

Frequently Asked Questions

2025/26 Financial Year Budget & Rates

1. Why do we have a Council Budget?

The 2025/26 budget aims to keep Council financially stable while funding essential community services. It aligns with the 2023–2032 Strategic Plan and continues efforts to reduce deficits, moving toward surplus. This year's budget projects a small surplus of \$871,000.

2. What are the budget highlights?

This year's budget supports key community priorities like youth programs, safety, cleanliness, and parks. Highlights include:

- \$8.3M for the Glenorchy Memorial Pool, Humphries Rivulet, and an International Food Garden
- \$23.4M for new and improved Council infrastructure and assets
- \$600,000 for keeping the city clean
- \$1.2M for maintaining Council buildings
- \$1.1M for recreation and environmental services

Funding also covers community halls, childcare services, and other Council facilities.

3. When will the final budget be adopted?

Glenorchy City Council voted on the budget on 23 June, and it was adopted on 1 July.

4. What are Tasmanian state levies, and who pays them?

These State Government charges help fund essential services like fire protection, waste management, and land management. Examples include:

- Fire Service Levy: Funds the fire service and is included in your Council rates
- Landfill Levy: Funds initiatives to reduce waste going to landfill and is included in your Council rates and each time you visit the landfill
- Land Tax: Paid yearly by landowners (not including your main home)
- Stamp Duty: Paid when you buy a property

5. How do State Government waste and fire levies affect council budgets?

The Tasmanian Government charges a statewide waste levy and a fire levy to help fund the Tasmanian Fire Service and its activities. We collect these levies and pass them on to the Tasmanian Government.

6. What are council rates, and why do we pay them?

Council rates are a type of property tax that property owners pay. This money helps pay for local services like roads, parks, waste collection, and community programs. Councils set rates based on what services people need and what ratepayers can afford.

7. What are my rates spent on?

Your rates pay for a wide range of services, such as:

- Building and maintaining roads and footpaths
- Supporting the community and youth engagement
- Keeping the city clean
- Looking after council assets
- Local events, and urban upkeep

8. What is the 2025/26 rate increase?

The average rate increase across residential and non-residential rate payers is 4.95%.

9. How are my rates calculated?

Each property is given a value by the Valuer-General. One of these is the Assessed Annual Value (AAV), which is an estimate of how much rent your property could earn each year. Your rates are calculated by multiplying the AAV by a set rate in the dollar.

10. When are rates due?

Rates are usually due either all at once or in instalments. You will get your rates notice with a due date.

Glenorchy City Council's due dates are:

- 15 August 2025
- 1 November 2025
- 1 February 2026
- 1 May 2026

11. How can I pay my rates?

You can pay:

- Online or by phone using BPAY or BPoint
- In person at the Council office or Australia Post
- Through Centrepay or direct debit

12. Can I pay in instalments?

Yes. You can pay quarterly, monthly, fortnightly, or weekly. Head to our website or call 03 6216 6800 for more information.

13. What if I am having trouble paying my rates?

Glenorchy City Council offers support, including:

- Discounts for pensioners (up to 30%)
- Rate exemptions for charities
- A Financial Hardship Policy for people struggling to pay

You can find more information and apply for support through our website.

14. What happens if I do not pay my rates?

If rates are not paid for more than 3 years, the Council can sell your property to recover the money owed. If the owner cannot be found, Council may take ownership of the property.

15. What happens if I pay late?

If your payment is late, Council may:

- Charge a 5% penalty
- Add daily interest at 4.375%
- Take legal action to recover the money

You'll get a warning notice after 7 days, and penalties apply after 21 days.

16. How can I have a say in how rates are spent?

You can share your views during the budget planning process by:

- Completing the Annual Future Directions survey
- Attending Council Yarns and information sessions
- Joining our online community at [Let's Talk, Glenorchy](#)