

CHAPTER XV.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction.

1. **General.**—The following statistics relating to Local Government are somewhat incomplete and otherwise unsatisfactory, but, hitherto, it has not been possible to obtain more complete information. A defect in the figures is due to inconsistency in some cases in the treatment of proceeds of loans and the expenditure thereof. These are sometimes included with the general revenue and expenditure and in other instances they are shown separately.

2. **Roads, Bridges, etc.**—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 the Government do not properly come under the heading of "Local Government," they have been included in this chapter for the sake of convenience. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining complete particulars of receipts and expenditure by the various local governing bodies on roads under their control, the details of receipts and expenditure given in the following section are those of the Government only, relating either to the supervisory board or commission in the State or to direct activities of a department.

3. **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."

4. **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.

5. **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.

6. **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. Roads, Bridges, Etc.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *General.* A central road authority was created by legislation early in 1925 for the purpose of providing improved and uniform standards of construction and maintenance of the principal roads, and to administer Governmental subsidies for work on those roads. The funds of this authority (now the Department of Main Roads) are derived principally from taxation of motor vehicles, contributions by the Commonwealth Government from the proceeds of a tax on petrol, direct contributions by Councils and special (not statutory) assistance by the State Government by way of loan moneys or special grants from revenue funds.

There are five classifications of roads which receive assistance from the central authority, and they embrace—

State Highways.—Roads which are principal avenues of communication between the coast and the interior or throughout the State and connecting with such avenues in other States.

Trunk Roads.—Roads which, being secondary avenues of road communication, form with the State Highways and other Trunk Roads, a framework of a general system of intercommunication throughout the State.

Ordinary Main Roads.—Roads which are used principally by through traffic as the means of intercommunication between towns or important centres of population and which with the State Highways and Trunk Roads form part of the general system of road communication throughout the State.

Secondary Roads.—Roads in the Metropolitan area of Sydney which carry a substantial amount of through traffic and relieve neighbouring main roads of traffic which they would otherwise have to bear.

Developmental Roads.—Roads which serve to develop a district or area of land by improving or providing access to a railway station or a shipping wharf or to a road leading to a railway station or a shipping wharf.

The State is divided into two divisions for local government and road administration purposes. The Eastern Division is incorporated in Shires and Municipalities throughout its area while the Western Division, which covers a wide tract of sparsely populated country, is unincorporated except for six municipalities and portions of two other municipalities within the Division.

In the Eastern Division assistance is given to local councils for works on classified roads as described hereunder. For other roads the cost of both construction and maintenance work is generally chargeable to the revenue of local authorities although Government assistance is not infrequently granted for works of construction and reconstruction. This is particularly so in times of acute unemployment and during recent years substantial sums have been distributed for roads by way of grants, primarily for this purpose. There is, in addition, a regular annual endowment of at least £150,000 for shires, a large proportion of which is used for road purposes.

The degree of subsidy from the central road fund in the Eastern Division varies according to the situation of the area concerned, and the classification of the road. There are two areas in this regard (County of Cumberland and Country) and five road classifications, as already described.

The County of Cumberland embraces all municipalities and shires between the Nepean-Hawkesbury River and the Pacific Ocean as far as Bulli on the South, and includes the metropolitan area of Sydney, while the Country covers the remainder of the Eastern Division. In addition to the whole of the motor taxation collected in the Country, half of that collected in the County of Cumberland is required to be spent in the Country, and the contribution by the Commonwealth Government from petrol taxation is distributed between the County of Cumberland and the Country in the same proportion as the motor taxation. The councils in the County of Cumberland are required to pay a levy on the Unimproved Capital Value of lands in their areas (with a rebate of half on lands used for rural primary production) into the funds of the central road authority,

which in turn meets the full cost of all proclaimed main roads in that area, together with half the cost of proclaimed secondary roads. The rate of contribution at present is equivalent to 7/16d. in the £ of Unimproved Capital Value. The present rates of subsidy for works in the Country are as follows :—

State Highways	Full cost.
Trunk Roads	Three-quarters of cost.
Ordinary Main Roads ..	Two-thirds of cost.
Developmental Roads ..	Full cost of approved construction works only.

For new bridges these subsidies are increased so that the central authority meets the whole cost on State Highways and Trunk Roads, and three-quarters of the cost on ordinary main roads.

The full cost of all roads and bridges in the Western Division is met by the central road authority.

All work in the Western Division is carried out directly by the central road authority (7,282 miles) while in the Eastern Division the work is carried out by the Councils except for 1,929 miles, mostly on State Highways.

(ii) *Length of Roads—*

Eastern Division—

Proclaimed Roads (30th June, 1937)—

State Highways	3,844
Trunk Roads	2,424
Ordinary Main Roads	9,197
Secondary Roads	102
Developmental Roads	2,419
Minor Roads (31st December, 1936)	103,207
<i>Western Division</i> (30th June, 1936)	7,282

128,475

Of these roads 9,937 miles were of concrete, 23,985 miles of tar, bitumen, macadam or gravel, while 24,039 miles were formed only, 30,597 miles were cleared only and 39,917 miles were in their natural state.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.*—The revenue and expenditure of the central road authority for the year ended 30th June, 1937, were as follows :—

<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£			£	
Motor Taxation	1,882,071		Maintenance	1,569,719	
Petrol Taxation	811,476		Construction	1,348,539	
Councils direct contributions ..	244,116		Interest and other loan charges	381,041	
Loans from State Government	455,860		Other	87,391	
Other	72,614				
Total	3,466,137		Total	3,386,690	

The total expenditure, as nearly as can be ascertained, on all roads in the State by all authorities during 1935–36 was £6,353,010.

(iv) *Sydney Harbour Bridge.* The Government expenditure in connexion with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which amounted to £9,883,055 to the 30th June, 1937, is not included in the above figures. Of this amount £8,206,942 was provided by General Loan Account, £1,665,444 from proceeds of municipal and shire rates, £10,664 from the Unemployed Relief Fund and £5 from the Public Works Fund. Interest and exchange accounted for £1,494,988 and resumpions for £1,156,308. A reduction in the total cost of the bridge will be effected by the sale of surplus resumed lands estimated at from £200,000 to £300,000.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *General.* With the object of improving the main roads of the State the Country Roads Board was established by legislation passed in 1912. The principal duties of the board are to determine the main roads, to inquire into the State's resources in road materials and the most effective methods of road construction and maintenance, and to recommend deviations to existing roads or the construction of new roads in order to facilitate communication or to improve the conditions of traffic.

(ii) *Length of Roads and Streets.* At the end of 1936 there were 106,733 miles of roads and streets in Victoria, comprising 143 miles wood or stone; 116 Portland cement concrete; 165 asphaltic concrete and sheet asphalt; 6,510 tar or bitumen surface; 22,861 waterbound macadam, gravel, sand and hard loam pavements; 24,638 formed only; and 52,300 surveyed only but used for general traffic. Of the total length, only 2,306 miles or 2 per cent. were State highways.

(iii) *Receipts and Expenditure.* Funds created under the Act are the Country Roads Board Fund, the Loan Account and the Developmental Roads Loan Account. Particulars of the operations of these Funds are given hereunder.

(a) *Country Roads Board Fund.* All fees (other than fees for licences to drive motor cars) and fines under the Motor Car Act, and all registration fees and fines for traction engines, less cost of collection of such fees and fines, are credited to this fund. The total receipts for the year 1936-37 were £2,063,545 made up as follows:—Motor registration fees, £1,480,272; contributions by municipalities for permanent works (now subject to relief), £144,973, and for maintenance works, £133,400; sale of stores and material and hire of plant, £211,717; and other sources, £93,183. The expenditure for the year was £2,075,698, comprising maintenance and reconditioning of main roads and State highways, £1,044,621; plant, stores, administration, etc., £396,869; and interest, sinking funds, etc., £634,208. The expenditure shown for interest, sinking funds, etc., comprises the following items:—Interest and sinking fund payments on account of loan moneys, £318,788; repayments by municipalities for interest and sinking fund, £117,912; and relief to municipalities from liability in respect of interest and sinking fund, £197,508.

(b) *Country Roads Board Loan Account.* Loans to the amount of £5,072,000 have been authorized from time to time for permanent works on main roads and State highways under the Country Roads Acts. During the year ended 30th June, 1937, the amounts paid into this Account were £69,239 from the State Loans Repayment Fund, while expenditure for the year on permanent works was £69,013, and the total to the end of the year, £4,928,164.

(c) *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 amount expended during the year ended 30th June, 1937, was £7,441 and the total expenditure to that date was £6,425,757. Receipts for the year comprised £7,382 from the State Loans Repayment Fund.

(d) *Total Expenditure.* In addition to expenditure from the abovementioned Funds, the following amounts were expended under special appropriations on road construction and maintenance:—Unemployment relief, £215,377, contributions by the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Federal Aid Roads Act, £587,536, and special Commonwealth grant towards flood repairs, £3,629.

The total expenditure by the Board on road construction and maintenance during the year ended 30th June, 1937, amounting to £1,929,318, may be summarized as follows:—State Highways, £401,337; main roads, £981,099; developmental roads, £294,169; unemployment relief (on main and developmental roads, etc.), £215,377; tourists' roads, £35,635; and Murray River bridges and punts, £1,701.

3. **Queensland.**—Under the Main Roads Act 1920 a Main Roads Board was constituted, consisting of three members appointed by the Governor in Council. In 1925 the Board was abolished and its powers conferred upon a single Commissioner.

The duties of the Commissioner are to carry out surveys and investigations necessary to determine State highways, main, developmental, secondary, mining access, tourist roads, or tourist tracks, and, under certain circumstances, to undertake their construction and maintenance.

With the exception of State highways, mining access roads or tourist tracks, no road can be proclaimed until the Commission has considered any objections thereto lodged by interested local authorities.

Local authorities are not liable for the return of any expenditure for construction on State highways, mining access roads (serving only mining interests) or tourist tracks, but are, however, responsible for up to 50 per cent. of maintenance. The liability in respect of main roads is 20 per cent. of construction costs; developmental roads 20 per cent. of interest on construction costs; secondary roads 50 per cent. of construction costs; and tourist roads as agreed prior to commencement of work. The liability in respect of maintenance of State highways, main, developmental and secondary roads is 50 per cent. In the case of mining access roads and tourist tracks no repayment is required. The Commissioner has power to reduce the amount of contribution payable by any local authority in respect of permanent works and maintenance where the rate required to produce the annual repayment exceeds 1d. in the pound on the property valuation of the whole area. He has also power to grant relief in exceptional circumstances.

At the 31st December, 1936, there were under various local authorities 121,885 miles of roads in Queensland, of which 3,891 were natural or artificial sand-clay loam, 4,613 waterbound pavement, 750 waterbound pavement with bitumen surface, 728 bituminous penetration macadam, 42 concrete, 23,987 formed only and 87,874 unconstructed but used for general traffic. These totals include the roads under the control of the Main Roads Commission, which at the 30th June, 1937, totalled 12,993 miles comprising 9,148 miles of main roads, 3,142 of State highways and 703 of developmental, tourist, etc., roads.

During the year ended 30th June, 1937, the receipts of the Commission amounted to £1,729,343, including £330,000 from the Treasury Loan Fund, £651,733 from motor fees, £552,360 from the Commonwealth for works under the Federal Aid Roads Scheme and £14,856 from the State Unemployment Relief Scheme. Disbursements amounted to £1,723,865, including £829,315 on permanent works, and £294,602 on maintenance.

4. **South Australia.**—The Highways Act 1926–1936 created a Commissioner of Highways and provided for a Main Roads Fund. The Commissioner is virtually empowered to determine upon which main 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 Road Traffic Act 1934–1936; (b) fines, penalties and forfeitures in respect of convictions for offences against the same Act (exclusive of any sum received for costs); (c) fees for hawkers' licences; (d) contributions from Councils; (e) all sums appropriated by Parliament for main roads; (f) all loans raised and appropriated for main roads. In accordance with legislation passed in the years 1930 to 1937 a considerable portion of

these receipts is temporarily payable into general revenue. All moneys received by the State from the Commonwealth under the Federal Aid Roads Scheme are also expended by the Commissioner of Highways under the general provisions of the Highways Act.

The total length of roads in use for general traffic within local governing areas at the 30th June, 1936, was 52,807 miles, of which 14 miles were paved with wood or stone; 215 were bituminous concrete; 769 bitumen penetration; 14,372 tarpaved, metalled or gravelled; 7,042 formed only; and 30,395 unformed.

The expenditure from the Main Roads Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1937, was £537,961, including £128,653 for interest on loans; the amount received from the Commonwealth Government for expenditure on Federal Aid Roads was £339,854; the amount allocated for roads in newly settled areas, etc., was £55,000; and grants in aid of rates collected paid to Councils amounted to £26,861. In sparsely-settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained chiefly by the Engineering and Water Supply Department under arrangement with the Commissioner of Highways. The amount so expended during the same period was £13,153. At the close of the period under review the Commissioner was maintaining departmentally about 1,138 miles of improved main roads.

5. **Western Australia.**—In Western Australia the construction, maintenance and management of main and developmental roads throughout the State are under the control of the Commissioner of Main Roads, appointed under the Main Roads Act 1930. Minor roads are controlled by Municipalities and District Road Boards.

6. **Tasmania.**—(i) *Length and Description of Roads.* At the 30th June, 1937, there were 13,104 miles of roads in Tasmania, comprising 500 of bitumen or oil-sprayed; 5,234 metalled; 3,189 gravelled; and 4,181 formed only. Of the total length, 1,311 miles were State highways.

(ii) *Construction.* In Tasmania the cost of construction of roads and bridges is borne almost entirely by the State Government. Up to the 30th June, 1937, the loan expenditure on these works was £5,375,540 (roads, £4,392,420; tracks, £233,664; bridges, £749,456). In addition, half the proceeds of the sale of land has been applied to form a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. Under this provision £694,933 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.

Loan money expended by the Public Works Department during the year 1936–37 on the construction of roads and bridges amounted to £96,787, and expenditure from the Crown Lands Fund to £1,925. In addition, the sum of £134,651 provided by the Commonwealth Government was expended on roads. New-road mileage completed during the year was 117 miles metalled and gravelled under State votes, and 20 miles of new construction and 63 miles of reconstruction under Federal Aid Roads Scheme.

(iii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads, other than State highways is undertaken by the municipalities out of their own revenues. All bridges costing 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 paid from Consolidated Revenue 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 expenditure on State highways for 1936–37 was £78,848.

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 following table shows the annual net loan expenditure on roads and bridges by the central Governments in each State during the years 1932–33 to 1936–37, together with the aggregate amounts of expenditure up to the 30th June, 1937. The net loan expenditure by the Government is not available for Tasmania and the figures given in the following table represent the actual amounts expended by the Department of Public Works, including sums for unemployment relief.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—NET LOAN EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Victoria.(a)	Q'land.(b)	S. Aust.(c)	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1933 ..	233,504	94,088	271,323	..	83,004	51,336	733,255
1934 ..	Cr. 37,927	114,419	469,226	..	199,279	63,240	808,237
1935 ..	262,436	95,360	891,929	..	110,508	65,960	1,426,193
1936 ..	92,682	77,040	573,655	..	132,783	82,773	958,933
1937 ..	669,704	41,807	459,114	196,000	123,659	96,787	1,587,071
Total to 30/6/37	17,426,132	12,313,878	6,571,553	3,415,746	2,635,320	5,375,540	47,738,169

(a) Represents expenditure from loan and on account of loan. (b) Amounts include relative expenditure by the Public Estate Improvement Branch not shown in previous years. (c) Adjusted figures, excluding credits due to purchase of securities.

The loan expenditure given above does not represent the total expenditure on roads and bridges. It relates for the most part to capital expenditure on new works, but it must be supplemented by similar expenditure from loan funds of local bodies, Federal grants and unemployment relief moneys, and further account must be taken of expenditure on maintenance which is mainly defrayed from the current revenues.

§ 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 1936 being 184,011 square miles, of which 2,142 square miles are included in the former and 181,869 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.

The operations of the City of Sydney are governed by the Sydney Corporation Act, 1932-1934, and those of other local government areas known as municipalities and shires by the Local Government Act, 1919 and amendments.

In the tables which follow the revenue and expenditure transactions of the City of Sydney are shown separately from those of municipalities and shires because of differences in the form of accounts. An exception is made, however, in the summary appearing on page 458, total figures for New South Wales including both the City of Sydney and municipalities and shires.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY, 1936.

Local Area.	Number.	Area.	Population, 31st December, 1936.	Unimproved Capital Value. (a)	Improved Capital Value. (a)	Length of Roads.
		Acres.		£	£	Miles.
Metropolitan—						
City of Sydney ..	1	3,220	87,770	45,798,993	139,817,600	137
Municipalities ..	48	152,073	1,179,580	90,367,077	275,031,234	3,374
Total ..	49	155,293	1,267,350	136,166,070	414,848,834	3,511
Country—						
Municipalities ..	124	1,215,488	576,610	31,036,591	106,805,986	6,737
Shires ..	139	116,396,340	813,470	139,212,843	(b)	110,945
Total ..	263	117,611,828	1,390,080	170,249,434	(b)	117,682
Grand Total ..	312	117,767,121	2,657,430	306,415,504	(b)	121,193

(a) Excludes Federal Government and other non-rateable properties.

(b) Not available.

(ii) *Revenue and Expenditure.*—(a) *City of Sydney.* Revenue from rates and from fines, fees, rents, etc., in connexion with ordinary local services rendered by the City Council are credited to the City Fund, of which the Public Markets Account and Resumptions Account are subsidiary accounts. Expenditures on road maintenance, parks and recreation, health, street lighting and other services are made from the City Fund. In addition, the Council finances include an Insurance Fund, and, though not usually treated as forming part of the City's accounts, rates levied to meet contributions payable to authorities controlling the main roads and Sydney Harbour Bridge. Prior to 1936 the Council had an Electricity Trading Fund, but as from 1st January, 1936, the electricity undertaking was placed under the control of a new body, the Sydney County Council.

A statement of the revenue and expenditure of the City of Sydney for the year ended 31st December, 1936, is shown below :—

CITY OF SYDNEY.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1936.

Particulars.	City Fund.			Total.
	Public Markets.	Resump-tions.	Other.	
	£	£	£	£
Revenue—				
Rates (contributions in lieu and rent of mains) .. .. .	..	..	874,415	874,415
Rents and hire	79,215	92,124	10,971	182,310
Licences, fines, fees, etc.	59,225	..	52,832	112,057
Sundries	117	..	47,504	47,621
Total City Funds	138,557	92,124	985,722	1,216,403
Main roads and harbour bridge rates .. .. .	..	..	..	83,914
Total Revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	1,300,317
Expenditure—				
Administration .. .. .	..	..	} 540,975	661,238
Works, Services, etc.	71,050	49,213		
Interest	56,981	311,548		
Loan Redemption, Sinking Funds, etc.	24,568	71,672	39,459	135,699
Total City Funds	152,599	432,433	691,793	1,276,825
Main roads and harbour bridge (rate) contributions .. .. .	..	..	..	83,914
Total Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	1,360,739

Loan expenditure by the City of Sydney during 1936 amounted to £106,183.

(b) *Municipalities and Shires.* In the accounts of municipalities and shires operating under the Local Government Act, 1919, expenditure chargeable to revenue includes, in addition to normal recurring items of expenditure, cost incurred in respect of construction works, such as roads and bridges, and other objects having long life not being realizable assets or for use in performing works or rendering services over a period of time even though financed from loan funds. It excludes payments made in the redemption of indebtedness.

A summary of the revenue accounts of municipalities and shires for 1936, compiled on the foregoing basis, is shown in the following table :—

MUNICIPALITIES AND SHIRES (EXCLUDING CITY OF SYDNEY), NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1936.

Particulars.	Municipalities.		Shires.	Total.
	Metropolitan.	Country.		
REVENUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary Services—				
Rates and extra charges	2,040,221	792,052	1,313,732	4,146,005
Government endowment .. ..	..	..	149,875	149,875
Government grants	1,134,530	1,119,486	2,248,413	4,502,429
Works	151,957	47,032	75,894	274,883
Health	162,072	217,970	143,530	523,572
Services	37,638	46,159	13,159	96,956
Property	29,327	61,380	40,249	130,956
Other	41,113	29,813	21,708	92,634
Total Ordinary Services	3,596,858	2,313,892	4,006,560	9,917,310
Trading Undertakings	98,145	1,294,180	299,972	1,692,297
Water and Sewerage Funds .. ..	..	496,013	44,492	540,505
Total Revenue	3,695,003	4,104,085	4,351,024	12,150,112

EXPENDITURE CHARGEABLE TO REVENUE.

Ordinary Services—				
Administration	176,648	137,401	236,948	550,997
Works	1,898,377	1,283,774	3,251,199	6,433,350
Health	567,335	438,357	204,703	1,210,395
Services	254,279	225,898	125,352	605,529
Property	53,678	51,570	23,289	128,537
Interest	228,506	65,015	62,208	355,729
Other	20,514	14,815	29,008	64,337
Main Roads Board and Harbour Bridge Contribution	182,404	7,224	22,972	212,600
Total Ordinary Services	3,381,741	2,224,054	3,955,679	9,561,474
Trading Undertakings	85,392	1,098,889	255,333	1,439,614
Water and Sewerage Funds .. ..	..	395,589	34,113	429,702
Total Expenditure	3,467,133	3,718,532	4,245,125	11,430,790

The total amount of Government assistance to municipalities in 1936 amounted to £2,305,446 and to shires £2,399,043, the latter including £149,875 by way of endowment in aid of general revenues. Apart from the sums shown under Government grants and endowment small amounts were credited under other heads, including trading and water and sewerage accounts. A complete statement of revenue from rating, which in the foregoing table is allotted to the various accounts, is presented in a later table.

(iii) *Capital Transactions.* The following table shows the capital expenditure, debt redemptions and loan expenditure of Councils during 1936 :—

MUNICIPALITIES AND SHIRES (EXCLUDING CITY OF SYDNEY), NEW SOUTH WALES.—CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS.

Particulars.	Municipalities.		Shires.	Total.
	Metropolitan.	Country.		
	£	£	£	£
Assets purchased	225,990	711,828	260,009	1,197,827
Loan repayments	405,569	192,008	108,943	706,520
Payments off deferred payments debts	62,361	125,438	76,384	264,183
Expenditure from Loan Funds ..	244,100	171,764	159,384	575,248
Balances owing on deferred payment debts incurred during year ..	65,152	236,894	70,796	372,842

(iv) *Rates Levied—City of Sydney, Municipalities and Shires.* Rates levied by local authorities may be of four kinds, viz., general, special, local and loan. In the following table are shown particulars of all rates levied during 1936 :—

CITY OF SYDNEY, MUNICIPALITIES AND SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—RATES LEVIED, 1936.

Area.	Rates levied on behalf of—						Extra Charges on Overdue Rates.
	Ordinary Services.(a)	Electricity Works.	Gas Works.	Water Supply.	Sewerage.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Metropolitan—							
Sydney ..	955,899	..	..	..	..	955,899	2,430
Municipalities ..	1,992,763	1,777	..	..	..	1,994,540	47,458
Total ..	2,948,662	1,777	..	..	..	2,950,439	49,888
Country—							
Municipalities ..	759,067	21,067	2,526	232,227	109,786	1,124,673	32,985
Shires ..	1,277,441	24,888	..	28,091	..	1,330,420	36,291
Total ..	2,036,508	45,955	2,526	260,318	109,786	2,455,093	69,276
Grand Total ..	4,985,170	47,732	2,526	260,318	109,786	5,405,532	119,164

(a) Including Main Roads and Harbour Bridge Rates.

(v) *Assets and Liabilities—City of Sydney, Municipalities and Shires.* A statement of the assets and liabilities as at 31st December, 1936, of local authorities in New South Wales is shown below :—

CITY OF SYDNEY, MUNICIPALITIES AND SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1936.

Particulars.	City of Sydney.	Municipalities.		Shires.	Total.
		Metropolitan.	Country.		
ASSETS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank balances and cash ..	890,675	319,436	1,008,408	604,858	6,697,003
Investments, Sinking Fund and other	3,873,626				
Outstanding rates and extra charges ..	229,739	929,523	707,547	807,446	3,761,495
Sundry debtors ..		273,276	555,692	258,272	
Stores and materials ..		52,638	158,388	81,913	23,620,851
Land, buildings, plant and furniture ..	8,578,285	2,454,592	9,961,739	2,333,296	
Total Assets ..	13,572,325	4,029,465	12,391,774	4,085,785	34,079,349
LIABILITIES.					
Loans—Government ..	..	377,362	4,805,529	657,442	5,840,333
Other	10,920,655	4,644,943	2,201,944	1,356,011	19,123,553
Sundry creditors ..	951,758	276,795	244,028	215,293	1,687,874
Bank overdraft ..	545,067	598,682	390,913	398,778	1,933,440
Unexpended portion of Government grants and deposits on contracts ..	..	70,132	169,098	173,478	412,708
Total Liabilities ..	12,417,480	5,967,914	7,811,512	2,801,002	28,997,908

In the City of Sydney it is not possible to dissect capital expenditure on resumptions to show the cost of resumptions used in roadworks and those portions retained as assets in the form of land and buildings; in all other instances capital expenditure on road and bridge construction has not been included as an asset.

(vi) *Loan Expenditure—Municipalities Shires and County Councils.* The total loan expenditure by local government bodies during the year 1936 was £1,130,557, comprising municipalities £522,047 (City of Sydney, £106,183; metropolitan, £244,100; and country, £171,764); shires, £159,384; and county councils, £449,126.

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, but are now subject to several 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, and 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 1936 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th September—	Number of Municipal- ities.	Population.	Number of Distinct Ratepayers.	Occupied Dwellings.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.	
					Capital Improved Value.	Net Annual Value.
METROPOLITAN.						
1936	No. 29	No. 1,020,000	No. 327,442	No. 252,218	£ 327,821,850	£ 17,647,459
OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN AREA.						
1936	166	830,100	287,937	209,695	285,701,030	14,397,990

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The table hereunder shows the revenue from various sources and the expenditure under various heads, of municipalities during the year 1936 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1936.

Items.	Revenue.	Items.	Expenditure from Revenue.
	£		£
Taxation—		General Administration ..	563,323
Rates—		Sanitary work, street cleaning, etc.	223,114
General	3,432,905	Health	164,711
Other	50,144	Lighting	167,044
Licences	18,954	Contributions to Fire Brigades ..	62,428
Sanitary Charges	152,314	Public Works—	
Dog fees	36,624	Roads, Streets and Bridges ..	1,886,034
Government grants	187,918	Other	720,415
Licensing fund payments ..	60,082	Payments to Country Roads Board ..	263,719
Contributions for streets, etc.	134,836	Electric light and gas works ..	1,523,174
Market and weighbridge dues	181,814	Redemption of loans	317,831
Rents	226,429	Payments to sinking funds ..	49,296
Electric light and gas works ..	1,616,248	Interest on loans	443,931
Interest	12,681	Interest on bank overdrafts ..	35,577
Other sources	650,256	Charities	37,633
		Other expenditure	318,408
Total Revenue	6,761,205	Total from Revenue	6,776,638

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—LOANS—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1936.

Items.	Receipts.	Items.	Expenditure.
	£		£
Proceeds of loans—		Roads and bridges ..	200,441
From Government ..	795	Water and irrigation ..	960
From other sources ..	570,220	Sewerage and drainage ..	7,239
Other receipts ..	184,639	Electric light and gas ..	254,362
		Public buildings ..	401,298
		Other purposes ..	18,273
Total Receipts ..	755,654	Total Expenditure ..	882,573

(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 at the end of the year 1936 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1936.

Items.	Assets.	Items.	Liabilities.
	£		£
MUNICIPAL FUND—		MUNICIPAL FUND—	
Uncollected rates ..	979,840	Due on current contracts ..	150,018
Streets formed, etc., payments outstanding ..	1,266,976	Overdue interest ..	9,713
Rents and interest outstanding ..	61,591	Bank overdrafts ..	846,400
Cash in hand or in bank ..	786,887	Payments due to Country Roads Board ..	386,943
Other assets ..	451,361	Other liabilities ..	775,814
LOAN FUND—		LOAN FUND—	
Sinking funds—		Loans outstanding—	
Amount at credit ..	780,493	Due to Government—	
Due by other bodies ..	1,125	Country Roads Board ..	
Unexpended balances ..	387,102	Loans ..	1,794,693
PROPERTY—		Other ..	801,209
Buildings, markets, tramways, etc. ..	6,176,050	Due to Public ..	11,944,237
Waterworks ..	377,860	Due on loan contracts ..	54,165
Gasworks ..	281,670		
Electric light works ..	2,832,850		
Plant and machinery ..	611,580		
Other assets ..	230,490		
Total ..	15,225,875	Total ..	16,763,192

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *General.* The whole of the State (except certain islands along the coast, the Dawson Valley Irrigation area and the Somerset Dam area) is incorporated into cities, towns and shires under the Local Authorities Act 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 1936, except for the City of Brisbane for which financial particulars relate throughout to the year ended 30th June, 1937 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Occupied Dwellings.	Rateable Value.	Assets.	Liabilities.	
							Government Loans.	Total.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

		sq. miles.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£
1936(a) ..	23	780	529,419 (b)	125,607	28,562,474	26,253,705	7,029,501	27,795,124

SHIRES.

1935(a) ..	121	669,054	462,478 (b)	107,212	43,322,257	2,399,834	2,736,797	3,641,611
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(a) Figures relating to assets and liabilities include waterworks, sewerage works, electric light works and railways and tramways controlled by local authorities. (b) The official estimate of the population of Queensland as at 31st December, 1936, was 882,134 persons. The total of the population of cities, towns, and shires, as estimated by Town and Shire Clerks, is slightly in excess of this figure.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure (including loan moneys) of cities and towns, and of shires for the year 1936 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.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1936 ..	1,358,606	1,289,058	6,498,919	4,275,900	148,878	281,179	6,542,400

SHIRES.

1936 ..	1,015,721	1,465,724	2,826,390	2,302,556	98,950	158,172	2,892,048
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(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.* The settled portion of South Australia is incorporated, being mostly under municipal corporations in the larger cities and towns, and district councils in the agricultural areas. With the exception of the Corporation of Adelaide, grants are allocated to these bodies by the Commissioner of Highways for the maintenance and construction of main and other roads.

(ii) *Local Authorities.*—(a) *Summary.* The number of corporations and district councils was reduced by amalgamation by the Local Government Commission in 1936, from 166 to 142, of which 14 corporations and 7 district councils are in the metropolitan area, and 21 corporations and 100 district councils in outside areas. 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 ended 30th June, 1936.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June.	Area.	Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assessment Value.	Outstanding Loans.
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MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	£
1936.. ..	80,177	309,461	76,985	87,359,677	4,138,530	698,953

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

1936.. ..	34,426,533	266,282	63,312	89,257,441	4,855,099	(a) 384,342
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(a) Includes advances through District Councils to settlers for vermin-proof fencing, etc., amounting to £302,657.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of corporations and district councils for the year 1935-36.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue (including Loans).			Expenditure.		
	Rates.	Subsidies.	Total.	Roads.	Other Public Works and Services.	Total.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
1936.. ..	531,768	28,754	781,674	300,490	259,488	777,790

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

1936.. ..	300,845	225,833	677,103	459,986	92,594	661,652
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5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* In this State Local Government is carried on by means of (a) municipalities and (b) district road boards. Certain functions are delegated to health boards, the personnel of which, in most cases, coincides with those of the municipalities and district road boards.

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 ended 31st October, 1936 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 31st October—	Municipalities.	Area.	Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Valuation of Rateable Property.		Length of Roads and Streets.
					Capital Value.	Annual Value.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	Miles.
1936 ..	21	59,511	196,092	45,766	46,447,667	2,424,619	(a) 829

(a) Exclusive of roads surveyed but not formed.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Revenue and expenditure of municipalities during the year 1936 are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 31st October—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Govt. Grants.	Other Sources.	Total.	Works and Improvements.	Interest and other Charges on loans.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1936 ..	29,652	1,862	1,042,421	1,340,935	214,888	291,859	773,658	1,280,405

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The table below shows the assets and liabilities of municipalities at the 31st October, 1936 :—

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.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1936 ..	76,462	2,926,937	590,854	3,887,081	2,225,208	2,423,963

(iii) *District Road Boards. (a) Summary.* The method of valuation is not identical in the case of all District Road Boards, as in some the assessment is based on the unimproved capital values and in others on the annual values. The unimproved capital value given in the following table is, therefore, only approximate. At the 30th June, 1936, the population was estimated at 268,863, and the number of occupied dwellings, 66,412.

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.	£	£	£
1936 ..	127	975,828	22,058,363a	27,020b	1,154,437	974,720	851,284

(a) Rated partly on unimproved capital value and partly on annual value.
roads surveyed but not formed.

(b) Exclusive of

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of district road boards are shown in the following table for the year ended 30th June, 1936 :—

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

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Other.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1936 ..	253,034	49,963	401,658	704,655	76,605	362,737	244,936	684,278

(iv) *Local Boards of Health.* Excluding twelve boards not under the control of municipalities or road boards there were 120 local boards of health in 1936. The revenue and expenditure as well as the assets and liabilities of these boards are shown in the following table. 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.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1936 ..	120	61,604	72,459	210,278	93,240	216,777	140,061	81,900a

(a) Including outstanding loans, £65,611.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *General.* The whole State is divided into municipal districts, Hobart and Launceston being incorporated under separate Acts.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number of municipalities, valuations, outstanding loans and length of roads for the year 1936–37. The number of occupied private dwellings in Tasmania at the census of 30th June, 1933, was 51,310.

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Municipali- ties.	Valuations.			Outstanding Loans.	Length of Roads.
		Annual Value.	Unimproved Value.	Total Capital Value.		

HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.

	No.	£	£	£	£	Miles.
1937	2	1,238,811	7,198,743	20,249,092	2,533,466	235

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1937 . . .	47	1,483,625	14,739,215	31,146,292	580,751	12,483
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(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the year 1936-37 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works and Services.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Total.

HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937 ..	280,661	700	631,162a	19,344	395,509	184,530	616,844a

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1937 ..	184,754	45,336	333,701a	35,867	238,378	44,835	331,208a
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(a) Excluding loan receipts £165,342 and loan expenditure £126,469.

7. *Basis for Municipal Rating and Limits for Rates.*—These matters were dealt with at some length in Official Year Book, No. 17, pp. 124-125.

§ 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 section comparative figures are given for each State regarding the financial operations of local governing bodies.

2. Local Government Authorities : Number, Revenue, Expenditure and Valuation.—The sub-joined table shows the number, revenue and expenditure, including loan money, and valuation of local authorities in each State and in Australia for the year 1936. It should be noted that, excepting in Queensland and Tasmania, the metropolitan water supply and sewerage 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 GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES (a).—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1936.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.(b)	Tasmania.	Total.
No. of local authorities(a)	312	195	144	142	268	49	1,108
RECEIPTS.							
Rates—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General ..	4,328,297	3,432,905	1,728,949	832,613	401,559	157,189	13,172,436
Other ..	1,077,235	50,144	645,378				
Government grants, etc.	4,703,489	187,918	2,277,578	254,587	70,117	46,036	7,539,725
Loans and other sources ..	(c) 4,395,681	3,845,892	4,673,404	371,577	1,574,231	618,754	15,479,539
Total ..	14,504,702	7,516,859	9,325,309	1,458,777	2,255,868	1,130,205	36,191,720

EXPENDITURE.

Works, services, etc. ..	10,858,223	5,338,633	6,378,456	1,112,558	733,126	760,356	25,381,352
Interest on loans and overdrafts ..	1,068,730	565,301	1,269,855	48,795	157,208	229,365	5,981,516
Redemptions, sinking funds, etc. ..	1,106,402	659,701	613,484	52,565	210,110		
Administration ..	618,695	503,323	439,351	128,641	193,885	55,211	2,004,106
Other ..	1,414,192	532,253	533,302	96,883	882,131	29,589	3,488,350
Total ..	15,066,242	7,659,211	9,434,448	1,439,442	2,181,460	1,074,521	36,855,324

VALUATIONS.

Capital value of improved property ..	d 521,654,820	613,522,880	f 71,884,731	176,617,118	(g) 46,447,667	51,395,384	(h)
Annual value of property ..	(e) 34,424,602	32,045,449	(h)	8,546,808	(g) 2,424,619	2,722,436	(h)

(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. Particulars of county councils are excluded from the figures for New South Wales.

(b) Inclusive of Local Boards of Health under the control of Local Government Bodies.

(c) The amount included as loan receipts, £681,431, represents the amount of loan expenditure during the year. In general practice the two amounts would correspond closely as large loans, when floated are frequently drawn upon in instalments which are regulated by the rate of spending.

(d) Excluding Shires.

(e) Assessed annual value, excluding Shires.

(f) Unimproved capital value.

(g) Municipalities only. District Road Boards are rated partly on unimproved capital value and partly on annual value, the total unimproved capital value being £22,058,363, and the annual value £429,335.

(h) Not available.

3. Local and Semi-Governmental and other Public Authorities : New Money Loan Raisings, Debt and Interest Payable, 1936-37.—Particulars are given in the next table of new money loan raisings during 1936-37 and the amount of debt at 30th June, 1937, together with the interest payable annually thereon. In addition to those Local Government Authorities referred to in § 3, the table includes details for those boards or statutory authorities administering works or services such as water supply, sewerage, electricity, roads, tramways, harbours, fire brigades, trading activities, marketing agencies, etc.

LOCAL AND SEMI-GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.—NEW MONEY LOAN RAISINGS, DEBT AND INTEREST PAYABLE, 1936-37.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.							
New Money Loan Raisings(a)	2,096	518	1,581	203	125	204	4,727
Funds Provided for Redemption—							
Repayments by Instalments	1,029	552	420	59	114	81	2,255
Amounts Credited to Sinking Fund ..	360	97	254	3	64	52	830
Total	1,389	649	674	62	178	133	3,085
Debt—							
Due to Government ..	5,792	783	10,050	377	48	397	17,447
Due to Banks (Net Overdraft)	250	354	929	31	23	31	1,618
Due to Public Creditor ..	31,096	11,963	16,837	859	3,077	2,717	66,549
Total	37,138	13,100	27,816	1,267	3,148	3,145	85,614
Maturing Overseas ..	7,407	45	9,154	..	562	1,194	18,362
Interest Payable	1,631	589	1,295	58	139	138	3,850

SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.

New Money Loan Raisings(a)	4,476	704	1,291	471	14	87	7,043
Funds Provided for Redemption—							
Repayments by Instalments	1,312	284	247	110	10	26	1,989
Amounts Credited to Sinking Fund ..	400	193	21	42	2	3	661
Total	1,712	477	268	152	12	29	2,650
Debt—							
Due to Government ..	24,807	2,685	8,848	6,478	147	376	43,341
Due to Banks (Net Overdraft)	367	123	244	21	..	1	756
Due to Public Creditor ..	45,530	38,021	1,931	863	107	460	86,912
Total	70,704	40,829	11,023	7,362	254	837	131,009
Maturing Overseas ..	4,084	6,720	..	..	..	..	10,804
Interest Payable	2,526	1,826	421	291	10	36	5,110

(a) Excluding Loans raised and entirely redeemed within the year.

§ 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 were formerly constructed by the Public Works Department, and, when completed, handed

over to the local government authority affected, by which the cost was to be repaid. Under an Act passed in 1935, the raising of loans by councils until the 30th June, 1938, to meet the capital cost of works was facilitated, and councils are now required to undertake the work of construction. In certain cases the Government contributes towards the cost.

(ii) *Waterworks. (a) Metropolitan.—General.* The catchment area of the metropolitan water system, covering an area of 347 square miles, is drained by the Nepean, Cataract and Cordéaux Rivers. At 30th June, 1937, there were in the system 85 reservoirs with a total capacity of 109,471,000,000 gallons. Storage facilities are provided chiefly by four reservoirs, viz., Avon, 47,153,000,000 gallons; Cataract, 20,743,000,000 gallons; Cordeaux, 20,597,000,000 gallons; and Nepean, 17,898,000,000 gallons. The total length of mains is 4,031 miles; this measurement is the result of an actual check of the system and eliminates superseded lines which were included in previous years. The highest figure of daily consumption yet reached was 148,685,000 gallons on 24th January, 1934.

(b) *Newcastle.—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 in the Cessnock coalmining field, as well as in areas adjoining these centres. The supply also extends to the farming areas of Miller's Forest and the lakeside resorts of Belmont, Swansea 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 total length of mains is 898 miles.

(c) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses, the estimated population supplied, and other details for the year ended 30th June, 1937 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.—WATER SUPPLIED, 1936-37.

System.	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.	
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Sydney ..	332,941	1,407,008	98,345	35,896,000	295	69.98
Newcastle ..	45,745	228,725	10,771	3,931,350	235	47.09

(iii) *Sewerage and Drainage. (a) Metropolitan.—General.* The Sydney sewerage system consists of three main outfalls, discharging into the Pacific Ocean. During 1936-37, new sewers laid measured 203 miles and one mile of stormwater drains was constructed by the Board in 1936-37.

(b) *Newcastle Sewerage Works. General.* The sewerage works for Newcastle and suburbs as originally designed were completed by the Department of Public Works and vested in the Board. Their amplification, extension and improvement were authorized by the Newcastle and Suburbs Sewerage Amplification Act, 1928, passed on the 21st May, 1928. The cost of the work, which was completed in March, 1936, was £817,972.

The Cessnock sewerage work authorized by the Cessnock Sewerage Act, 1931, was completed at a cost of £251,781 and transferred to the Board on 30th June, 1933.

The Stockton sewerage work, authorized by the Stockton Sewerage Act, 1932, was completed at a cost of £106,696 and transferred to the Board on 6th November, 1936.

The Wallsend Sewerage work which is being carried out by the Board was commenced on 25th March, 1937. The estimated cost of the scheme is £144,000. The capital expenditure to the 30th June, 1937, amounted to £8,513.

The Maitland sewerage work, which is now under construction, was authorized by the Maitland District Sewerage Act 1935, which was assented to on 25th March, 1935. The estimated cost of the scheme is £370,000. The capital expenditure to the 30th June, 1937, amounted to £149,796.

The stormwater drainage of Newcastle and adjoining areas is divided into two catchment areas, namely, the works in the Cottage Creek Stormwater Area and the works in the Throsby Creek Stormwater Area. The cost of the Cottage Creek scheme was £275,644 and it was transferred to the Board on 30th May, 1930. The cost of the latter was £798,771, the works being transferred to the Board on 28th February, 1936. Drainage rates have not yet been struck in respect of either of these stormwater drainages.

(c) *Particulars of Services.* The following table supplies details of sewerage services and stormwater drains as at 30th June, 1937.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE, 1935-36.

System.	Houses Drained.	Population Served.	Length of Sewers.	Length of Stormwater Drains.
	No.	No.	Miles.	Miles.
Sydney	234,509	997,302	2,382.0	83.0
Newcastle .. .	25,289	126,445	277.2	34.8

(d) *Finances.* The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure on account of the services of waterworks, sewerage and drainage during the year 1936-37:—

WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE, 1936-37.

Item.	Revenue.	Working Expenses, Sinking Fund Contribution, Renewals and Exchange. (a)	Interest.	Surplus + or Deficit. —	Ratio of Working Expenses and Sinking Fund Contribution, etc. to Revenue.	Capital Debt.	Ratio of Revenue to Capital Debt.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	%
Sydney—							
Water ..	1,645,552	673,927	840,699	+ 130,926	40.95	23,897,891	6.89
Sewerage ..	935,747	387,739	548,412	— 404	41.44	16,329,700	5.73
Drainage ..	40,059	16,994	31,174	— 8,109	42.42	908,533	4.41
Total ..	2,621,358	1,078,660	1,420,285	+ 122,413	41.15	41,136,124	6.37
Newcastle—							
Water ..	234,286	99,102	99,582	+ 35,602	42.30	2,967,348	7.90
Sewerage ..	106,185	55,330	61,398	— 10,543	52.11	2,057,480	5.16
Drainage ..	(b)	9,070	35,366	— 44,436	..	1,079,977	..
Total ..	340,471	163,502	196,346	— 19,377	48.02	6,104,805	5.58

(a) Sinking fund contributions amounted to £147,549 in the case of the Sydney system, comprising £84,112 for water, £59,971 for sewerage and £3,466 for drainage, the distribution of exchange aggregating £108,773, being £62,881, £43,789 and £2,103 respectively. In the Newcastle system sinking fund contributions totalled £22,750 and exchange £25,740, the charges to water account being £11,333 and £13,195, to sewerage £7,701 and £8,046, and to stormwater drainage £3,716 and £4,500 respectively.

(b) Rate not struck until 1st July, 1937.

(iv) *Waterworks, Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Works in Country Towns.** The capital indebtedness of country towns' water and sewerage schemes was reviewed by a special committee appointed in 1933 and substantial remissions were made in some instances. At the 30th June, 1937, public water supplies with a total cost of £3,945,568 which had been charged to councils (after allowing for capital remissions) were in operation in 95 towns outside the Metropolitan and Hunter River districts. Twenty-three towns

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

were sewered and 12 towns had stormwater channels constructed by the Public Works Department. The capital debt of the sewerage schemes and stormwater channels was £1,634,551.

The water supply systems of Broken Hill and Junee are administered by the Public Works Department under special Acts. These services entailed capital expenditure amounting respectively at 31st December, 1936, to £516,531 and £237,718.

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 Cities of Mordialloc and Moorabbin and further portions 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 436 square miles of land area, and in 1937 embraced 26 cities, and parts of one other city and of 11 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, 1937, for loans raised was £25,145,460. The Board was then still empowered to borrow £1,994,474 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Receipts and Expenditure.* The ordinary receipts and expenditure for the year 1936–37 were £2,149,248 and £1,632,067 respectively, and the loan receipts and expenditure, £1,580,511 and £1,974,631 (including loan redemption £1,395,594) respectively.

In the following tables showing the finances of the various services, charges against General Revenue Account amounting to £383,019 have not been included.

B. *Melbourne Water Supply.* (a) *Number of Houses, Population, and Quantity of Water Supplied.* The following table gives particulars of services for the year 1936–37. The rate levied was sevenpence 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 Consump- tion.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reticu- lation. etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1937 ..	271,771	1,078,931	73,102	26,682,355	268.98	67.76	3.074

(b) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses, percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and surplus for the year ended 30th June, 1937, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £11,765,692.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (a)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1937 ..	141,983	884,964	142,097	16.06	524,470	218,397

(a) Includes interest on renewals and payments to sinking funds.

C. Melbourne Sewerage. (a) Number of Houses Connected, etc. Particulars of services for the year 1936-37 are given below. The rate levied was one shilling and two pence 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.
1937 ..	255,950	1,016,121	47,733	17,422,380	186.5	46.9	2,531

(b) Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus. The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses, percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and surplus for the year ended 30th June, 1937, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £13,612,488.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest (a)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1937 ..	176,460	1,037,539	155,965	15.03	672,343	209,231

(a) Includes interest on renewals and payments to sinking funds.

(c) Metropolitan Sewage Farm. The total area of the farm at the 30th June, 1937, was 22,634 acres. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year 1936-37. The total capital cost to the 30th June, 1937, was £1,214,949.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Cost of Sewage Disposal.	Interest.	Trading Profit.	Net Cost of Sewage Purification.
	£	£	£	£	£
1937 ..	27,644	26,528	54,356	15,517	65,367

(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 605,273 for the year 1936-37.

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, 1937. The total capital cost to that date was £1,189,016.

DRAINAGE AND RIVERS, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (a)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1937	88,954	82,667	15,820	19.14	60,690	6,157

(a) Includes interest on renewals and payments to 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 £900,000 for water supply undertaking, £760,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installation to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 47,169.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,738,119,800 gallons. In addition, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission has made available a supplementary supply of a minimum quantity of 550 million gallons of water per annum from the upper reaches of the river Barwon. There are 306 miles of mains within the water supply area. The total expenditure on waterworks to the 30th June, 1937, was £709,289, and the revenue for the year 1936-37 was £53,489; the sinking fund appropriations at June, 1937, amounted to £67,641, of which £64,350 has been expended in the redemption of loans. There is a water rate of one shilling in the pound (with minima of five shillings for unbuilt on land and one pound for tenements) on the net annual value of rateable properties. The Replacement and Contingencies Reserve (Water) amounts to £15,000.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 13½ miles of main sewers and 141½ miles of reticulation mains have been constructed. The drainage area is 9,538 acres, and the number of buildings within the drainage area is 11,727, and within the sewered areas 11,494, while 11,476 buildings have been connected with the sewers. The total expenditure to 30th June, 1937, on sewerage works was £644,744, and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £257,296, of which £6,226 is outstanding. The revenue in 1936-37 amounted to £38,992 and the sinking fund appropriations at June, 1937, amounted to £64,731, of which £62,902 had been expended in the redemption of loans. A general rate of one shilling and threepence in the pound is levied on the net annual value of rateable properties. Replacement and Contingencies Reserves (Sewerage) amount to £10,300.

(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 2,215,558,000 gallons.

The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £670,413. The liabilities are loans due to the Government amounting to £290,545 as at 31st December, 1937. The revenue for the year 1937 was £33,809.

(c) *Sewerage.* The scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons. The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1937, was £421,347. The method of sewage disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation and sludge digestion. Eighty sewered areas have been declared as at 1st January, 1937, comprising 8,603 tenements.

The scheme is financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions, £462,620 having been provided up to 31st December, 1937, of which £49,780 has been redeemed, leaving a loan liability of £412,840 for constructional works. An expenditure, of £175,333 was incurred for house connexions, of which £144,223 has been redeemed the balance outstanding being £31,110.

(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 are completed and the expenditure to 30th September, 1937, was £331,587 for sewerage scheme and £183,335 for house connexions, excluding those tenements connected privately. The number of tenements connected to sewers is 6,219.

(v) *Sewerage in other Country Districts.* Sewerage authorities have been constituted also in the following districts:—Ararat, Bairnsdale, Benalla, Castlemaine, Colac, Dandenong, Echuca, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyneton, Mildura, Sale, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Warragul and Warrnambool.

(vi) *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 1937:—

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.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
1937	109	1,954,271	1,408,103	1,296	17	883,123	567,647	118

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Department of Works, Water Supply and Sewerage, 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 543 million gallons, the catchment area being approximately 4,000 square miles. In Lake Manchester the storage capacity is 5,700 million gallons, and the catchment area 28.5 square miles. The capacities of Enoggera and Gold Creek reservoirs are 1,000 million gallons and 407 million gallons respectively, and the catchment areas 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 year ended 30th June, 1937 :—

WATERWORKS, BRISBANE.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	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.
	Miles.	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1937	91½	71,083	302,103	5,104,650	13,985,343	47.04

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

The total length of the trunk mains is 206½ miles.

(c) *Sewerage.* At the 30th June, 1937, 25,098 premises were connected to the Council's sewerage system, the estimated population served being 112,941 persons. The total length of sewers in operation is 777½ miles, consisting of 397½ miles of sewers within premises, and 380 miles of main and reticulation sewers.

(d) *Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the year ended 30th June, 1937 :—

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Net Revenue from Rates.	Management and Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, including Sinking Fund and Overdraft.
	£	£	£	£	£
1937	9,911,980	733,097	165,204	552,835	(a) 602,618

(a) Exclusive of the sum of £52,539 paid as exchange, registry fees, etc.

(ii) *Country Towns.*—(a) *Water Supply.* In addition to the city of Brisbane, there were at the end of the year 1936 sixty-six country towns in Queensland provided with water supply systems (including three in the course of construction) constructed by municipalities chiefly from Government loans. The subjoined statement gives particulars of all water supply systems, exclusive of Brisbane, for the year 1936 :—

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS.—QUEENSLAND.

Cost of Construction to 31st December, 1936—£3,145,724.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£
Rates and sales of water	..	268,240	Office and salaries	..	21,465
Government and other loans	..	78,371	Construction	..	159,764
Government subsidy of loans	..	71,106	Maintenance	..	121,202
Other	..	19,724	Interest and redemption	..	126,829
			Other expenses	..	12,892
Total		437,441	Total		442,152
Assets	..	2,433,928	Liabilities	..	1,873,199

(b) *Sewerage Systems.* At the 31st December, 1936, there were five Cities outside the Metropolitan area Maryborough, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Toowoomba, with sewerage works. The Toowoomba works have been in operation since 1926, whilst those for the other cities were in course of construction at the end of the year.

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 1936–37, the figures for consumption being recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and including evaporation and absorption. There are 56,002 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.	Million Gallons.
1937	133,193	5,154,993	116,307	14,435	1,318	7,739

(b) *Finances.* Particulars for the year 1936–37 are given below :—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.				Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Mainten- ance.	Other.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1937 ..	4,458,872	332,351	400,472	21,957	57,368	17,085	96,410	6.82

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the year 1936–37 are given hereunder :—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con- nexions.	Capital Cost of Revenue- Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Adminis- tration, Mainte- nance, etc.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1937 ..	528	53,882	1,682,797	167,722	175,802	28,221	32,786	8.50

(iv) *Country Water Supply. (a) Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the year 1936-37. There are 32,909 meters in country districts.

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	Million Gallons.
1937 ..	51,751	11,729,677	9,365	4,954	5,350

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the year 1936-37 :—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.				Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Adminis-tration.	Mainten-ance.	Other.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1937 ..	9,852,398	157,959	198,291	21,126	69,769	32,301	123,196	0.76

(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 1936-37 :—

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.	Adminis-tration and Main-tenance.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1937 ..	377	21,908	1,667,659	67,030	68,792	35,908	38,917	1.79

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* The water supply and sewerage systems of Western Australia are principally 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; and (e) 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, Churchman Brook Reservoir, Canning Dam, fifteen bores and the Armadale and Wungong pipe head dams. During the year 1936-37 the construction of the Canning Dam was continued and at 30th June, 1937, there were 2,135 million gallons impounded.

The sewerage treatment works of Perth are undergoing modernization and a change-over from septic tanks and filters to activated sludge treatment is being carried out. Fremantle treatment works consist of septic tanks with ocean outfall for effluent. All sewage effluent of Perth and suburbs is now discharged direct to the ocean. Various reticulation works were undertaken in 1936-37 extending the Perth sewered areas to the south side of the Swan River. At the 30th June, 1937, the number of premises connected with sewers was 30,131.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the year 1936-37 :—

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Estimated Population Supplied.	Number of Services.	Water Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.		Number of Meters.	Length of Mains.
				Per Head.	Per Service.		
	No	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	No.	Miles.
1937	233,997	58,085	4,943,926	57.88	233.19	38,162	915

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives separate information for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches for the year 1936-37 :—

**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.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937 ..	4,495,533	264,493	260,332	2,964,085	137,424	145,141

(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 several classes of consumers—the railways, the mines, domestic and other—and in 1936-37 the railways consumed 6½ per cent., the mines 37½ per cent., and domestic, etc., 56½ per cent. of the supply. The following table gives details for the year 1936-37 :—

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Con- sumption.(a)	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	1,000 gallons. 1,644,000	No.	Miles.	£	£	£
1937 ..		12,567	1,674	5,113,202	291,588	261,800

(a) Includes 146,686,000 gallons supplied to the Metropolitan Water Supply Department.

(iv) *Water Supply of Other Towns.* During the year 1936-37 water supplied to other towns and districts amounted to 288,528,000 gallons, distributed as follows :— Railways, 20,941,000 gallons; mines 29,069,000 gallons; and 241,518,000 gallons to domestic and other consumers.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1936–37, four wells were sunk and three tanks excavated. During the twenty-seven years from the 1st July, 1910, to the 30th June, 1937, 522 tanks were built, 375 wells sunk, and 3,555 bores put down to a total depth of 166,146 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 530 yielded fresh and 309 stock water.

(vi) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to the 30th June, 1937, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water was 356, ranging in depth from 30 to 4,006 feet. These figures include 51 bores sunk in the metropolitan area.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to the 30th June, 1937, was £496,211, 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, 1937, amounted to £399,948. At the same date the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 13,830 and the length of reticulation mains was 142½ miles. The revenue for the year 1936–37 was £38,576.

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1937, was £36,894. Up to that date 82.3 miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £218,557 and 8,649 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 28.9 miles of sewers, connecting with 1,711 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £131,109. In New Town a total of 38.6 miles of sewers has been laid, and 1,703 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1937, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £114,655.

§ 6. Harbour Boards and Trusts.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *Maritime Services Board of New South Wales.* (a) *General.* The Port of Sydney is administered by the Maritime Services Board of New South Wales, a corporate body of five Commissioners, three of whom are full-time members and two, representing shipping and commercial interests, part-time members. The Board was brought into existence on the 1st February, 1936, by the Maritime Services Act, 1935, in order to co-ordinate the port and navigation services of the State, which had previously been administered by the Sydney Harbour Trust in the case of the Port of Sydney and by the State Department of Navigation in the case of Newcastle and the outports.

(b) *Port of Sydney.* The functions of the Board in respect of the Port of Sydney include the provision of adequate wharfage, channels, lights and other port facilities, the control of shipping, pilotage, the imposition and collection of rates and charges on goods and vessels, the licensing of harbour craft and the general management and control of the Port.

The entrance to Sydney Harbour is nearly a mile wide, and is not less than 80 feet deep. Between the entrance, known as “The Heads”, and the Harbour proper, a distance of 4 miles, there are two separate channels, each with a depth of 40 feet at low tide and a width of 700 feet. The foreshores are 188 miles in length, and the total area of the port is 14,284 acres, or 22 square miles, of which about one-half has a depth of 30 feet or more at low water ordinary spring tide. The mean range of tide is 3 feet 6 inches.

Exclusive of ferry wharves, and jetties used for private purposes, there are 64,500 feet of wharfage controlled by the Maritime Services Board, and 9,500 feet of commercial wharfage privately owned. There is ample shed accommodation, and the port is well equipped with railway wharfage for the handling of traffic which is required to pass direct from ship to rail and vice versa. For the wheat export trade, in both bulk and bags, ample wharfage accommodation and handling equipment of the most modern character are available. Facilities in all directions can be very considerably extended when required. Approximately two thirds of the shipping wharves controlled by the Board are leased to shipping companies, the remainder, which are unleased, are directly maintained by the Commissioners.

The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Board for the year 1936-37 :—

MARITIME SERVICES BOARD.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Working Expenditure.	Interest.	Surplus.	Total Capital Debt.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937 ..	745,978	31,267	316,446	1,093,691	355,055	483,209	255,427	11,452,929

(a) Includes £57,134 exchange.

(b) Includes £51,853 sinking fund contributions.

(c) *Port of Newcastle.* In regard to the volume of shipping entered, Newcastle ranks second in importance in New South Wales and fourth in Australia. It is primarily a coal-loading port, but its activities cover the shipment of general commodities. The wharfage and other facilities of the port have been further improved and extended to meet the actual and the anticipated growth of trade with the expansion of industry in the district. A terminal elevator, which has been erected for the handling of bulk wheat, has enhanced the importance of Newcastle as an exporting centre.

(d) *Port Kembla.* Port Kembla, which is sharing to an increasing extent in the shipping trade of the State, has an area of 330 acres, of which 239 acres have a minimum depth of 24 feet. Being adjacent to the southern coalfields and a rapidly developing industrial centre, its trade is growing and a great future for the port is predicted.

(e) *Other Ports.* In addition to the ports of Sydney and Newcastle, the Board controls 29 outports along the coastline of 609 miles.

(ii) *Port Charges.* There has been much ill-informed criticism of the port charges levied upon shipping in Australian ports. The fact is that the Government charges compare favourably with those of other parts of the world when the services rendered are taken into consideration. They are much lower than the charges at the leading ports of the United Kingdom. Direct comparisons of port charges are difficult, if not impossible, to make, because of the differing port customs, and the absence of similarity in the nature and methods of applying them. It is considered that the most satisfactory method of comparison is to take the total collections by the port authorities, and arrive at the average rate per ton. This has been done in the case of the two leading ports in Australia and in the United Kingdom, and the figures are as follows :—

PORT CHARGES.—AUSTRALIA AND UNITED KINGDOM.

Port.		Net Tonnage of Vessels Entered.	Charges on Shipping.	Average Rate per Ton of Shipping.
			£	d.
Australia—				
Sydney (1936-37)	.. ..	10,993,395	221,835	4.8
Melbourne (1936)	.. ..	8,168,526	193,753	5.6
United Kingdom—				
London (1936-37)	.. ..	31,075,655	1,373,966	10.6
Liverpool (1936-37)	.. ..	21,399,499	1,270,069	14.2

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *Melbourne Harbor 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, 1937, the sheds available for wharfage accommodation had a length of 18,787 feet, covering an area of 1,246,530 square feet. The area of water in the bay and River Yarra under the control of the Trust is approximately 5,321 acres and the total length of wharves, piers and jetties in the port is 61,850 feet, giving an area of over 57 acres of wharfage, of which 51,987 feet is effective berthing space. During 1937 the quantity of material raised by dredging and excavation in the river and bay amounted to 2,551,499 barge yards at a cost of £98,622. The Trust has expended £354,524 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction by depositing 16,747,926 barge yards of material thereon.

(b) *Finances.* During the year ended 31st December, 1937, the revenue (excluding refunds) of the Trust amounted to £846,258, and expenditure to £842,465 (including the amount of £161,513 paid to Consolidated Revenue and Geelong Harbor Trust). There was a net Surplus on revenue account of £3,793. Appropriation for sinking fund and charges for depreciation, renewals and insurance against revenue account for the year amounted to £200,868. The capital expenditure for the year was £52,078. Up to the 31st December, 1937, the total capital expenditure amounted to £9,040,209 the loan indebtedness at that date being £4,179,632.

(ii) *Geelong Harbor Trust.* The Geelong Harbor Trust was reconstituted in 1934 under the provisions of the Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Act 1934. The Trust is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. Revenue for the year 1937 was £105,903. Revenue expenditure was £92,177 and capital expenditure £38,715, while loans outstanding at the end of that year amounted to £557,310.

(iii) *Harbor Boards.* The Harbor Boards Act 1928 made provision for the establishment of Harbor Boards at Gippsland Lakes, Welshpool, Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Portland, all of which ports were, at the commencement of the operation of this Act, under the control of the Public Works Department. The Warrnambool Harbor Board, which was constituted on 29th May, 1928 under the provisions of this Act, was abolished on 30th June, 1936 by Order in Council and the port was restored to the control of the Public Works Department.

During the nine months ended 30th June, 1936, ordinary revenue amounted to £1,112 and ordinary expenditure was £1,089.

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Bowen Harbour Board.* 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 Proserpine and Wangaratta, and division I. of the shire of Ayr. The capital expenditure for the year 1937 was £1,155, while for the same period the revenue was £21,235 and the expenditure £21,084, of which £15,041 was from revenue.

(ii) *Bundaberg Harbour Board.* 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.

The capital expenditure for the year 1937 was £13,475 while for the same period the revenue was £20,352 and expenditure £29,193.

(iii) *Cairns Harbour Board.* The Cairns Harbour Board, which controls the port, consists of thirteen members, representing the city of Cairns and six adjoining shires. The wharves are exclusively under the control of this Board and consist of 1,900 lineal feet in reinforced ferro-concrete, upon which spacious sheds are erected with a floor

area of 14,400 square feet. A most comprehensive electrical equipment is erected at the wharves capable of handling into ship two hundred tons of sugar per hour and a special sugar storage shed, fitted with this equipment, can accommodate 7,500 tons. The Board's suction dredger maintains a minimum depth of 22 feet of water in the entrance channel. Ships drawing over 27 feet of water can berth at wharves. Railway facilities are provided in front of and at rear of the wharves. The revenue of the Board, derived from harbour, berthage and miscellaneous dues, etc., for the year 1937, was £71,320, and expenditure £67,884.

(iv) *Gladstone Harbour Board.* 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.

The capital expenditure for the year 1937 was £3,416 and the total to the end of 1937 amounted to £111,657. The revenue for 1937 was £13,019, and the expenditure £14,969.

(v) *Mackay Harbour Board.* 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. The harbour is in course of construction.

Expenditure for the year 1937 totalled £172,981 of which £157,706 was spent on construction. Receipts totalled £133,979, harbour dues amounting to £23,013, Government Loan to £51,489, and Government subsidy of Loan to £48,904.

(vi) *Rockhampton Harbour Board.* The Rockhampton Harbour Board consists of eleven members, of whom seven are elected by the electors on the rolls of 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.

The revenue for the year 1937 was £52,061 and the expenditure £52,640. The capital expenditure for the year 1937 was £17,999, and the total to the end of 1937 was £799,911.

(vii) *Townsville Harbour Board.* 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. The capital expenditure for the year 1937 was £23,797; the receipts for the year 1937 were £83,831, and the expenditure £86,461.

HARBOUR BOARDS, QUEENSLAND.—FINANCES.

Year ended 31st December.	Revenue.		Expenditure.					Assets.	Liabilities.
	Wharfrage and Harbour Dues.	Total.	Interest on Loans.	Redemption of Loans.	Construction and Maintenance.	Other.	Total.		
1937	£ 215,183	£ 395,797	£ 50,460	£ 44,763	£ 317,816	£ 32,173	£ 415,212	£ 1,778,941	£ 2,073,729

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) *Finance.* The following table gives financial data for the year 1936-37 :—

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue. (a)	Expenditure.						
		Working Expenses.	Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Capital Expendi- ture.	Surplus Revenue. (b)	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937 ..	447,884	221,157	139,279	17,060	2,000	7,606	87,118	474,220

(a) Including interest from sinking funds, £5,029.

(b) Paid to Consolidated Revenue.

(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 3,700 feet, and is electrically lighted.

(b) *Finances.* Details for the year 1936-37 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 Account.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£
1937	609,928	22,520	(a) 41,218

(a) Includes Interest on Capital Account £27,724, none of which was contributed from the 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, 1937 :—

MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Debt.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		
		Taxes, Dues, etc.	Total.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Works, Services, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937	38,519	49,321	53,566	8,502	43,281	57,125

(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, 1937 :—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Capital Debt.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		
		Taxes, Dues, etc.	Total.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Works, Services, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937.. ..	243,352	52,216	58,322	20,789	16,781	58,322

(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, 1937, were £41,289, and the expenditure £28,598, including £16,138 interest on loans, etc.

§ 7. Fire Brigades.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *General.* Under the Fire Brigades Act, 1909–1927, a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of eight members operates, and 128 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 ¼d. 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, 1937 the Board had under its control 79 fire stations in the Sydney fire district and 153 fire stations in the country fire districts. The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, and comprises a total area of 278 square miles. The revenue for the year 1937 was £393,202, made up as follows :—From the Government, £96,320 ; municipalities and shires, £96,320 ; fire insurance companies and firms, £192,640 ; and from other sources, £7,922. The disbursements for the year were £396,499.

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, 1937, the Board had under its control 43 stations. The total receipts for the year 1936–37 were £204,165, comprising contributions £159,596, receipts for services £26,288, and interest and sundries £18,281. The expenditure was £223,321, made up as follows :—Salaries (permanent staff) £115,868, interest and repayments of principal £17,591, and other expenditure £89,862. There was no loan expenditure during the year—the loan indebtedness at the end of the year being £178,434.

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board.* At 30th June, 1937, there were 120 municipal councils and 107 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 41 of the larger provincial cities and townships. There were 150 registered brigades at the end of June, 1937. For the year 1936-37 the revenue was £30,687 and the expenditure £30,640. There was no loan expenditure during the year, and at the close of the year the loan indebtedness was £47,576.

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *General.* The Acts of 1920-1931 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 30th June, 1937, there were fire brigades in 34 towns. The total revenue for the year 1936-37 was £123,631, received mainly from the following sources :—Government £21,649, local authorities, £21,751, insurance companies £32,678, and loans (Government and other), £42,031. The total expenditure for the year was £128,543, the chief items being salaries and wages £54,948, buildings, repairs, etc., £38,871, plant, stores, etc., £17,229, and interest and redemption of loans, £9,124.

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act 1936, provides 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.* During the year 1937 the Woodville fire district with an area of 16½ square miles, a population of over 27,500 and a capital value of £6 million was taken over by the Board. A new station was also opened for the fire float at Port Adelaide. At the end of 1937 there were altogether 28 fire brigade stations. The total revenue for the year 1937 was £46,735.

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 41. The revenue and expenditure for the year ended 30th September, 1937, were £59,447 and £59,551 respectively. The estimated value of land and buildings was £89,000 and of plant £38,100.

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 1937 amounted to £6,607.