

What rates are

Rates are contributions made by most properties in the Borough to the upkeep of infrastructure and services in our community.

Council collects these contributions and invests them in things like roads, library services, and public parks. When you visit a playground, walk along a footpath or receive a visit from one of our community care workers, you're seeing your contribution at work.

How rates are calculated

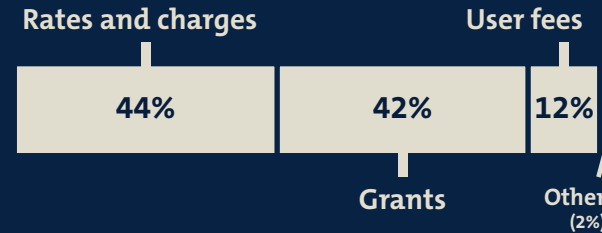
The total amount of money collected from rates only rises by a small amount each year to keep up with inflation and rising costs, and in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System. Each property in the Borough contributes a small percentage of this total. How much each property contributes depends on the property's value, as determined by the Victorian Government.

A property that increases in value more than its neighbours will contribute a bigger percentage of the total. A property that doesn't increase as much as its neighbours may contribute less. **Changes in property values don't change the total amount of money Council collects in rates**, they simply change the percentage your property contributes to the total amount of rates collected each year.

The Borough of Queenscliffe also provides some discounts on rates, including one of the highest pensioner discounts in Victoria.

Other funding sources

Rates aren't the only way new infrastructure and services are funded. Government grants, user fees (like caravan park fees) and other income is combined with rate contributions to form Council's budget each year.



Borough of Queenscliffe

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

Borough of Queenscliffe

50 Learmonth Street (PO Box 93)
Queenscliff, Victoria, 3225

P 03 5258 1377

F 03 5258 3315

E info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

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Borough of Queenscliffe

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

Rates

How they help us care for our community



How your rates are spent



How your contribution helps our community

Council invests everyone's rate contributions back into the community in a variety of ways. Upgrades and repairs to buildings, town beautification, environmental and waste management, tourism, and aged care are just some of the projects that draw their funds directly from your contributions.

The graph on the left shows approximately how much of your contribution goes to different projects around the Borough of Queenscliffe. Because of your contribution, we're investing in the future and taking care of the people and places we love.

How Queenscliffe's rates compare

For almost all ratepayers, your total rates contribution in Queenscliffe is smaller than you would pay for a property of the same value in any of our neighbouring G21 councils.

For the median Queenscliffe residential property value, ratepayers in Surf Coast would pay more than 15% more, ratepayers in Greater Geelong would pay more than 12% more, and ratepayers in Colac Otway would pay more than 71% more!

The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to ensuring we run a sustainable council that takes care of our community, without putting too much pressure on ratepayers.

Hardship policies

Council is continuing to support ratepayers throughout the ongoing coronavirus pandemic with additional assistance and extensions to payment deadlines for outstanding balances. This is in addition to the pandemic hardship policy, which was introduced in April 2020.

Council's hardship policies are designed to give extra support to those who need it. If you've been affected by the pandemic and are concerned about your ability to pay your rates, contact our friendly rates team for a confidential discussion about how we can help.

Differential rates

Some properties, like commercial and tourist accommodation properties, generate income that is supported by local government services. A differential rate contributes to covering the extra cost of infrastructure and services that support these activities.

More than 80% of properties in the Borough contribute the standard residential rate.

Council's differential rates for 2021/22 are:

Property type	% of general rate
Residential	100%
Residential vacant land	125%
Commercial	130%
Tourist accommodation	110%

Council does not make more money from differential rates. Differential rates distribute the same rating burden across the municipality to achieve greater equity and efficiency.