

What Rebates and Concessions are available?

Existing concessions continue to apply.

Pensioner Concessions:

If you hold a Pensioner Concession Card or an eligible Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card a \$50 rebate is available on the ESVF and a 50% rebate is available on your council rates (up to \$266.00). Concessions apply to one property per year, and it must be your principal place of residence.

Single Farm Enterprise:

You can apply for a reduced ESVF charge if you own or occupy multiple parcels of farmland which are used for a single farm enterprise. Eligible single farm enterprises may only need to pay the fixed charge once. If you think you are eligible, we can help you apply for this exemption. This exemption only applies to the fixed charge component.

Volunteers:

In recognition of their significant contribution, active volunteers and life members from the CFA and VICSES will be eligible for a rebate. To access the eligible volunteers rebate, please apply at:

service.vic.gov.au/find-services/housing-and-property/eligible-volunteers-rebate-scheme



I'm facing financial hardship. What can I do?

If you are finding it difficult to pay by the due date, please contact our Rates team as soon as possible at 03 5722 0838 to discuss your circumstances and available options.

Alternatively, you can request a payment plan for your account. Please note that interest will be charged at 10% per annum until the account is brought up to date.

Please contact Property & Revenue staff on **03 5722 0838** for assistance.

For more information about how rates are calculated, please visit:
wangaratta.vic.gov.au/Community/Rates



Wangaratta Government Centre
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta, Victoria 3677

Call: 03 5722 0888

Email: rates@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Your Rates in 2025-26

**Explaining the Emergency
Services Volunteer Fund**



Welcome to Your 2025/26 Rates Notice

Enclosed is your Rates Notices for the 2025/26 financial year. You may notice a change in the layout of your notice, with Council and State Government charges now clearly separated to improve transparency around how they are allocated. This brochure keeps you informed about the transition from the Fire Services Property Levy to the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF). You'll find answers to some frequently asked questions to help explain these changes and how they may affect you. For further information please visit:

- sro.vic.gov.au/esvf for general ESVF information and calculator
- service.vic.gov.au/evrs for volunteers rebate details.

Or call the **Department of Government Services' ESVF Support Line** on **1300 819 033**

What is the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)?

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), managed by the Victorian State Government, will replace the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) from July 1, 2025.

The ESVF intends to fund a range of emergency services, including VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).

Who pays for the ESVF?

All property owners, unless they are eligible for an exemption via a rebate. See "What Rebates and Concessions are available?" for more information.

As a property owner, Councils also pay ESVF.

How is the ESVF collected?

Councils will collect the ESVF through rate notices.

Councils pass the levy collection onto the State Revenue Office.

Note: this levy has been legislated by the state government, and we are required by law to collect it and pass it on.

How is the ESVF calculated?

Like the FSPL, the ESVF will be calculated based on a fixed charge that varies by property type, and a variable component based on property value.

Fixed Charge

Is different for residential and non-residential properties and increases annually based on the consumer price index.

Fixed Charge	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Residential	\$132	\$136	+\$4
Non-Residential	\$267	\$275	+\$8

Variable Component

Is based on a property's capital improved value (CIV) and a variable rate (cents per \$'000 of CIV) depending on its property classification.

Variable Component	2024-25	2025-26	Annual Change in Percentage Points (pp)
Residential	8.7%	17.3%	+ 8.6pp
Commercial	66.4%	133%	+ 66.6pp
Industrial	81.1%	133%	+ 51.9pp
Primary Production	28.7%	28.7%	0pp

Following substantial advocacy across the local government sector, the Primary Production rate has now been frozen for 2025-26.



What happens if I don't pay the ESVF?

It is not possible to separate the ESVF charge from other charges on a rate notice. If only a partial payment is made (i.e. excluding the ESVF portion), some of the payment will be applied to the outstanding ESVF. If the ESVF amount is not paid, it will be marked as an outstanding charge, and interest will accrue on it.

Note that any future payments will always be applied to the oldest outstanding debt first.

What should I do if I want to object to the levy?

As the ESVF is a Victorian Government levy, Council is unable to assist with objections.

Objections and queries should be directed to the Victorian Government: esvf@dtf.vic.gov.au

How are my rates calculated?

Rates are calculated by multiplying the Capital Improved valuation of your property by the appropriate rate in the dollar. A different rate in the dollar is applicable for different land uses.

For example, the calculation of rates for a residential property worth \$376,000 would be:

 $\times$  $=$ 

Valuation

\$376,000

Rate in the dollar

\$0.00307224700

Your Rates

\$1155.165

- + Waste service charges
- = Total Council Rates and Charges
- + Victorian Government Emergency Services Volunteer Fund