

Golden Plains 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. This information is intended to help readers understand the impacts of rate capping, which was introduced in 2016–17 to restrict the amount councils can increase their general rates and municipal charges in 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>, including an interactive version of this fact sheet, a reader's guide to help you understand key terms used in this fact sheet, and information about the sector as a whole.



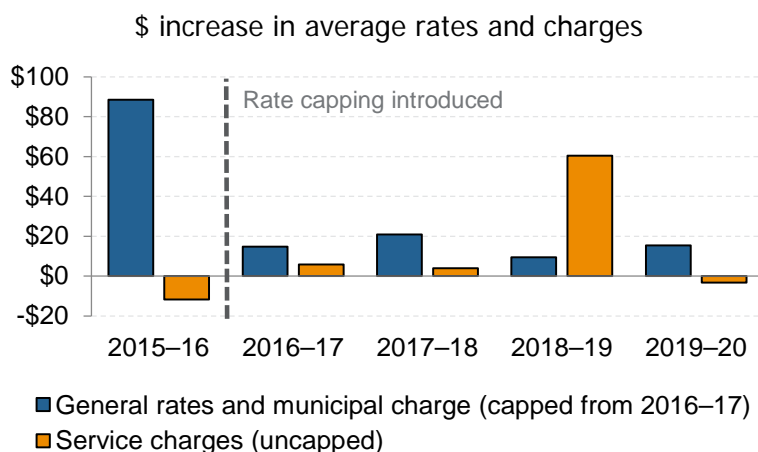
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Key facts

Population (June 2019):	23,722
Size (km ²):	2,703
Length of local roads (km):	1,729
Population per km of roads:	14
Council employees (FTE, 2019–20):	198
Submitted an application for a higher cap for any year between 2016–17 and 2019–20?	No

Rates

What has happened to average rates and charges (2019–20 dollars)?



Year	Average rates and charges	Applicable rate cap
2015–16	\$1,961	n/a
2016–17	\$1,981	2.50%
2017–18	\$2,006	2.00%
2018–19	\$2,076	2.25%
2019–20	\$2,089	2.50%

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 2019–20 dollars.

Have council's average rates complied with the applicable rate caps?

2018–19 (2.25%)	2019–20 (2.50%)	2020–21 (2.00%)
Yes	Yes	Yes

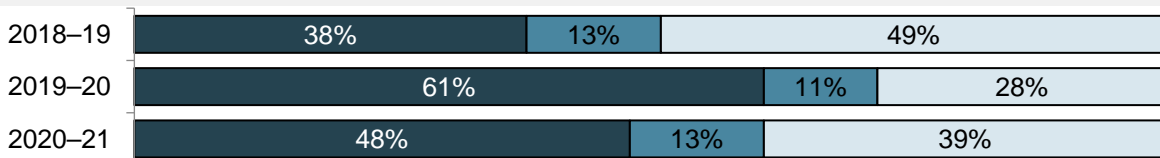
How have rates changed for different ratepayers?

Council's rating strategy 2020–21

Council levies 5 differential rates (for different types of property), a municipal charge and uses service charges to recover the cost of waste services. More information about council's differential rate categories and charges can be found in council's adopted budget.

Distribution of rates increases and decreases

The applicable rate cap is applied to council's average rate, which means some individual rates increased by more and some increased by less than the applicable cap (or even decreased).



- % 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 (2019–20 dollars)

	Residential ratepayers	Commercial ratepayers	Industrial ratepayers	Rural ratepayers
	84% of ratepayers	1% of ratepayers	1% of ratepayers	14% of ratepayers
	\$19.7m (83%) of rates and charges revenue in 2019–20	\$0.3m (1%) of rates and charges revenue in 2019–20	\$0.1m (1%) of rates and charges revenue in 2019–20	\$3.7m (16%) of rates and charges revenue in 2019–20
	2.8% average annual increase between 2015–16 and 2019–20	0.6% average annual increase between 2015–16 and 2019–20	4.5% average annual increase between 2015–16 and 2019–20	-4.4% average annual increase between 2015–16 and 2019–20

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.
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Where is council's money coming from?

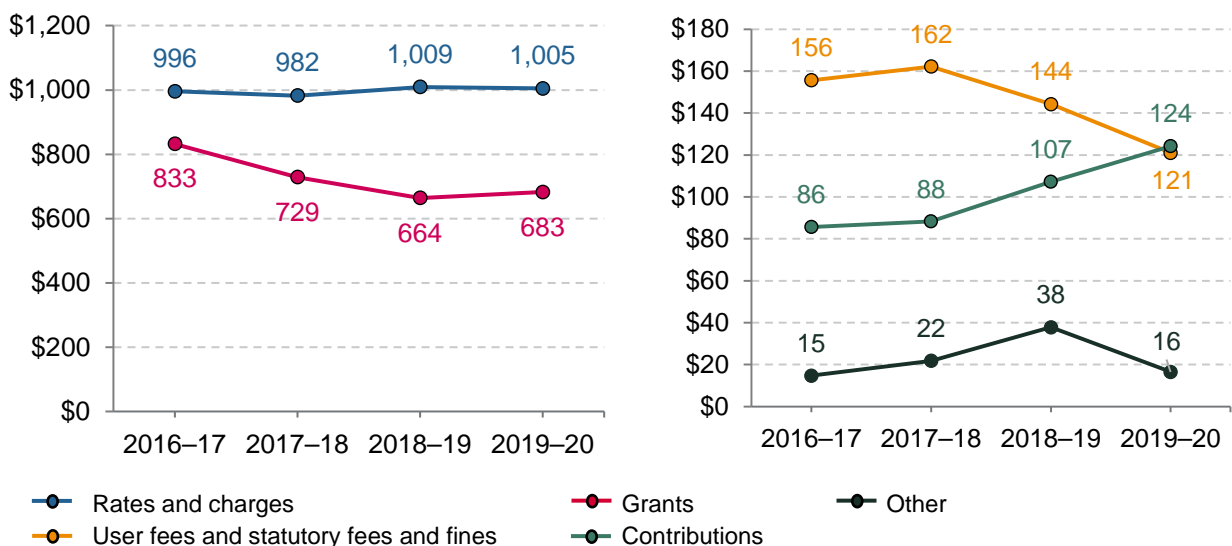
Revenue (2019–20 \$m and % of total revenue)

	2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20	
	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%
Rates and charges	21.9	(48%)	22.2	(50%)	23.3	(51%)	23.8	(52%)
User fees and statutory fees and fines	3.4	(7%)	3.7	(8%)	3.3	(7%)	2.9	(6%)
Grants	18.3	(40%)	16.4	(37%)	15.4	(34%)	16.2	(35%)
Contributions	1.9	(4%)	2.0	(4%)	2.5	(5%)	2.9	(6%)
Other	0.3	(1%)	0.5	(1%)	0.9	(2%)	0.4	(1%)
Total	45.9		44.8		45.4		46.2	

In real terms, Golden Plains Shire Council's total revenue remained relatively stable between 2016–17 and 2019–20. Revenue from rates and charges, and contributions increased between 2016–17 and 2019–20, while revenue from user fees and statutory fees and fines, and grants decreased in real terms.

Rates and charges, and grants were the largest sources of council's revenue, and together these sources accounted for 86 per cent of total revenue between 2016–17 and 2019–20.

Revenue per person (2019–20 dollars)



In terms of revenue per person (which adjusts for population growth), council's revenue from grants, and to a lesser extent revenue from user fees and statutory fees and fines, trended downwards in real terms between 2016–17 and 2019–20. This compares with an upward trend in revenue per person from contributions.

Expenditure



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

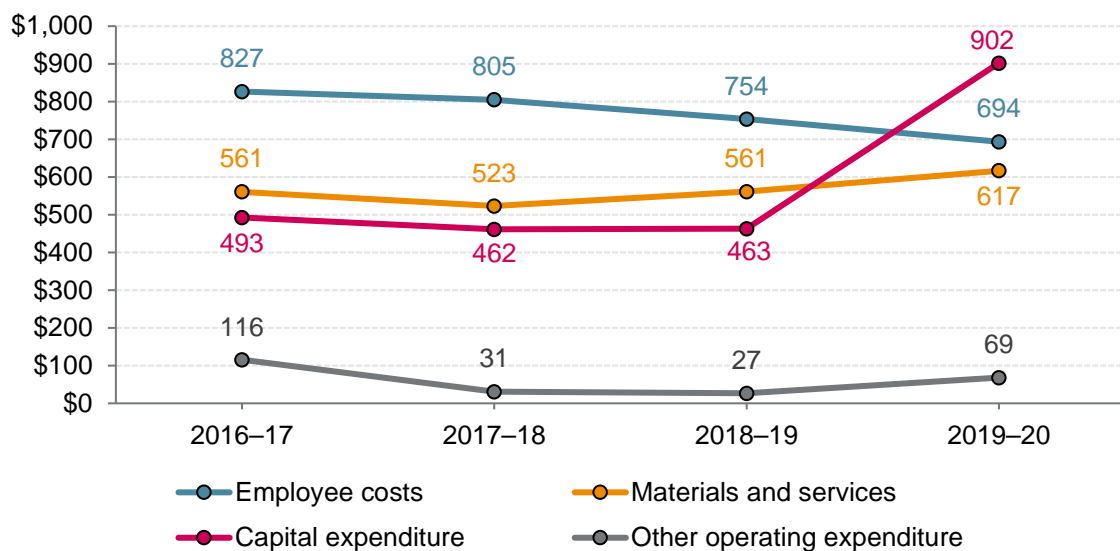
Expenditure (2019–20 \$m and % of total expenditure)

	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Operating expenditure	33.1 (75%)	30.7 (75%)	31.0 (74%)	32.7 (60%)
Employee costs	18.2 (41%)	18.2 (44%)	17.4 (42%)	16.5 (30%)
Materials and services	12.4 (28%)	11.8 (29%)	13.0 (31%)	14.6 (27%)
Other operating expenditure	2.5 (6%)	0.7 (2%)	0.6 (1%)	1.6 (3%)
Capital expenditure	10.8 (25%)	10.4 (25%)	10.7 (26%)	21.4 (40%)
Total	43.9	41.1	41.7	54.1

In real terms, Golden Plains Shire Council's total expenditure increased between 2016–17 and 2019–20, largely reflecting an increase in capital expenditure in 2019–20. Expenditure on materials and services trended upwards between 2016–17 and 2019–20, while employee costs decreased in real terms.

Between 2016–17 and 2018–19, employee costs was council's largest area of expenditure. However, following the increase in capital expenditure in 2019–20, this became council's largest area of expenditure in that year.

Expenditure per person (2019–20 dollars)



In terms of expenditure per person (which adjusts for population growth), capital expenditure and expenditure on materials and services increased in real terms between 2016–17 and 2019–20. Employee costs per person trended downwards in real terms between 2016–17 and 2019–20.



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Has council's capital expenditure pattern changed?

Capital expenditure (2019–20 \$m and % of total capital expenditure)

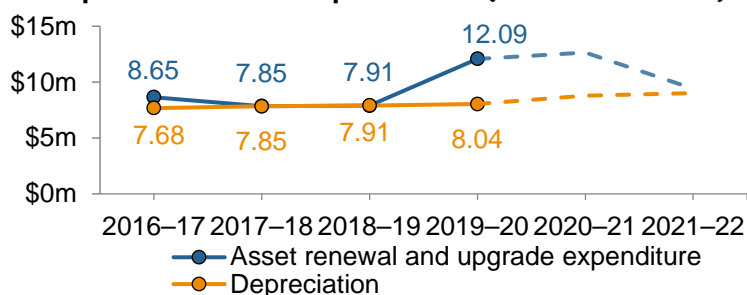
	2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20	
	\$m		\$m		\$m		\$m	
Renewal	5.5	(51%)	5.9	(57%)	4.4	(41%)	6.7	(31%)
Upgrade	3.2	(29%)	1.9	(19%)	3.5	(33%)	5.4	(25%)
Expansion	0.2	(2%)	0.3	(3%)	0.0	(0%)	5.8	(27%)
New	2.0	(18%)	2.3	(22%)	2.8	(26%)	3.5	(16%)
Total	10.8		10.4		10.7		21.4	

In real terms, Golden Plains Shire Council's spending on new assets trended upwards between 2016–17 and 2019–20. Spending on asset upgrades trended upwards in real terms between 2017–18 and 2019–20 following a decrease in 2017–18, and there was a jump in council's spending on asset expansion in 2019–20.

Asset renewal remained the highest share of capital expenditure between 2016–17 and 2019–20.

Is council renewing its assets (such as roads, parks and buildings)?

Council assets: comparing renewal and upgrade expenditure with depreciation (2019–20 dollars)



Renewal & upgrade expenditure as a percentage of depreciation

2016–17	113%
2017–18	100%
2018–19	100%
2019–20	150%
2020–21	144% (forecast data)
2021–22	104% (forecast data)

Council's spending on the renewal and upgrade of its assets increased in real terms in 2019–20, following a drop in 2017–18. Renewal and upgrade expenditure decreased to the amount of depreciation (the decline in value of council's assets caused by age and use) in 2017–18 and 2018–19, increasing above depreciation in 2019–20.

Renewal and upgrade expenditure was forecast to remain above 100 per cent of depreciation in 2020–21 and 2021–22 (despite a drop in spending in real terms in 2021–22).

Services



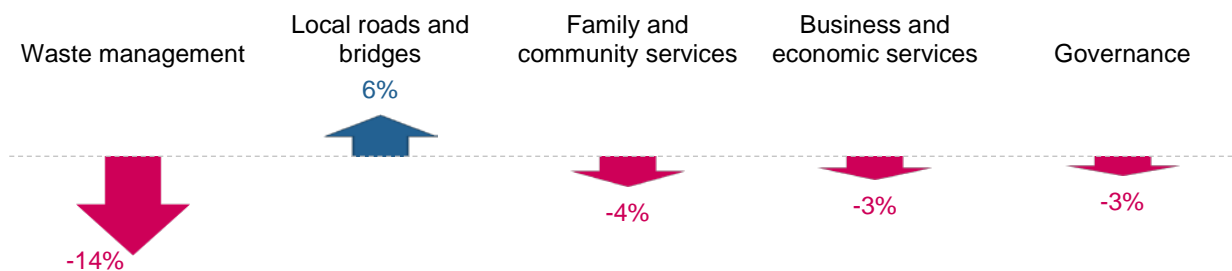
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Which service areas is council spending its money in?

Expenditure by function (2019–20 \$m and % of total services expenditure)

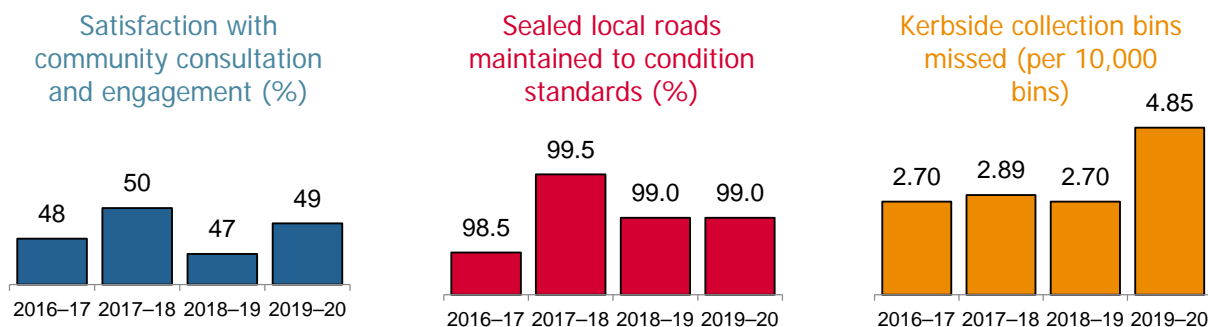
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Aged and disabled services	1.7 (4%)	1.4 (4%)	1.3 (3%)	1.4 (3%)
Business and economic services	3.6 (9%)	3.4 (9%)	3.2 (8%)	3.2 (8%)
Environment	1.6 (4%)	1.6 (4%)	1.6 (4%)	1.8 (4%)
Family and community services	8.0 (20%)	8.5 (22%)	8.0 (20%)	7.1 (18%)
Governance	6.6 (16%)	6.4 (17%)	6.3 (16%)	6.1 (15%)
Local roads and bridges	9.0 (22%)	8.7 (23%)	9.8 (25%)	10.6 (27%)
Recreation and culture	4.5 (11%)	4.6 (12%)	4.4 (11%)	4.7 (12%)
Traffic and street management	1.5 (4%)	1.7 (4%)	1.8 (5%)	2.1 (5%)
Waste management	4.2 (10%)	2.2 (6%)	2.5 (6%)	2.7 (7%)
Other	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)
Total	40.8	38.5	38.9	39.7

Which service areas have experienced the biggest changes in spending?



Source: Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (unaudited). Council Annual Reports may provide further explanation of these expenditure changes.

Has there been a change in service quality and community satisfaction?



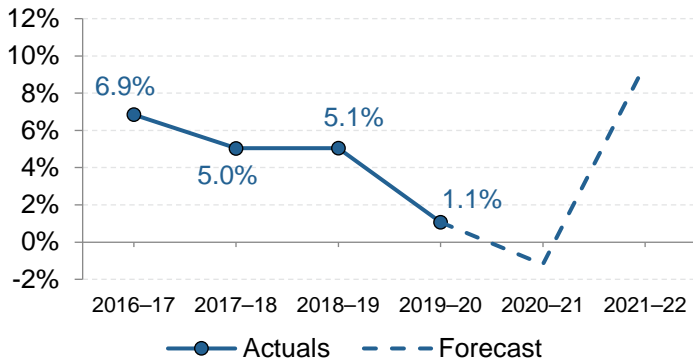
Financial position



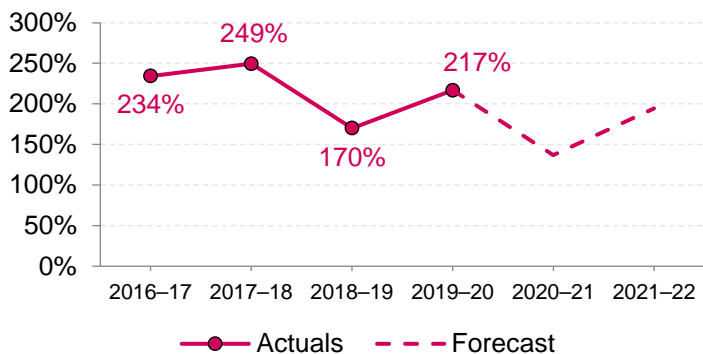
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Is council operating sustainably?

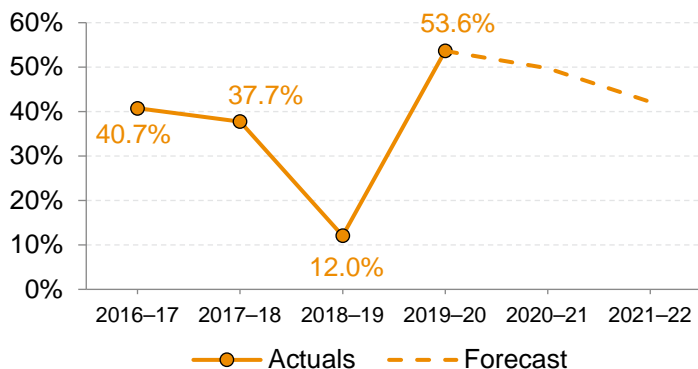
Adjusted underlying result
 (adjusted underlying surplus or deficit as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue)



Working capital (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities)



Indebtedness (non-current liabilities as a percentage of own-source revenue)



Between 2016–17 and 2019–20, Golden Plains Shire Council reported an average **adjusted underlying result** of 4.5 per cent. An ongoing positive result suggests there is enough ongoing revenue to continue to fund the current level of service provision. The lower result in 2019–20 reflects a higher level of capital grants received in that year (which are excluded from the calculation of the adjusted underlying result).

Council could meet its current financial obligations with a reported average **working capital ratio** of 218 per cent between 2016–17 and 2019–20.

The reported average **indebtedness ratio** of 36.0 per cent between 2016–17 and 2019–20 places the council in the Victorian Auditor-General's low risk category for this indicator, which means there is no concern over council's ability to repay debt from the revenue it controls. The decrease in 2018–19 and increase in 2019–20 reflects a deferral of a loan to fund delayed capital works.

Note: Some of the year-on-year changes in these financial indicators may be due to the advance payment of Commonwealth grants (particularly in 2016–17) and changes to accounting standards or the impact of coronavirus (in 2019–20). See the reader's guide for more information.