all funds collected directly to the Victorian Government.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR RATES

1X SINGLE FULL PAYMENT



To pay your rates in full please make payment by 15 February 2021.

4X 4 EASY INSTALMENTS



First instalment due 30 September 2020*



Second instalment due 30 November 2020



Third instalment due 28 February 2021



Final instalment due 31 May 2021

* Please note: if you don't pay your first instalment by 30 September, you automatically opt into a Single Full Payment method, and won't receive further instalment notifications.

10X DIRECT-DEBIT INSTALMENTS

10 payments debited from your nominated cheque or savings account. Monthly payments commence on 30 September 2020 and conclude on 29 June 2021.

If you paid by direct debit last year you will be automatically re-registered using the same account.

If your bank account details have changed or if you would like to set up direct debit payments please complete a new direct debit form available at: kingston.vic.gov.au/ratesdirectdebit or [1300 653 356](tel:1300653356)

Please note: Your first payment will include any outstanding arrears rates from previous years.


HOW CAN I PAY MY RATES?

Council offers a range of flexible options to pay your rates:

PAYMENT OPTIONS



ONLINE

 kingston.vic.gov.au/pay



BPAY

Contact your bank or financial institution to make this payment.




BPOINT

 bpoint.com.au – Visa & MasterCard only





AUSTRALIA POST BILLPAY

 kingston.vic.gov.au/payrates click on Post Billpay




PHONE

BPOINT  1300 276 468 – Visa & MasterCard only
POSTbillpay  13 18 16



IN PERSON

At any Post shop or any Kingston Customer Service centre, by cash, cheque or money order (payable to City of Kingston) or debit/credit card. Cards accepted: Visa, MasterCard, Amex. Please call  1300 653 356 to check opening hours due to COVID-19 restrictions if paying at a Kingston Customer Service Centre.



MAIL

Detach payment slip, attach cheque (payable to City of Kingston) and mail to

CITY OF KINGSTON
PRIVATE BAG 5555
MOORABBIN BUSINESS CENTRE
MOORABBIN VIC 3189

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you would like to change the mailing address for your rates notice we must receive this in writing via email:

 info@kingston.vic.gov.au or mail:

CITY OF KINGSTON
CUSTOMER CARE
PO BOX 1000, MENTONE 3194

Get your rates delivered to your inbox



✓ **QUICK**

✓ **EASY**

✓ **SECURE**

Register today!

1. Go to kingston.vic.gov.au/rates and click the link
2. Using your assessment number, your name as shown on your rate notice and your current email address you can register to have your rates notice delivered to your nominated email address.

Any questions?

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about your rates notice, contact:

 1300 653 356 or  info@kingston.vic.gov.au

For more information go to kingston.vic.gov.au

 [cityofkingston](https://www.facebook.com/cityofkingston)

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