

CHAPTER IV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction.

1. **General.**—The construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries are generally part of the functions of local authorities, but in New South Wales and South Australia, more especially in the large unincorporated areas, these duties are undertaken directly by the Government. In some States, moreover, a certain proportion of the roads and bridges is constructed and maintained by the Government, which, in addition, advances money for main roads to be expended by municipalities under the supervision of special Boards. Although roads, bridges and ferries constructed and maintained directly by Government do not properly come under the heading of "Local Government," they have been included in this chapter for the sake of convenience.

2. **Municipalities, Shires, etc.**—A description of the various systems of municipal government in the different States, and their development from the earliest date, was published in 1919 by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in a separate work entitled "Local Government in Australia."

3. **Water Supply and Sewerage.**—In the cities of Sydney and Melbourne the control of water supply and sewerage is in the hands of special Boards, while in Adelaide and Perth these services are under the direct supervision of Government Departments. In most of the other cities and towns, the municipal councils, or, in some cases, water trusts, are the controlling bodies which either construct the works out of their own resources or take them over after they have been constructed by the Government.

4. **Harbours.**—The majority of the harbours in Australia are managed by Boards, the members of which are either elected by persons interested or appointed by the Government. In a few instances, however, they are directly controlled by the Government. Only those which are controlled by Boards are dealt with in the following pages.

5. **Fire Brigades.**—In all the States, the management of fire brigades is undertaken by Boards. The members of these Boards are usually elected by the councils of municipalities and insurance companies within the districts placed under their jurisdiction, together with one or more appointed by the Government, while occasionally volunteer or country fire brigades are represented.

§ 2. Government Roads, Bridges, Etc.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i) *General.* The control of all roads, bridges and ferries with the exception of those proclaimed as "National" and of those in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division, which still remain under its jurisdiction, was transferred, in 1920, from the Public Works Department to local authorities. The Government has also adopted the policy of assisting municipal and shire councils to recondition certain main roads by doing the work in the first instance, and recovering in instalments from the councils concerned one-half of the cost.

(ii) *Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* At the 30th June, 1927, the "National" works consisted of 58 miles of roads, 288 bridges with a total length of 108,295 feet, and 18 ferries, while in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division there were 5,688 miles of roads (of which 177 miles were metalled or ballasted, 220 formed only, and 2,932 cleared only), 96 bridges of a total length of 13,495 feet, 489 culverts, and 6 hand punts under the control of the Public Works Department. (Information collected periodically.)

(iii) *Expenditure on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* The total expenditure by the Government during 1930-31 was £3,721,231, comprising expenditure from votes of the Public Works Department £435,749, from funds of the Main Roads Board £2,368,937 and endowments and grants to Councils from votes of the Local Government Department £916,545.

The Government expenditure in connexion with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, £1,673,003 in 1930-31 and £8,136,946 to the 30th June, 1931, is not included in these figures. Of the total sum expended to date, £6,728,158 was provided by General Loan Account, £1,398,788 from proceeds of municipal and shire rates and £10,000 from the Unemployment Relief Fund.

2. **Victoria.**—(i) *General.* A small sum is expended annually by the State Government on roads and bridges, and a considerable amount of loan money is advanced in each year to the Country Roads Board for the purpose of constructing and maintaining main and developmental roads, the amount so expended during the year ending 30th June, 1930, being £531,363, and in 1930–31, £313,773. An annual payment of £50,000 is also made out of Consolidated Revenue to the Board for maintenance works.

(ii) *Direct Expenditure by Government.* The amount of money expended directly by the Government through the Public Works Department on roads and bridges during the year 1930–31 was £30,977.

(iii) *Country Roads Board.* (a) *Duties.* The duties of this Board were given in some detail in Year Book No. 15, p. 526.

(b) *Finance.* The funds established under the Country Roads Act are the Country Roads Board Fund, the Loan Account, and the Developmental Roads Loan Account.

(1) *Country Roads Board Fund.* All registration fees, licence fees and fines under the Motor Car Act, all licence fees and fines under the Motor Omnibus Act, and all registration fees and fines for traction-engines are credited to this fund. The total receipts for the year were £1,817,231, made up as follows:—Motor registration and licence fees £1,059,194; contributions by municipalities for permanent works £122,398, and for maintenance works £188,973; sale of stores and material £126,882; and other sources £319,784. The expenditure for the year was £1,840,203, comprising maintenance and reconditioning of main roads and State highways £831,178; interest, stores, administration, etc. £740,908; road construction £147,085; and other expenses £121,032.

(2) *Country Roads Board Loan Account.* Loans to the amount of £4,822,000 have been authorized from time to time for permanent works under the Country Roads Acts. One half of the amount expended on permanent works and one-third of the amount expended on maintenance must be refunded by the municipalities affected, 6 per cent. of the amount due in respect of permanent works being payable annually, and the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid before the 1st of July in each year. A special rate, not exceeding 6d. in the pound, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality for the purpose of such repayment. Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1931, was £54,861, and the total to that date £4,613,760.

(3) *Developmental Roads Loan Account.* For the purpose of constructing and maintaining subsidiary or developmental roads, the Government has been authorized to borrow sums aggregating £6,475,000. The work is carried out under the supervision of the Country Roads Board, and the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability; the municipalities, however, are required to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan and to maintain the roads when constructed. The amount expended during the year ended 30th June, 1931, was £155,136, and the total expenditure to that date was £6,076,629.

3. **Queensland.**—Under "The Main Roads Act of 1920" a Main Roads Board was constituted, consisting of three members appointed by the Governor in Council. Subsequently the Board was abolished and its powers conferred upon a single Commissioner.

The duties of the Commissioner, as defined by "The Main Roads Acts, 1920 to 1929," are to carry out such surveys and investigations as are deemed necessary or expedient to determine what roads shall be main, developmental or tourist roads or State highways, and, under certain circumstances, to undertake the construction and maintenance of such roads. Before any road can be proclaimed a main, developmental or tourist road the Local Authorities through whose areas such road passes have the right to lodge objections thereto, and the Commissioner must consider such objections and, if necessary, vary his decision. No such action is necessary in the case of State highways.

Local Authorities are not liable for the return of any expenditure for construction on State Highways or on arterial roads declared under the Federal Aid Roads Act. They are, however, responsible for 50 per cent. of maintenance of the former and 33½ per cent. of the latter roads.

At 30th June, 1931, there were 8,400 miles of roads gazetted in the State, comprising 6,498 miles of main, 439 miles of developmental, 102 miles of tourist roads, and 1,361 miles of State highways; 1,761 miles of roadway and 29,881 lineal feet of bridges had

been completed at that date, and 114 miles of road and 2,337 lineal feet of bridges were in course of construction. In addition, there were at 30th June, 1931, 71 miles of roads in course of construction under the State Unemployment Relief Scheme.

During the year ended 30th June, 1931, the receipts of the Commission amounted to £1,407,811, including £179,250 from the Treasury Loan Fund, £476,720 from motor fees, £427,323 from the Commonwealth for works under the Federal Aid Road scheme and £193,483 from the State Unemployment Relief Scheme. Disbursements amounted to £1,352,555, including £221,811 on permanent works, £555,896 on works under the Federal Aid Roads scheme, £128,130 on the maintenance of roads and £195,058 on works under the State Unemployment Relief scheme.

4. *South Australia.*—The Highways Act 1926 created a Commissioner of Highways and provided for a Main Roads Fund. The Commissioner is virtually empowered to determine upon which roads he will spend the moneys available, in doing which he has to take into account (a) the moneys voted, or likely to be voted, by Parliament for main roads; (b) whether the road is or will be the main trunk route: (i) connecting any large producing area, or any area capable of becoming in the near future a large producing area, with its market or nearest port or railway station; (ii) connecting two or more large producing areas, or areas capable of becoming in the near future large producing areas, or between two or more large centres of population; (iii) between the capital and any large producing area or any large centre of population; (iv) between the capitals of this State and any other State; and (c) whether the area through which the road passes is, or in the near future will be, sufficiently served by a railway or railways.

The Main Roads Fund is to be credited with (a) licence fees and registration fees under the Motor Vehicles Acts 1921 to 1929; (b) licence fees under the Vehicles (Licensing) Act 1925; (c) fines, penalties, and forfeitures in respect of convictions for offences against the Motor Vehicles Acts (exclusive of any sum received for costs), or the Width of Tires Acts; (d) fees for hawkers' licences issued by the Treasurer; (e) contributions from Councils; (f) all sums appropriated by Parliament for main roads; (g) all loans raised and appropriated for main roads. In accordance with legislation passed in 1930 a portion of these receipts is temporarily payable into general revenue.

The expenditure from the Main Roads Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1931, was £361,718; the amount received from the Commonwealth Government for expenditure on Federal Aid Roads was £200,614; the amount allocated for roads in newly settled areas, etc., was £16,750; and grants in aid of rates collected paid to Councils amounted to £30,000. In the sparsely-settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department under arrangement with the Commissioner of Highways. The amount expended during the same period was £9,915.

5. *Western Australia.*—In Western Australia the construction, maintenance, and management of roads and bridges throughout the State are under the control of municipalities and district road boards which are subsidized by the Government.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Construction.* In Tasmania the cost of construction of roads and bridges is borne almost entirely by the State Government.

Up to the 30th June, 1931, the loan expenditure on these works was £4,988,404 (roads, £4,118,273; tracks, £232,825; bridges, £637,306). In addition, half the proceeds of the sale of land has formed a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. Under this provision £684,412 has been expended. This fund has in recent years more than met the demands on it, and expenditure therefrom since 1918 has been limited to £10,000 annually, the balance being used for redemption of debt.

The Government loan expenditure during the year 1930–31 on the construction of roads and bridges was £67,706, and expenditure from the Crown Lands Fund £2,810. In addition, the sum of £183,181 provided by the Commonwealth Government was expended on roads; the conditional expenditure by the State Government is included in the above figures. The amount of new-road mileage for the year was 60½ miles cleared, 76½ miles formed, 49½ miles metalled, and 23 miles gravelled, including 30½, 36½, 26½ and 14 miles respectively constructed out of Federal and State votes under the Federal Aid Roads and Federal Relief schemes.

(ii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads, other than "State highways," is undertaken by the municipalities out of their own funds. All bridges of a value of over £50 are maintained by the State Government. The maintenance of "State highways" is provided for by the *State Highways Act* 1929, which created the State Highways Trust Fund to which is to be paid from Consolidated Revenue and credited annually in each financial year for the purposes of the Act a sum equal to the amount of all motor taxes collected in the immediately preceding financial year and paid into the Treasury, less 2 per cent. The length of "State highways" is 1,019 miles and the expenditure thereon for 1930-31, £63,509.

7. *Summary of Net Loan Expenditure on Roads and Bridges.*—Figures showing the total expenditure on roads and bridges in the States are not available. The subjoined statement, however, gives the amounts of net loan expenditure by the State Governments up to the 30th June, 1931.

**ROADS AND BRIDGES.—GOVERNMENT NET LOAN EXPENDITURE TO THE
30th JUNE, 1931.**

Expenditure.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total to 30/6/31	14,932,682	11,617,988	3,622,863	3,186,007	1,975,797	4,988,404	40,323,741

The following table shows the annual net loan expenditure on roads and bridges by the central Governments in each State during the years 1926-27 to 1930-31 :—

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—NET LOAN EXPENDITURE, 1927 TO 1931.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land. (a)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927 ..	1,726,420	1,104,345	313,121	475,601	184,911	144,327	3,948,725
1928 ..	2,558,070	917,540	262,203	144,866	364,223	176,118	4,423,020
1929 ..	3,120,075	802,307	342,152	10,856	384,685	204,546	4,804,621
1930 ..	1,615,873	600,916	356,967	Cr. 31,419	315,325	168,531	3,026,193
1931 ..	1,592,919	350,057	181,758	Cr. 16,446	..	67,706	2,175,994

(a) Includes expenditure on main roads through local authorities.

The two tables given above show only a small proportion of the actual expenditure upon roads and bridges in the different States, for the reason that (a) there have been large expenditures from revenue both by the central Governments and by local authorities, and (b) the State Governments have in many cases voted grants and subsidies on the amount of rates collected, and have issued loans to local authorities either for the express purpose of the construction of roads and bridges or for the general purpose of public works construction.

§ 3. Municipalities, Shires, Etc.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *General.* Practically the whole of the State, with the exception of the greater portion of the Western Division, has been divided into municipalities and shires, the total area incorporated at the end of 1930 being 184,048 square miles, of which 2,454 square miles are included in the former and 181,594 in the latter. The areas incorporated comprise the whole of the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State (with the exception of Lord Howe Island, the islands in Port Jackson and the quarantine station at Port Jackson) and a small portion of the Western Division consisting of the whole of six and part of two municipalities.

(ii) *Municipalities.*—(a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number, area and population of municipalities, together with the length of roads and the number of bridges and ferries therein for the year 1930 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No. of Municipalities.	Sydney and Suburbs.		Country.		Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
		Area.	Population.	Area.	Population.			
		Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Miles.	No.	No.
1930	181	115,896	1,158,650	1,454,573	633,870	10,858	645(a)	38(a)

(a) Year 1927—latest available.

Of the 10,858 miles of roads 5,780 were blocked, metalled, ballasted or gravelled 1,973 formed only, and 1,812 cleared only, while 1,293 miles were natural surface.

(b) *Unimproved and Improved Values.* The table hereunder gives a comparison of the unimproved and improved values for the year 1930 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—CAPITAL VALUES.

Year.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Total Metropolis.	Country.	Grand Total.
UNIMPROVED VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
1930	60,896,333(a)	109,274,611	170,170,944	50,250,787	220,421,731
IMPROVED VALUE.					
1930	221,856,440a	304,669,264	526,525,704	154,479,852	681,005,556

(a) Exclusive of Federal Government and other non-rateable properties not now valued.

(c) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Particulars of the revenue and expenditure of municipalities for the year ending 31st December, 1930, under various headings, are given below :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
REVENUE.				
	£	£	£	£
General fund	4,327,433(a)	3,082,237	1,958,924	5,041,161(b)
Trading accounts		50,725	1,157,188	1,207,913(b)
Special and local funds		118,158	516,058	634,216(b)
Gross revenue	4,327,433	3,251,120	3,632,170	11,210,723
EXPENDITURE.				
General fund	4,240,286(a)	3,450,476	1,959,234	5,409,710(b)
Trading accounts		45,005	990,907	1,035,912(b)
Special and local funds		111,238	478,675	589,913(b)
Gross expenditure	4,240,286	3,606,719	3,428,816	11,275,821

(a) Items of revenue and expenditure for the city of Sydney cannot be allocated to the different headings shown for municipalities.

(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

The above figures for revenue are exclusive of loan receipts, particulars of which are not available. Loans raised during the year, however, were as follow:—City of Sydney, £2,419,986; suburbs of Sydney, £472,800; country municipalities, £430,338; a total of £3,323,124. The figures for expenditure for the City of Sydney are exclusive of £2,092,548 expenditure from loans. The expenditure included for other municipalities relates to "revenue expenditure" and includes loan moneys expended on road construction and other works not resulting in realizable assets or assets to be used over a period of time in fulfilling ordinary services. The amount of "capital expenditure" from both revenue and loans is not available, but the value of assets purchased during the year (£1,004,499) represents the total "capital expenditure" incurred. It should be noted, however, that certain assets are purchased under time-payment contracts. Redemption and sinking fund payments are also excluded except in the case of the City of Sydney. For the other municipalities the available information under this head is as follows:—In respect of loans, £598,143, and in respect of Government advances and time-payment debts (separate figures not available), £161,494.

(d) *Assets and Liabilities.* The financial position of the municipalities as at the 31st December, 1930, is shown by the following statement of assets and liabilities.

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1930.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Extra Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
ASSETS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank balances and cash	29,706,539 (a)	391,034	59,507	570,336	1,020,877 (b)
Outstanding rates		310,119	79,976	350,051	740,145 (b)
Sundry debtors		248,986	43,831	411,761	704,578 (b)
Stores and materials		49,356	6,219	139,962	195,537 (b)
Land, buildings, furniture, etc. ..		1,893,801	235,290	8,004,637	10,133,728 (b)
Other		250,442	49,823	116,439	416,704 (b)
Total	29,706,539	3,143,738	474,646	9,593,186	42,918,109

(a) Comprises the following:—Land, buildings, machinery, plant and stores, £23,563,118; sundry debtors, £64,817; cash and bank balances, £1,760,341; investments, £3,734,263.

(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

LIABILITIES.

Loans, outstanding interest and sundry creditors	28,393,820 (a)	5,696,887	486,788	3,149,961	9,333,636 (b)
Debts due to Government and interest thereon		170,718	27,777	3,706,227	3,904,722 (b)
Bank overdrafts		521,598	38,417	403,969	963,984 (b)
Other		68,778	13,207	111,902	193,887 (b)
Total	28,393,820	6,457,981	566,189	7,372,059	42,790,049

(a) Comprises the following:—Debentures, £24,546,946; sundry creditors, £2,479,378; bank overdrafts, £1,367,496.

(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

(iii) *Shires.*—(a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number, area, population, and unimproved capital value of shires, together with the length of the roads, and the number of bridges and ferries therein. It is not possible to give the improved capital value or the assessed annual value, as shires are not compelled to make these valuations.

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No. of Shires.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
	No.	sq. miles.	No.	£	miles.	No.	No.
1930	138	181,594	695,100	168,853,695	101,737	3,943(a)	173(a)

(a) Year 1927—latest available.

Of the 101,737 miles of roads, 21,464 were metalled or ballasted, 17,928 formed only, and 30,616 cleared only, the balance being natural surface.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of shires for the year 1930 are shown in the following table. Included in the receipts are Government grants amounting to £1,472,288, which together with other Government endowment make a total for Government assistance of £1,722,591.

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1930.

Particulars.	Revenue.	Particulars.	Expenditure.
	£		£
<i>General Fund—</i>		<i>General Fund—</i>	
General rates (including interest)	1,470,046	Administrative expenses	214,816
Government endowment	250,303	Public works	2,700,646
Public works	1,537,493	Health administration	140,967
Health administration	132,022	Public services	48,444
Public services	21,378	Shire property	23,043
Shire property	44,279	Miscellaneous (a)	157,300
Loan Rates	57,262	<i>Special, Local, and Trading Funds</i>	380,884
Miscellaneous	17,419		
<i>Special, Local, and Trading Funds</i>	437,656		
Total revenue	3,967,858	Total expenditure	3,666,100

(a) Includes interest on loans and overdraft, etc.—£89,465.

The figures for revenue in the above table are exclusive of loan receipts, particulars of which are not available. Loans raised during the year, however, amounted to £197,266. As in the case of municipalities the expenditure shown for shires relates to "revenue expenditure" (see p. 84). The value of assets purchased during the year was £311,025 and represents total "capital expenditure" incurred. Certain assets are purchased under time-payment contracts. The available particulars of redemption and sinking fund payments, which are excluded from the figures, are as follow:—Loans, £90,809; and Government advances and time-payment debts (separate figures not available) £108,497.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The finances of the shires at the end of the year 1930 showed an excess of assets of £381,103. The following table gives particulars of assets and liabilities as at the 31st December, 1930:—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1930.

Assets.	Amount.	Liabilities.	Amount.
	£		£
Bank balances and cash	384,585	Loans outstanding, interest and sundry creditors	1,697,465
Outstanding rates	434,216	Bank overdrafts	425,780
Sundry debtors	186,435	Other	131,239
Stores and materials	65,447	Debts due to the Government and interest thereon	418,541
Land, buildings, furniture, plant, machinery, etc.	1,957,588		
Other	25,857		
Total	3,054,128	Total	2,673,025

2. **Victoria.**—(i) *General.* Local Government is established throughout the State the various divisions being termed cities, towns, boroughs, or shires. Melbourne and Geelong were incorporated under special statutes prior to the establishment of a general system of local government, and except in a few details are not subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act.

The financial years of the cities of Melbourne and Geelong end on the 31st December and the 31st August respectively; those of all other municipalities on the 30th September.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table shows the number of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires, with estimated population, number of ratepayers and dwellings, and value of rateable property for the year 1930 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ending 30th September—	Number of Municipal- ities.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers	Estimated Number of Dwellings.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.	
					Total.	Annual.
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.						
1930	No. 56	No. 1,182,300	No. 335,892	No. 277,204	£ 382,243,226	£ 21,248,548
SHIRES.						
1930	140	654,420	271,586	162,117	294,447,615	14,784,365

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The table hereunder shows the revenue from various sources, and the expenditure under various heads, of municipalities during the year 1930 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1930.

Items.	Revenue.	Items.	Expenditure from Revenue.
	£		£
Taxation { Rates	3,914,438	Salaries, etc.	474,348
{ Licences	156,309	Sanitary work, street cleaning, etc.	496,793
{ Dog fees	29,966	Health	118,736
Government endowments and grants	149,372	Lighting	190,395
Contributions for streets, etc.	354,732	Contributions to Fire Brigades	73,880
Market and weighbridge dues	144,363	Public Works { Construction	371,776
Sanitary charges	188,927	{ Maintenance	2,107,164
Rents	155,187	Formation of private streets, etc.	473,753
Electric light and gas works ..	1,315,225	Electric Light and Gas Works	989,328
Other sources	661,174	Redemption of loans	396,711
		Interest on loans and bank overdrafts	789,263
Total Revenue	7,069,693	Charities	39,773
Loans	1,194,630	Other expenditure	783,025
Total Receipts	8,264,323	Total from Revenue	7,304,945

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1930—continued.

Items.			Expenditure from Loans.
			£
Roads and Bridges	..	..	819,256
Water and Irrigation	..	..	2,693
Sewerage and Drainage	..	..	133,769
Electric Light and Gas	..	..	149,023
Public Buildings	..	..	104,857
Other purposes	..	..	223,994
Total from Loan	..	..	1,433,592
Grand Total	..	..	8,738,537

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The assets of municipalities may be classified under three heads (a) the municipal fund, (b) the loan fund and (c) property; the liabilities under two heads—(a) the municipal fund, and (b) the loan fund. The following table shows the amount of municipal assets and liabilities for the year 1930 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1930.

Items.		Assets.	Items.		Liabilities.
		£			£
MUNICIPAL FUND—			MUNICIPAL FUND—		
Uncollected rates	..	592,591	Due on current contracts	..	74,295
Streets formed, etc., payments outstanding	..	848,215	Arrears due sinking funds	..	364
Rents and interest outstanding	..	20,515	Overdue interest	..	8,545
Cash in hand or in bank	..	409,427	Bank overdrafts	..	1,024,753
Other assets	..	379,635	Other liabilities	..	1,091,057
LOAN FUND—			LOAN FUND—		
(a) Sinking funds—			Loans outstanding	..	13,915,019
Amount at credit	..	617,692	Due on loan contracts	..	97,878
Arrears due	..	364			
(b) Unexpended balances	..	534,595			
PROPERTY—					
Buildings, markets, tramways, etc.	..	5,561,540			
Waterworks	..	422,500			
Gasworks	..	208,900			
Electric Light Works	..	2,501,760			
Plant and machinery	..	669,540			
Other assets	..	211,010			
Total	..	12,978,284	Total	..	16,211,911

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *General.* The whole of the State (except islands along the coast and 606 square miles in area) is incorporated into cities, towns, and shires under the Local Authorities Act of 1902 and its amendments.

(ii) *Municipalities. (a) Summary.* The following table gives particulars of the area, population, number of inhabited dwellings, and assets and liabilities of cities and towns and of shires for the year 1930 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Number of Inhabited Dwellings.	Rateable Value.	Assets.	Liabilities.	
							Govern- ment Loans.	Total.
CITIES AND TOWNS.								
1930(a) ..	26	sq. miles. 797	No. (b)	No. 111,642	£ 31,461,037	£ 21,375,663	£ 6,406,496	£ 24,180,218
SHIRES.								
1930(a) ..	121	669,044	(b)	89,942	49,065,876	1,931,090	1,774,072	2,688,772

(a) Figures relating to assets and liabilities include waterworks, sewerage works, electric light works, and railways and tramways controlled by local authorities.

(b) Estimated population of Queensland, 948,195 persons.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure (including loan moneys) of cities and towns, and of shires for the year 1930 are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Loans and Subsidies. (a)	Total.	Public Works and Services. (b)	Government Loan Redemption.	Office Expenses and Salaries.	Total.
CITIES AND TOWNS.							
1930 ..	£ 1,580,475	£ 175,756	£ 5,812,788	£ 3,367,115	£ 105,590	£ 284,828	£ 5,755,366
SHIRES.							
1930 ..	989,656	481,405	1,895,579	1,248,126	118,317	143,918	1,877,615

(a) Includes Main Road Receipts.

(b) Includes Expenditure on Main Roads.

The figures in the foregoing tables cover all the activities of the local authorities throughout Queensland such as :—Road repairs, street lighting, etc. ; waterworks, electric light, and railways and tramways controlled by local bodies.

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* A large proportion of South Australia is unincorporated, the balance being under municipal corporations in the larger cities and towns, and district councils in outside areas. These bodies are subsidized by the Government, and special grants allocated on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Highways are given for the maintenance and construction of main roads.

(ii) *Local Authorities. (a) Summary.* The number of corporations and district councils is 196, of which 11 corporations and 10 district councils are in the metropolitan area, and 28 corporations and 147 district councils in outside areas. According to the latest available information there are about 1,056 miles of roads in use for general traffic

under the control of corporations, and about 48,946 miles under the control of district councils, and of these totals, 16 miles are wood-blocked, 211 miles are bitumen and concrete and 14,040 miles are tar-paved, metalled or gravelled. The following table gives the area, population, number of occupied dwellings, capital and assessment values and outstanding loans for corporations and district councils separately for the year 1930 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year.	Area.	Estimated Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assessment Value.	Outstanding Loans.
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.						
1930	Acres. 66,063	No. 245,585	No. 56,008	£ 79,699,807	£ 3,994,142	£ 817,410
DISTRICT COUNCILS.						
1930	33,483,527	323,026	75,381	115,612,132	5,744,439	(a) 419,925

(a) Includes advances through District Councils to settlers for vermin-proof fencing, etc., amounting to £285,145.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of corporations and district councils for the year 1930, showing in separate columns the receipts and expenditure on main roads. The figures differ slightly from those shown in the Summary Table in § 4 hereinafter, which exclude transfers between the Government Grants and General Accounts. The financial year of municipal corporations ends on the 30th November and that of district councils on the 30th June.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Local Government (exclusive of Government Grants Account).						Government Grants Account (Main Roads).		
	Revenue (including Loans).			Expenditure.			Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	Rates.	Subsidies.	Total.	Roads.	Other Public Works and Services.	Total.			
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.									
1930	..	£ 521,306	£ 53,155	£ 819,815	£ 348,952	£ 305,984	£ 881,769	£ 13,061	£ 13,509
DISTRICT COUNCILS.									
1930	..	449,703	101,186	748,159	409,034	124,439	762,510	366,176	364,629

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* In this State there are three forms of local authorities, namely :—(a) municipalities, (b) district road boards, and (c) local boards of health, the two former covering the whole of the State. Local boards of health are of three descriptions, (a) municipal, the members being the same as those of the municipal council of the municipality in which each is situated, (b) those under the control of road

boards, and (c) those not under the control of road boards or municipalities. Several of the latter two are inactive. The financial year of municipalities and municipal boards of health terminates on the 31st October, and that of road boards and other local boards of health on the 30th June.

(ii) *Municipalities. (a) Summary.* The following table gives various particulars regarding municipalities for the year 1931 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 31st Oct.—	Municipalities.	Area.	Population.	Dwelling Houses.	Valuation of Rateable Property.		Length of Roads and Streets.
					Capital Value.	Annual Value.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	Miles.
1931 ..	21	59,543	195,301	38,748	48,541,463	2,580,690	(a) 768

(a) Exclusive of cleared roads.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Revenue and expenditure of municipalities during the year 1931 are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 31st October—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Rates.	From Govt. Grants.	From other Sources.	Total.	Works and Improvements.	Interest and other Charges on Loans.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ..	310,251	90,727	847,008	1,247,986	256,743	288,919	670,233	1,215,895

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The table below shows the assets and liabilities of municipalities at the 31st October in the financial year 1931 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

31st October—	Assets.				Liabilities.	
	Balance in Hand.	Value of Property.	Accrued Sinking Funds.	Total.	Outstanding Debentures and Bonds.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931	123,890	2,376,237	471,007	3,783,141	2,673,910	3,070,740

(iii) *District Road Boards. (a) Summary.* The next table shows the unimproved value, and in some instances the returns furnish also the annual value, but those portions of districts rated under the annual value are not included in the area rated under the unimproved capital value. The population at the date of the census of 4th April, 1921, was 160,970, and the number of dwellings 41,662.

On the 30th June, 1931, the population was estimated at 228,436, and the number of dwelling-houses at 55,116.

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Road Districts.	Area.	Unimproved Capital Value (Approximate).	Length of Roads in Existence.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Out- standing Loans.
	No.	sq. miles.	£	miles.	£	£	£
1931 ..	126	975,823	26,552,509a	21,170b	924,310	867,183	689,632

(a) Rated partly on unimproved capital value and partly on annual value.
roads, not formed, used for general traffic.

(b) Exclusive of

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of district road boards are shown in the following table for the year 1931 :—

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Other.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ..	237,053	181,604	317,538	736,195	64,249	467,610	229,429	761,288

(iv) *Local Boards of Health.* (a) *General.* On the 31st October, 1931, there were 21 local boards of health within municipalities, and on the 30th June, 1931, 91 under control of road boards, and 16 extra-municipal boards. Of the extra-municipal boards 5 were inactive during the year.

(b) *Finances.* The appended table shows the number of boards, their revenue and expenditure, and the assets and liabilities of such as were active during 1931. The financial year of municipal boards ends on the 31st October, and that of other boards on the 30th June.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES.

Year.	Number.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		Assets.	Liabilities.
		Rates.	Sanitary Charges and Rubbish Fees.	Total.	Sanitary and Rubbish Service.	Total.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ..	128	82,260	66,961	166,105	96,409	152,750	125,182	23,707

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *General.* The whole State, with the exception of the cities of Hobart and Launceston, which were incorporated under separate Acts, is divided into municipal districts.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number of municipalities, valuations, outstanding loans and length of roads for the year 1930–31. The latest available figure for inhabited dwellings is for the year 1921, when the number was 45,950.

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—SUMMARY.

Year.	Number of Municipalities.	Valuations.			Outstanding Loans.	Length of Roads.
		Annual Value.	Unimproved Value.	Total Capital Value.		
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.						
1930-31 ..	No. 2	£ 1,210,898	£ 7,070,559	£ 18,851,279	£ 2,579,200	Miles. 195

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1930-31 ..	47	£ 1,577,564	£ 16,236,246	£ 33,060,107	£ 509,256	12,209
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(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the year 1930-31 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works and Services.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Total.
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.							
1930-31 ..	£ 286,005	£ 3,751	£ 616,320a	£ 51,644	£ 373,392a	£ 191,497	£ 617,114a
COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.							
1930-31 ..	183,136	29,436	315,708a	39,823	224,214a	37,826	324,568a

(a) Excluding loans.

7. *Basis for Municipal Rating and Limits for Rates.*—These matters were dealt with at some length in Official Year Book, No. 17, pp. 124-25.

§ 4. Summary of Local Government Finance.

1. *General.*—In the preceding parts of this chapter certain particulars have been given regarding local authorities in each individual State. In this paragraph, comparative figures are given for each State regarding the financial operations of the local governing bodies referred to in § 3. The particulars in the next two tables refer to financial years as follows :—New South Wales : calendar year 1930. Victoria : 30th September, 1930, except Melbourne, 31st December, and Geelong, 31st August, 1930. Queensland : calendar year 1930. South Australia : Corporations, 30th November, and district councils, 30th June, 1930. Western Australia : Municipalities, 31st October, 1930, district road boards, 30th June, 1930. Tasmania : 30th June, 1931.

2. Number, Revenue, Expenditure, and Valuation of Local Authorities.—The sub-joined table shows the number, revenue, and expenditure, including loan money, and valuation of local authorities in each State and in Australia during the years indicated above. It should be noted that, excepting in Queensland and Tasmania, the metropolitan water supply systems are not under municipal control; the particulars given of revenue and expenditure for the four States other than Queensland and Tasmania do not, therefore, include revenue and expenditure on account of these systems.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (a) IN EACH STATE.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1930.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.(b)	Tasmania.	Total.
No. of local authorities(a)	319	196	147	196	147	49	1,054

RECEIPTS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates—							
General ..	5,355,555	3,914,438	{ 1,963,389 606,742 }	971,009	{ 451,695 204,774 }	{ 175,806 293,335 }	{ 15,413,310
Other ..	1,476,567						
Government grants, etc. ..	2,333,344	149,372	483,037	501,709	216,460	33,187	3,717,109
Loans and other sources ..	(c) 6,013,115	4,200,513	4,655,199	445,177	1,629,317	538,397	(f) 17,481,718
Total ..	(c) 15,178,581	8,264,323	7,708,367	1,917,895	2,502,246	1,040,725	(f) 36,612,137

EXPENDITURE.

Works, services, etc. ..	11,909,071	5,266,089	4,615,241	1,565,137	1,656,841	682,038	25,694,417
Interest on loans and overdrafts	1,928,570	789,263	1,275,080	70,538	188,169	229,323	6,839,782
Redemptions, sinking funds, etc. ..	1,193,430	396,711	535,376	53,485	179,837		
Administration ..	(e) 566,969	474,348	428,746	178,430	155,420	91,467	1,895,380
Other ..	302,824	1,812,126	778,538	153,671	347,633	23,286	3,418,080
Total ..	(d) 15,900,864	8,738,537	7,632,981	2,021,261	2,527,902	1,026,114	(f) 37,847,659

VALUATIONS.

Capital value of property ..	9389,275,426	676,690,841	580,526,913	195,311,939	47,908,676	51,911,386	(i)
Annual value of property ..	45,109,732	36,032,913	(i)	9,738,581	2,616,083	2,788,462	(i)

(a) Including particulars for all areas controlled by local governing bodies responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads and streets, such areas being variously known in the several States as cities, towns, boroughs, shires, municipalities, and road board districts, etc.

(b) Exclusive of Local Boards of Health.

(c) Exclusive of loan receipts, particulars of which are not available. Loans raised during the year amounted to £3,520,390.

(d) Exclusive of the total loan expenditure of the City of Sydney. The expenditure included for other local authorities relates to "revenue expenditure" and includes loan moneys expended on road construction and other works not resulting in realisable assets or assets to be used over a period of time in fulfilling ordinary services. The amount of "capital expenditure" from both revenue and loans is not available. The addition of the following amounts to the above total of £15,900,864 should, however, give a fairly close approximation of total expenditure comparable with the other States:—For City of Sydney, £2,092,548 (expenditure from loans), and for the other local authorities, £1,315,524 (value of assets purchased during the year). This latter figure represents the total "capital expenditure" incurred during the year and not the sum actually expended, as certain of the assets are purchased under time-payment contracts.

(e) General Fund.

(f) See footnotes (c) and (d) relating to New South Wales.

(g) Unimproved capital value. The improved value for shires is not available; for municipalities it is £681,005,556.

(h) Assessed annual value, excluding Shires.

(i) Not available.

(j) Rateable value.

(k) Municipalities only. District Road Boards are rated on unimproved capital value and/or annual value, the total of the unimproved capital value being £25,612,116; the total annual value is not available.

3. **Local Government Loans, 1930.**—The following table shows the amount of loans raised by local authorities during the year 1930, of loans current at the end of that year, the liability on account of interest and sinking fund, and the loans redeemed during 1930:—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—LOANS, 1930.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loans from General Government—							
Raised during year ..	..	953	174,124	99,483	105,026	17,078	396,664
Current at end of year ..	..	887,334	8,180,568	382,756	318,843	454,680	10,224,181
Loans from other Sources—							
Raised during year ..	3,520,390	1,357,161	1,142,960	16,202	207,935	115,793	6,360,441
Current at end of year ..	34,626,136	13,027,685	15,128,773	854,579	3,108,562	2,633,776	69,379,511
Total—							
Raised during year ..	3,520,390	1,358,114	1,317,084	115,685	312,961	132,871	6,757,105
Current at end of year ..	34,626,136	13,915,019	23,309,341	1,237,335	3,427,405	3,088,456	79,603,692
Current Loans, exclusive of those obtained from General Government, raised within Australia ..	25,277,150	13,027,685	5,622,250	854,579	2,731,246	1,448,776	48,961,686
Annual Liability on account of Interest ..	1,905,735	(b) 720,868	1,216,400	68,749	204,115	179,341	4,295,208
Total Sinking Fund at end of year ..	2,830,328	618,056	1,275,782	26,335	552,722	422,794	5,726,017
Amount of Loans Redeemed during year ..	(a)	(a)	374,678	48,635	129,300	57,789	(a)

(a) Not available.

(b) Interest paid.

§ 5. Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i) *General.* In Sydney and its suburbs the water supply and sewerage systems are controlled by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board, and in Newcastle and its suburbs by the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board. In country districts, both waterworks and sewerage works are constructed by the Public Works Department, and, when completed, handed over to the municipalities affected, by which the cost must be repaid.

(ii) *Metropolitan Waterworks.* (a) *General.* Financial conditions necessitated a stoppage of all loan works in March, 1931, but prior to that date good progress had been made on the construction of the two additional storage reservoirs on the Nepean and Woronora Rivers. During the year ended 30th June, 1931 also, the Killara service reservoir was completed, the works embraced in the Sutherland-Cronulla scheme were wholly carried out, certain large trunk mains were laid, and additional pumping units were installed at the Ryde and Lakemba stations. The maximum day's consumption in the metropolitan area was 139,693,000 gallons. The length of mains is now 4,188 miles.

(b) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses, the estimated population supplied, and other details for the year ended 30th June, 1931:—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—WATER SUPPLIED.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1931 ..	308,657	1,543,285	84,390	30,802,514	273	54.68	84

(c) *Finances.* The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure on account of the services of waterworks, sewerage and drainage during the year 1930-31 :—

WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE, SYDNEY.

Item.	Revenue.	Working Expenses, Sinking Fund Contribution, and Renewals. (a)	Capital Indebtedness.	Percentage of Working Expenses and Sinking Fund Contribution on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest. (b)	Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
Water ..	1,672,954	514,484	23,381,090	30.75	7.16	1,156,902	+ 1,568
Sewerage	979,389	287,570	14,440,475	29.36	6.78	758,519	— 66,700
Drainage	51,745	13,388	699,450	25.87	7.40	36,504	+ 1,853
Total	2,704,088	815,442	38,521,015	30.16	7.02	1,951,925	— 63,279

(a) Includes payments to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of capital indebtedness as follows :—Water, £58,010; Sewerage, £39,674; and Drainage, £1,872.

(b) Includes exchange as follows :—Water, £93,921; Sewerage, £63,944; and Drainage, £2,624.

(iii) *Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Systems.* (a) *General.* In addition to the usual progress made in connecting additional houses, 77 miles of new sewers were laid, the total length at 30th June, 1931, being 1,871 miles. The quantity of sewage pumped was 5,118 million gallons.

(b) *Houses Drained, Population Served, Length of Sewers, etc.* Particulars as at 30th June, 1931, are given hereunder :—

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Drained.	Estimated Population Served.	Total Length of Sewers.	Total Length of Storm-water Drains.	Ventilating Shafts Erected.	Sewers Ventilated.
	No.	No.	Miles.	Miles.	Fect.	Miles.
1931	204,772	1,023,860	1,871.32	75.89	618,498	1,442

(iv) *Newcastle Water Supply.* (a) *General.* The supply is drawn from the Chichester Reservoir, and is piped about 50 miles to Newcastle. The storage reservoir capacity is 5,000 million gallons. In addition to supplying Newcastle, water is reticulated in Maitland, 20 miles distant from Newcastle, and the Cessnock coalmining field, as well as areas adjoining these centres. The supply also extends to the farming areas of Miller's Forest and the lakeside resorts of Belmont and Toronto.

Water can also be supplied from the Hunter River at Maitland, if required.

Reservoirs distributed throughout the Water Supply District number 36, with a total storage capacity of 60,480,510 gallons.

The net addition to lengths of water-mains laid was 4 miles, bringing the total length of mains to 860 miles.

(b) *Particulars of Services.* The following table supplies details for the year ended 30th June, 1931 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Quantity Supplied for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 gallons.	1,000 gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1931 ..	42,631	213,155	7,960	2,905,391	187	37.34	4

(c) *Finances.* The next table gives the revenue, working expenses, capital debt, and net profit for the year ended 30th June, 1931 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Management, Working Expenses, and Sinking Fund.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Management and Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest on Capital Debt.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1931 ..	235,325	85,823	2,847,998	36.47	8.26	(a) 160,298	10,796

(a) Includes exchange £15,578.

(v) *Newcastle Sewerage Works.* (a) *General.* The sewerage works for Newcastle and suburbs as originally designed have been completed by the Department of Public Works and vested in the Board.

The amplification, extension, and improvement of such sewerage works was authorized by "The Newcastle and Suburbs Sewerage Amplification Act 1928" passed on the 21st May, 1928. The estimated cost of the work, which is still under construction, is £761,625. Schemes for the sewerage of Stockton and West Maitland are being investigated, and the Cessnock system is under construction at a revised estimated cost of £201,845.

The stormwater drainage of Newcastle and adjoining areas is divided into two catchment areas, viz., the works in the Cottage Creek Stormwater Area, estimated to cost £200,000, and the works in the Throsby Creek Stormwater Area, estimated to cost £660,000.

(b) *Sewerage Connexions and Length of Sewers.* During the year ended 30th June, 1931, the number of properties connected with sewers was 241, making a total of 21,471. New sewers of a length of 1 mile were constructed by the Board, bringing the total length of sewers under the Board's control to 200 miles.

(c) *Finances.* Particulars in regard to chief items for the year 1930-31 are given hereunder :—

NEWCASTLE SEWERAGE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Management, Working Expenses and Sinking Fund.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Management, Working Expenses and Sinking Fund on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest on Capital Debt.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1931 ..	91,158	42,713	(a) 1,868,802	46.86	4.88	(b) 44,642	3,803

(a) Includes £634,326 expenditure on stormwater drainage works not yet transferred to and vested in the Board.

(b) Includes exchange £9,756.

(vi) *Water Supply and Sewerage in Country Towns*.* (a) *General.* Under the *Local Government Act 1919*, the Public Works Department may, upon application by any municipal or shire council, construct, out of moneys voted therefor by Parliament, waterworks or sewerage works, and when completed transfer the control thereof to the council. In each case the cost, with interest, is repayable by instalments spread over a period corresponding to the probable life of the work.

* Excluding the area of operations of the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Newcastle).

(b) *Waterworks.* Up to the 30th June, 1931, waterworks in 82 towns had been completed and handed over to the respective local authorities. The debt due to the Government on account of these works was £3,422,916, and the annual repayment instalments were £188,027. In addition to the foregoing, the Broken Hill and Junee water supplies are administered by the Public Works Department under special Acts; these services entailed capital expenditures of £481,795 and £220,308 respectively.

(c) *Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Works.* Up to the 30th June, 1931, sewerage and stormwater drainage works in nineteen towns had been completed. Capital expenditure thereon was £1,080,769. The repayment instalments were £56,543 per annum.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *A. Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.* (a) *General.* All land within 13 miles of the Post Office at the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth-streets, Melbourne, together with the remaining areas of the City of Mordialloc and the Shire of Moorabbin and a further portion of the Shire of Dandenong, but excluding 11 square miles in the Shires of Keilor and Braybrook under the control of the Keilor and St. Albans Waterworks Trust, is included within the metropolitan area for water supply, sewerage, main drainage and river improvement purposes. This territory covers 434 square miles of land area, and in 1931 embraced 25 cities, 1 shire, and parts of 12 other shires, or a total of 38 municipalities or portions thereof. In addition, the Board supplies water to certain municipalities outside the metropolitan area.

The Board's liability on the 30th June, 1931, for loans raised was £24,001,131. The Board is still empowered to borrow £1,138,803 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The ordinary receipts and expenditure for the year 1930–31 were £1,848,847 and £1,761,433 respectively, and the loan receipts and expenditure, £810,988 and £1,059,359 respectively.

B. *Melbourne Water Supply.* (a) *Quantity of Water, Number of Houses, and Population Supplied.* The following table gives particulars of services for the year 1930–31. The rate levied was sixpence in the pound on the net annual value of the property served.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Consumption.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reticulation, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1931 ..	253,118	1,121,313	55,208	20,150,855	218.11	49.23	2,744

(b) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and surplus for the year ended 30th June, 1931, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £10,892,860.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (b)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1931 ..	502,579	771,655	122,889	15.93	554,168	94,598

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(b) Includes interest on renewals and sinking funds.

C. *Melbourne Sewerage.* (a) *Number of Houses Connected, etc.* Particulars of services for the year 1930-31 are given below. The rate levied was elevenpence in the pound on the net annual value of the property served.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses for which Sewers are Provided.	Estimated Population for which Sewers are Provided.	Average Daily Pumping.	Total Sewage Pumped for the Year.	Average Daily Pumping.		Length of Sewers, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1931 ..	234,600	1,039,278	42,340	15,454,020	180.5	40.7	2,401

(b) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and surplus for the year ended 30th June, 1931, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £12,595,981.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (b)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1931 ..	323,848	906,056	161,085	17.78	697,238	47,733

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(b) Includes interest on renewals and sinking funds.

(c) *Metropolitan Sewage Farm.* The total area of the farm at the 30th June, 1931, was 22.634 acres. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year 1930-31. The total capital cost to the 30th June, 1931 was £1,122,327.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Interest.	Net Cost of Sewage Purification.	Trading Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ..	50,344	22,605	41,015	59,323	77,733	13,232

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(d) *Disposal of Night-soil from Unsewered Premises.* The total number of pans cleaned by the Board at its depots at Brooklyn, Campbellfield, and Moorabbin, where the night-soil was disposed of by burial, was 999,530, for the year 1930-31.

D. Melbourne Drainage and Rivers—Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year ended 30th June, 1931. The total capital cost to that date was £1,031,987.

DRAINAGE AND RIVERS, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (b)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1931	75,954	89,475	15,151	16.93	59,097	15,227

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(b) Includes interest on renewals and sinking funds.

(ii) *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, constituted in 1908, consists of five commissioners. The amount of loan money which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installation to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 45,270.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,738,119,808 gallons, and there are 272 miles of reticulation mains within the city of Geelong and its suburbs. Arrangements have been made with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission for a supplementary supply of a minimum quantity of 500 million gallons of water per annum from the Commission's works now being constructed to tap the watersheds of the upper reaches of the river Barwon. The total expenditure on waterworks to the 30th June, 1931, was £700,797, and the revenue for the year 1930–31 was £53,194; the sinking fund for redemption of loans amounted to £47,346.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 140 miles of reticulation mains have already been laid. The drainage area is 9,489 acres, and the number of buildings within the drainage area is 11,400, and within the sewered areas 11,110, while 11,071 buildings have been connected with the sewers. The total expenditure to 30th June, 1931 on sewerage works was £641,913, and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £253,556, of which £44,025 is outstanding. The revenue amounted to £42,498. The sinking fund for redemption of loans amounted to £46,666.

(iii) *The Ballarat Water Commission and the Ballarat Sewerage Authority.* (a) *General.* The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, and the Ballarat Sewerage Authority on the 30th November, 1920. The members of the Water Commission are the Sewerage Authority. The Commissioners number seven; three (one of whom is chairman) being appointed by the Government, and four being elected by the Council of the City of Ballarat.

(b) *Water Supply.* The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, containing a population of about 43,000. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £651,681. The liabilities are loans due to the Government amounting to £301,158 as at 31st December, 1931. The revenue for the year was £34,755.

(c) *Sewerage.* The scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons. The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1931, is £324,594. The method of sewage disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation, and sludge digestion. Fifty-four sewered areas have been declared as at 1st January, 1932, comprising 6,798 tenements.

The scheme is being financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions, £364,090 having been provided up to 31st December, 1931, for constructional works, and £135,000 for house connexions.

(iv) *Bendigo Sewerage Authority.* The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute this Authority. The sewerage district comprises the populated area of the city of Bendigo. The works when completed are estimated to cost £450,000. Expenditure to end of December, 1931, was £325,303 for sewerage scheme and £174,163 for house connexions.

(v) *Water Supply in Country Towns and Districts.* Most of the country waterworks are controlled by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, but in some instances the control is by waterworks trusts or by municipal corporations.

The following table gives particulars regarding waterworks under the control of trusts and municipal corporations for the year 1931 :—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, VICTORIA.—FINANCES.

Year.	Under Waterworks Trusts.				Under Municipal Corporations.			
	Number of Trusts.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.	Number of Corporations.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.
1931 ..	No. 105	£ 1,740,826	£ 1,363,880	£ 4,990	No. 28	£ 857,917	£ 558,075	£ 997

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Water Supply and Sewerage Department, Brisbane City Council.*
(a) *General.* The whole of the water supply in the metropolitan area and the bulk supply to the City of Ipswich is filtered.

The available storage in the Brisbane River is 500 million gallons, the catchment area being approximately 4,000 square miles. In Lake Manchester the storage capacity is 7,000 million gallons, and the catchment area 28.5 square miles. The capacity of Enoggera and Gold Creek Reservoirs is 1,000 million gallons and 434 million gallons respectively, and the catchment area 12.8 and 3.8 square miles respectively.

The total capacity of the service reservoirs on Tarragindi Hill, Eildon Hill, Bartley's Hill, Highgate Hill, Roles Hill, Wickham Terrace, and Paddington (elevated tank) is approximately 27,356,000 gallons.

(b) *Waterworks. Summary.* The following table gives a summary of operations for the six months ended 30th June, 1931. Figures are available for a half-year only owing to a change from calendar to financial years :—

WATERWORKS, BRISBANE.—SUMMARY.

Six Months ended—	Length of Reticulation Mains.	Number of Tenements Connected. (a)	Estimated Population Supplied.	Quantity Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Average Daily Supply per Head of Estimated Population.
30th June, 1931	Miles. 806½	No. 63,498	No. 327,422	1,000 Gallons 2,306,397	Gallons. 12,742,526	Gallons. 38.92

(a) Exclusive of Ipswich, which is a bulk supply.

The total length of the trunk mains is 203½ miles.

(c) *Sewerage.* At the 30th June, 1931, 14,005 premises were connected to the Council's sewerage system, the estimated population served being 70,025 persons. The total length of sewers in operation is 359½ miles, consisting of 206½ miles of sewers within premises, and 152½ miles of main and reticulation sewers.

(d) *Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the six months ended 30th June, 1931. Figures are available for a half-year only owing to a change from calendar to financial years :—

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE.—FINANCE.

Six Months ended—	Capital Cost.	Net Revenue from Rates.	Management and Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, including Sinking Fund.
30th June, 1931	£ 8,013,352	£ 321,048	£ 82,657	£ 27,831	(a) £ 268,607

(a) Exclusive of the sum of £39,880 paid as exchange.

(ii) *Country Towns Water Supply.* In addition to the city of Brisbane, there were at the end of the year 1930, forty-one country towns in Queensland provided with water supply systems constructed by municipalities chiefly from Government loans. The subjoined statement gives particulars of all water supply systems, exclusive of Brisbane, for the year 1930 :—

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS.—QUEENSLAND.

Cost of Construction to 31st December, 1930—£2,258,792.

<i>Receipts.</i>			£	<i>Expenditure.</i>			£
Rates and sales of water	..	..	229,743	Office and salaries	..	..	16,486
Government and other loans	..	..	94,539	Construction	..	..	111,332
Other	..	..	16,000	Maintenance..	..	..	92,784
				Interest and redemption	..	..	107,930
				Other expenses	..	..	13,617
Total	..	..	340,282	Total	..	..	342,149
Assets	..	..	1,934,929	Liabilities	..	..	1,566,481

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* The water supply and sewerage systems in this State are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department.

(ii) *Adelaide Waterworks.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars for the year 1930–31, the figures for consumption being recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and including evaporation and absorption. There are 52,327 meters in the Adelaide District.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Annual Value.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	£	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.
1931	134,009	5,709,329	115,939	7,774	1,287	6,100,890

(b) *Finances.* Particulars for the year 1930-31 are given below :—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capita Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineer- ing Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
1931 ..	£ 3,674,062	£ 401,240	£ 462,437	£ 76,614	£ 10,978	£ 87,592	% 10.20

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the year 1930-31 are given hereunder :—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con- nexion.	Capital Cost of Revenue- Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Mainten- ance, etc.	Total.	
1931 ..	Miles. 543	No. 56,144	£ 1,600,726	£ 218,166	£ 223,639	£ 31,811	£ 40,493	% 11.44

(iv) *Country Towns Water Supply.* (a) *Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the year 1930-31. There are 31,398 meters in country districts.

COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consump- tion.
	No.	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.
1931 ..	50,051	11,837.241	9,110	4.743	1,225,455

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the year 1930-31 :—

COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineer- ing Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
1931 ..	£ 9,146,134	£ 187,212	£ 218,940	£ 126,557	£ 8,375	£ 134,932	% 0.92

(v) *Other Sewerage Systems.* Information in summarized form is given below regarding the two suburban sewerage systems, viz., the Glenelg system and the Port Adelaide and Semaphore system, for the year 1930-31 :—

SUBURBAN SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con- nections.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates.	Total.	Mainten- ance.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1931 ..	169	10,773	889,920	35,200	36,358	16,662	17,548	2.11

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* The water supply and sewerage systems of Western Australia are all under the management of Government Departments, and are divided into the following categories :—(a) Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, covering Perth, Fremantle, Claremont, Guildford, Midland Junction, and Armadale District, (b) Goldfields Water Supply, (c) Water Supply of other towns, (d) Agricultural Water Supply, (e) Other Mines Water Supply, and (f) Artesian and sub-artesian waters.

(ii) *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.* (a) *General.* The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the Victoria Reservoir, Mundaring Reservoir, thirteen bores, and the Armadale, Churchman Brook, Canning River, and Wongong pipe head dams. The sewerage system consists of septic tanks and percolating filters for Perth, and septic tanks and ocean outfall for Fremantle and Subiaco. At the 30th June, 1931, the number of premises connected with sewers was 22,956.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the year 1930-31 :—

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Estimated Population Supplied.	Number of Houses Supplied.	Water Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.		Number of Meters.	Length of Mains.
				Per Head.	Per House.		
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	No.	Miles.
1931 ..	221,000	51,954	3,762,749	45.83	201.92	36,800	846

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives separate information for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches for the year 1930-31 :—

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, AND SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Water Supply.			Sewerage and Drainage.		
	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ..	3,211,643	282,966	257,875	1,524,970	112,170	100,454

(iii) *Goldfields Water Supply.* The source of supply for the Coolgardie and adjacent goldfields, as well as for towns and districts on or near the pipe-line, is the Mundaring Reservoir, which has a capacity of 4,650 million gallons. There are three classes of

consumers—the railways, the mines, and “other,” and in 1930–31 the railways consumed 7 per cent., the mines 21 per cent., and “other” 72 per cent. of the supply. The following table gives details for the year 1930–31 :—

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Con- sumption.	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
1931 ..	1,000 gallons. 1,200,000	No. 10,730	Miles. 1,525	£ 3,739,857	£ 182,562	£ 179,712

(iv) *Water Supply of Other Towns.* During the year 1930–31 water supplied to other towns and districts amounted to 214,246,000 gallons distributed as follows :— Railways, 25,563,000 gallons; mines, 36,044,000 gallons; and 152,639,000 gallons to domestic and other consumers.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1930–31, one tank was excavated and 12 wells sunk, all of which yielded fresh water. During the twenty-one years from the 1st July, 1910, to the 30th June, 1931, 490 tanks were built, 367 wells sunk, and 3,452 bores put down to a total depth of 152,474 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 517 yielded fresh and 287 stock water.

(vi) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to the 30th June, 1931, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water was 248, including 49 sunk in the metropolitan area, ranging in depth from 30 to 4,006 feet.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to the 30th June, 1931, was £458,152, but a considerable amount of reticulation work has been done out of revenue and not charged to capital account. The outstanding loans at 30th June, 1931, amounted to £339,116. At the same date the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 10,606 and the length of reticulation mains 132 miles. The revenue for the year 1930–31 was £38,202.

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1931, was £38,590. Up to that date 80½ miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £214,734 and 8,423 tenements connected. Since the original city was sewered, the Municipalities of Queenborough and New Town have been included in the city, and are now being sewered. In Queenborough 25½ miles of sewers, connecting with 1,455 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £120,314. In New Town a total of 36½ miles of sewers has been laid, and 1,448 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1931, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £112,096.

§ 6. Harbour Boards and Trusts.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *Sydney Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* The Sydney Harbour Trust, which consists of three Commissioners appointed by the Government, controls the whole of the wharves resumed by the Government in 1901. The Commissioners also provide and maintain the lighting and marking of the harbour, and carry out all necessary dredging. The whole of what might be termed city wharves is owned by the Commissioners and leased to various shipping companies, but the Trust directly operates and maintains a certain number of unleased wharves. Outside the city area the wharves are, to a large extent, privately controlled, but all structures beyond high-water mark are held under leases issued by the Trust. The extent of wharfage accommodation now available for use totals 77,030 lineal feet, inclusive of 9,267 lineal feet privately owned, 4,693 lineal feet of cross wharf and 3,427 lineal feet of ferry wharves.

The depth of water at the entrance to the port is not less than 80 feet, and in the channels there are 40 feet at low-water spring tides. The foreshores of Sydney Harbour are about 200 miles in length. The area of the water in the port is 14,284 acres, of which 3,000 acres have a depth ranging from 35 to 160 feet.

Since its inception, the Trust has incurred capital expenditure of £7,810,700 on the reconstruction and extension of the wharfage and improvements to the port and vested area. Over 14,381 lineal feet of old and obsolete wharfage have been demolished, and 35,962 lineal feet of new berths have been constructed. Other improvements include 3,000,000 square feet (approximately) of floor area of sheds and nearly 4 miles of new roadways.

During the year 1931, 779,300 tons of material were dredged at a cost of £19,282. In the process of towing such material, 25,348 miles were run at a cost of £14,506.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Trust for the year 1931 :—

SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June	Revenue.				Working Expenditure.	Total Capital Debt.	Interest.	Deficiency.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ..	456,853	42,883	340,341	840,077	295,636	11,622,200	635,572	91,131

(a) Includes £38,400 sinking fund contributions.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *Melbourne Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* Information regarding the origin and constitution of this Trust will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, pp. 970 *et seq.* At the 31st December, 1931, the sheds available for wharfage accommodation had a length of 18,939 feet, covering an area of 1,247,830 square feet. The area of water in the bay and River Yarra under the control of the Trust is approximately 5,325 acres and the berthing space in the port is 63,419 feet in length with an area of over 62 acres of wharf space. During 1931 the quantity of material raised by dredging and excavation in the river and bay amounted to 1,285,709 barge yards at a cost of £50,549. The Trust has expended £342,160 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction by depositing 16,082,401 barge yards thereon.

(b) *Finances.* During the year ended 31st December, 1931, the revenue of the Trust amounted to £425,144, and the ordinary expenditure to £422,674, leaving, after provision for exchange on moneys remitted to London for loan redemption (£112,488) a net deficit on revenue account of £110,018. No appropriation for sinking fund or charge for depreciation, renewals and insurance was made against revenue account for the year. The capital expenditure for the year was £331,028. Up to the 31st December, 1931, the total capital expenditure amounted to £8,680,298. The loan indebtedness at the 31st December, 1931 was £4,410,100.

(ii) *Geelong Harbour Trust.* The Geelong Harbour Trust was constituted in 1905, and is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. Ordinary revenue for the year 1931 was £54,336, and proceeds from loans £37,200. Expenditure from revenue was £55,788 and from loans £9,027, while loans outstanding at the end of that year amounted to £616,161.

(iii) *Harbour Boards.* The Harbour Boards Act of 1927 provides for the constitution of Harbour Boards for the following ports :—Gippsland Lakes; Welshpool; Warrnambool; Port Fairy; Portland. These ports have, hitherto, been under the control of the Department of Ports and Harbours of Victoria. The first board to be constituted under this Act is the Warrnambool Harbour Board.

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Bowen Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bowen Harbour Board consists of seven members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council and the remainder elected by the electors of the Town of Bowen and adjacent shires. The district under its jurisdiction comprises the area within the boundaries of the Town of Bowen, the Shires of Prosperine and Wangaratta, and division I. of the Shire of Ayr.

(b) *Finances.* The capital expenditure for the year 1931 was £306, while for the same period the receipts were £11,847 and the expenditure £11,515.

(ii) *Bundaberg Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Bundaberg Harbour Board consists of nine members, of whom one is appointed by the Governor in Council, four elected by the electors of the City of Bundaberg, and two each by the electors of the Shires of Gooburrum and Woongarra.

(b) *Finances.* Receipts for the year 1931 amounted to £6,319 as compared with £6,650 in 1930, while expenditure for corresponding periods totalled £5,577 and £5,433 respectively, with interest and redemption on loans for the half-year ended 31st December, 1931 not yet paid.

(iii) *Cairns Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Cairns Harbour Board consists of twelve members, representing the city of Cairns and eight adjoining shires. The wharves which are all under the control of this Board, consist of 1,900 lineal feet, all reinforced ferro-concrete structures, 1,500 feet of which form an unbroken quay line. Railway facilities are provided on the wharves together with cold stores and mechanical sugar handling equipment. The total tonnage of outward cargo from the port for 1931 was 207,533 tons, of which sugar comprised 169,000 tons.

(b) *Finances.* The gross revenue of the Board, derived from harbour, berthage, and miscellaneous dues, etc., for the year 1931, was £50,604.

(iv) *Gladstone Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Gladstone Harbour Board is composed of seven members, two of whom are appointed by the Governor in Council and five elected by the electors of the town of Gladstone and the shires of Calliope and Miriam Vale.

(b) *Finances.* The total capital expenditure to the end of 1931 amounted to £91,489. The revenue for 1931 was £7,807 and the expenditure £7,610.

(v) *Mackay Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Mackay Harbour Board consists of nine members elected by the electors of the city of Mackay and the shires of Pioneer, Sarina, Mirani, and Nebo.

(b) *Finances.* Capital expenditure for the year 1931 was £1,213, and other expenditure £7,251; receipts totalled £13,853.

(vi) *Rockhampton Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Rockhampton Harbour Board consists of eleven members, of whom seven are elected by the electors on the rolls for the city of Rockhampton, and the shires of Mount Morgan, Fitzroy and Livingstone. The remaining four are elected by the councillors of groups of inland shires.

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1931 was £23,901; and the expenditure was £21,086, which included £1,226 interest on loans and overdraft.

(vii) *Townsville Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Townsville Harbour Board is composed of nine members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council and the remaining seven are elected by the electors of Townsville and adjacent towns and shires. All harbour works and conveniences for the use of shipping are under the control of the Board.

(b) *Finances.* The total expenditure since the inception of the Board is £2,028,997, while the receipts for the year 1931 were £53,715 and the expenditure £52,832.

4. *Western Australia.*—(i) *Fremantle Harbour Trust. (a) General.* Fremantle Harbour is controlled by a Board of five Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. A description of the works was given in a previous Year Book (see No. 12, p. 973). Since that account was written, the inner harbour and entrance channel have been dredged to a depth of 36 feet below the lowest known low water. The berthage accommodation at all the quays has also been deepened to 36 feet.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial data for the year 1930-31 :—

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Gross Amount Paid to the Treasury.				
			Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Surplus Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931	424,304	305,413	110,254	11,096	2,000	121,225	244,575

(ii) *Bunbury Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bunbury Harbour Board consists of five members, appointed by the Government. The jetty is 4,900 feet long, with berthage accommodation of 2,700 feet on the west side and 3,000 feet on the east side, and is electrically lighted.

(b) *Finances.* Details for the year 1931 are given hereunder. Surplus revenue is paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet interest and sinking fund :—

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund.
	£	£	£	£
1931	433,048	18,975	(a) 35,008	6,350

(a) Includes Interest on Capital Account paid from Consolidated Revenue and not from earnings of the Board.

5. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Marine Board of Hobart.* (a) *General.* The Marine Board of Hobart consists of nine wardens elected by the ship-owners of the Port of Hobart and the importers and exporters of goods into or from any port within the jurisdiction of the Board.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the year ended 30th June, 1931 :—

MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Debt.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
		Harbour Improve- ments, Debentures, etc.	General.	Total.	Harbour Improve- ments.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931	15,575	..	39,340	39,340	..	a 6,241	27,155	a 33,396

(a) Including £4,949 from revenue in reduction of loans.

(ii) *Marine Board of Launceston.* (a) *General.* The Marine Board of Launceston consists of five wardens, three elected by the ratepayers of the city of Launceston and two by ratepayers of the municipalities within the Tamar District.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the year ended 30th June, 1931 :—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—					Total Capital Debt.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£	£
1931	..	..	..	..	313,358	54,449	52,495

(iii) *Marine Board of Burnie.* The length of the breakwater is 1,250 feet, with a depth up to 42 feet at low water, and a wharf alongside, 630 feet in length by 91 feet wide, with a depth at low water from 24 to 40 feet. There are two other timber wharves 600 feet and 400 feet long respectively. The receipts for the year ending 30th June, 1931, were £20,390, and the expenditure £24,678, including £18,513 interest on loans, etc.

§ 7. Fire Brigades.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *General.* Under the Fire Brigades Act of 1909–27, a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of eight members operates, and 108 fire districts have been constituted. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of quarter, quarter, and half, by the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies concerned, but the expenditure must be so regulated that the proportion payable by the councils in a fire district shall not exceed the amount obtainable from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ rate on the unimproved capital value of rateable land in the fire district: provided that the Board, with the consent of the Minister, and at the special request of the councils of the municipalities or shires constituting or forming part of a fire district or a majority in number of such councils may, as to that district, exceed the limit above provided.

(ii) *Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales.* At the 31st December, 1931, the Board had under its control 76 fire stations in the Sydney fire district and 136 fire stations in the country fire districts. The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, comprising a total area of 255 square miles. The revenue for the year 1931 was £234,201, made up as follows :—From the Government, £106,618, municipalities and shires, £106,618; fire insurance companies, £212,101; firms, £1,135; and from other sources, £7,729. The disbursements for the year were £423,284.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1928 provides for a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and a Country Fire Brigades Board, each consisting of nine members, with local committees in country districts. The income of each board is derived in equal proportions from the Treasury, the municipalities, and insurance companies.

(ii) *Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board.* On the 30th June, 1931, the Board had under its control 42 stations. The total receipts for the year 1930–31 were £232,122, comprising contributions £186,724, receipts for services £24,855, and interest and sundries £20,543. The expenditure was £226,573, made up as follows :—Salaries (permanent staff) £119,518, interest and repayments of principal £19,853, and other expenditure £87,202. Loan expenditure during the year was £2,401, and the loan indebtedness at the end of the year amounted to £227,420.

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board.* At 30th June, 1931, there were 120 municipal councils and 109 insurance companies included in the operations of the Act. The brigades are composed chiefly of volunteers, but in the large centres a few permanent station-keepers and partially-paid firemen are employed. Complete fire alarm systems are installed in 38 of the larger provincial cities and townships. There were 153 registered brigades at 30th June, 1931. For the year 1930–31 the revenue was £33,500 and the expenditure £33,152.

3. **Queensland.**—(i) *General.* The Act of 1920 made provision for the retention of existing fire districts, and for the constitution of new districts. For each district there must be a Fire Brigades Board consisting of seven members, and the cost of maintenance of each brigade is proportioned as follows :—The Treasurer two-sevenths, insurance companies three-sevenths, and local authorities two-sevenths. All volunteer fire brigades in a district must be registered.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Boards.* At the end of the year 1931 there were fire brigades in 28 towns. The total revenue for the year 1930 was £76,599, received mainly from the following sources :—Government £20,984, local authorities £21,028, and insurance companies £31,313. The total expenditure for the year was £78,921, the chief items being salaries and wages £51,541, buildings, repairs, etc., £3,066, and plant, stores, etc., £7,530.

4. **South Australia.**—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1913 and amendments provide for a Board of five members, and the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed as to two-ninths by the Treasury, five-ninths by insurance companies, and two-ninths by the municipalities concerned. The contribution of the Treasury, however, is limited to £10,000 and if two-ninths of the expenses and maintenance exceeds this amount, five-sevenths of the excess is contributed by the insurance companies and two-sevenths by the municipalities.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Board.* At the end of 1931 there were altogether 27 fire brigade stations. The total revenue for the year 1931 was £44,511.

5. **Western Australia.**—(i) *General.* Under the 1916 Act every municipal or road board district is constituted a fire district under the control of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board. The income of the Board is derived as to two-eighths from Government, three-eighths from municipalities, and three-eighths from insurance companies.

(ii) *Western Australian Fire Brigades Board.* The whole of the brigades throughout the State are now controlled by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, and number 39. The revenue and expenditure for the year ended 30th September, 1931, were £57,195 and £56,490 respectively. The estimated value of land and buildings was £68,600 and of plant £38,500.

6. **Tasmania.**—(i) *General.* The municipal council of any municipality may, under the Act of 1920, petition the Governor to proclaim the municipality or any portion of it to be a fire district, each district to have a Board of five members. The expenses of each Board are borne in equal proportions by contributions from the Treasurer, the municipality concerned, and insurance companies insuring property within the district.

(ii) *Hobart Fire Brigade Board.* The revenue of the Board for the year 1931 amounted to £5,968.