



## MORNINGTON PENINSULA RATEPAYERS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

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### Is the Peninsula's 2011-12 Rates & Charges Rise Victoria's Worst?

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor, Cr Graham Pittock's spin says the shire budget is a "liveability budget" because rates will only increase 6.8%. However we are confused by his logic.

The fact is that this year the budget shows that ratepayers will be contributing an additional \$10.269 million or **9.85%** in rates and charges to the shire's **"bucket of cash"**. This is before the bucket **overflows** with an additional \$1.41 million increase in charges for tip fees.

The Municipal Association of Victoria's list of rates and charges for Victoria's 79 councils shows that only West Wimmera, Murrindindi and Baw Baw have increased rates and charges per assessed property more than the Mornington Peninsula.

West Wimmera and Baw Baw were affected by the recent floods. Murrindindi includes the townships of Marysville and Kinglake and is rebuilding after the 2009 bushfires when 95 people in the shire perished. The Peninsula escaped relatively lightly compared to these shires and has no excuse to raise the rates to the same extent.

In addition, an examination of the financial statements for the 79 councils in Victoria shows that the shire has the second highest level of borrowings and that the Mornington Peninsula (apart from the major cities of Melbourne and Geelong) has the second highest level of total current financial liabilities of the other councils.

The Ratepayer's Association says that this earns the shire the disgraceful reputation of being the **worst financial performing council in Victoria in 2011-12**, that the liveability statement is just further spin, and they can't understand why the Council ignored the call by many in the community to advertise for a CEO who can control rate increases.