

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ADMINISTRATION

Local Government Department

The *Local Government Department Act* 1958 constituted a department called the Local Government Department "for the better administration of the laws relating to local government in Victoria". The legislation was brought into operation on 23 December 1958 by a proclamation of the Governor in Council published in the *Government Gazette* on that day. Officers and employees of the Local Government Branch of the Public Works Department were, as a result, transferred and attached to the new Department.

The following Acts of Parliament come within the ambit of the responsibilities of the Minister for Local Government :

- Local Government Act
- Acts relating to local government in the Cities of Melbourne and Geelong
- Cultural and Recreational Lands Act
- Dog Act
- Drainage Areas Act
- Hawkers and Pedlars Act
- Litter Act
- Local Authorities Superannuation Act
- Markets Act
- Newmarket Sheep Sales Act
- Petrol Pumps Act
- Pounds Act
- Public Authorities Mark Act
- Public Contracts Act
- Tramways Act
- Valuation of Land Act
- Weights and Measures Act

Responsibility for administering the Acts specified below was transferred from the Minister for Local Government on the dates shown :

- July 1973 : Country Roads Act to the Minister for Transport.
- July 1974 : Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act to the Minister of Water Supply.

Constituting and altering the constitution of municipalities

The *Local Government Act* 1958 provides machinery for the creation of new municipalities and for alterations to the boundaries of existing ones. The power to make Orders on this subject is conferred on the Governor in Council, who acts on the recommendation of the Minister for Local Government. All such Orders

are published in the *Government Gazette*. The powers conferred on the Governor in Council include authority to do the following :

(1) To constitute new shires. Practically the whole of Victoria is included in municipal districts, and therefore any new municipalities will almost inevitably be created from the territories of existing ones. Before any area of land in Victoria may be constituted a shire, it must contain rateable property having a net annual value of not less than \$400,000 which yielded not less than \$60,000 in general and extra rates for the last completed municipal year.

(2) To constitute new boroughs, towns, or cities. Any area of land in Victoria may be constituted a borough provided such area :

- (i) is substantially urban in character ;
- (ii) has a population of at least 4,000 inhabitants ;
- (iii) contains rateable property having a net annual value of at least \$400,000 ;
and
- (iv) contains rateable property which yielded a revenue of at least \$60,000 from general and extra rates for the last completed municipal year.

To be constituted a town or city, the area must meet the appropriate requirements set out in (6) below.

(3) To unite two or more municipalities whose municipal districts form one continuous area.

(4) To sever part of one municipality and annex such part to another municipality.

(5) To subdivide or re-subdivide any municipality or to alter the boundaries of or abolish the subdivisions of any municipal district. The subdivisions of a city, town, or borough are called "wards" and those of a shire "ridings". Most Victorian municipalities are subdivided. The maximum number of subdivisions permitted in any municipality, except the City of Melbourne, is eight. Melbourne has eleven wards.

(6) To proclaim municipalities which are substantially urban in character to be boroughs, towns, or cities. Any such shire which satisfies the requirements set out in (2) above may be proclaimed a borough. Any such municipality which has a population of at least 5,000 inhabitants and yielded a revenue of at least \$80,000 from general and extra rates in the last completed municipal year may be proclaimed a town. Any such municipality which has a population of at least 10,000 inhabitants and yielded a revenue from general and extra rates of not less than \$160,000 in the last completed municipal year may be proclaimed a city.

Action on these matters can be initiated locally, in some instances, by a request addressed to the Governor in Council and signed by a prescribed number of persons enrolled on the municipal voters' roll. The proposal set out in the request must be submitted to a poll held in conjunction with the next annual election of councillors. In other instances an application or a petition under the seal of the council suffices.

An Advisory Board of three persons, constituted under the Local Government Act, investigates these matters, and advises the Minister on them. The Board conducts local public hearings of evidence on the various proposals referred to it at which ratepayers, councils, and other interested parties are given an opportunity to be heard. The Board advises the Minister, who, in turn, makes recommendations to the Governor in Council for the making of the appropriate orders.

Valuer-General and Valuers' Qualification Board

A Valuer-General was first appointed in Victoria under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. The purpose of this legislation is the co-ordination of rating valuations for municipalities and other rating authorities and the improvement of the standard of valuations in Victoria. Municipalities are now the only rating

authorities making valuations in the State, and each attends to the special rating valuation requirements of other authorities in its municipal district.

The Valuer-General's Office confers with the valuers appointed to make the valuation and with councils on the general levels of values to be used, and is available to give advice during the valuation or subsequently. The Valuer-General is empowered to make valuations on request for all government departments and public authorities, for probate duty and stamp duty and, by agreement, for settling disputes as to the value of property.

The Valuers' Qualification Board may either conduct examinations of persons desiring to qualify as valuers or prescribe examinations or qualifications which it is prepared to accept for the purpose. A two year (four year part-time) diploma course is conducted by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Successful candidates must also complete four years of practical work within six years prior to their application in order to obtain a certificate.

Municipal Valuation Fees Committee

The Municipal Valuation Fees Committee was constituted to fix, on request, a minimum valuation contract fee for municipalities wishing to carry out a general revaluation.

Previously a contract valuer could not be appointed to value rateable property in a municipality unless the Valuer-General certified that the remuneration and the other conditions of employment would enable a satisfactory valuation to be made. The Committee now provides an alternative for a council which may elect to have the minimum fee fixed by the Committee and then appoint a qualified valuer at such fee.

Land Valuation Boards of Review

Land Valuation Boards of Review were provided for by the *Valuation of Land (Valuations) Act 1964*. The purpose of the legislation was the provision of an informal and inexpensive means of determining disputes as to the valuation of real property whether for rating or taxing purposes or in respect of compulsory acquisitions.

In rating and taxing matters, appeals are heard by a Board except where the appeal is against a capital improved value of \$10,000 or more, a net annual valuation of \$500 or more, or an unimproved capital value of \$2,000. In those cases the appellant may have the appeal heard by a Board or the Supreme Court, at his option.

In disputes on land acquisition the hearing is before a Board when the claim does not exceed \$10,000 unless the Supreme Court decides on application by either party that the issues involved warrant a Court hearing. When the claim exceeds \$10,000 the hearing may be before either the Court or a Board at the option of the claimant.

Each Board of Review is composed of a chairman and two valuers. The latter are selected from a panel having regard to the location and use of the land.

Municipalities

At 30 June 1975 Victoria was divided, for local government purposes, into 211 municipal districts and the Yallourn Works Area, which was severed from the municipal districts of which it then formed part by the *State Electricity Commission (Yallourn Area) Act 1947*. For certain purposes it is deemed to be a borough and municipal administration is the responsibility of the Commission, assisted by an Advisory Council. The 211 municipalities comprised 65 cities, 6 towns, 7 boroughs, and 133 shires.

The only unincorporated areas of Victoria are French Island (168 square kilometres) in Western Port, Lady Julia Percy Island (2.64 square kilometres)

off Port Fairy, Bass Strait islands (3.91 square kilometres), Gippsland lakes (part) (332 square kilometres), and Tower Hill Lake Reserve (5.91 square kilometres) adjacent to the Borough of Koroit.

Municipal councils

The powers vested in municipal corporations are exercised by councils elected by persons who are enrolled on the municipal voters rolls. The number of councillors for each municipality must be some multiple of three, not less than six, nor more than twenty-four (except the City of Melbourne, which has thirty-three councillors). Subdivided municipalities have three councillors for each subdivision.

Any person who is the owner or occupier of property of a rateable annual value of at least \$40 is eligible to stand for election as a councillor of the municipality in which the property is situated. Councillors serve in an honorary capacity. They must elect one of their number to be chairman. In a city, town, or borough, the chairman is known as the Mayor (the Lord Mayor in the case of the City of Melbourne) and in a shire, the President. Councillors hold office for three years, and each year one third of the total number allotted to each municipality retires in rotation.

A councillor who has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any contract or proposed contract with the municipality or in any other matter in which the municipality is concerned, and is present at any meeting of the council at which the contract or other matter is being considered, must disclose his interest and is not permitted to remain in the room where the meeting is being held during discussion of, or voting on, the contract or other matter. Councillors are liable for heavy penalties if moneys are wrongfully borrowed or expended, and may have to repay the moneys so borrowed or expended.

Elections

Municipal elections are held annually in August. Extraordinary elections may be held to fill vacancies occurring between annual elections. A person is entitled to be enrolled on the voters roll of any municipality if he or she has attained the age of 18 years and

- (1) is liable to be rated in respect of property within a municipal district;
- (2) is the spouse of a person entitled to be enrolled in respect of property within the municipal district upon which that person and his or her spouse reside if the said spouse is not liable to be rated in respect of such property; and provided that the spouse makes written application for enrolment to the council; or
- (3) is the owner of any rateable property in respect of which some other person is liable to be rated as occupier.

If a corporation owns or occupies rateable property it must appoint some person to be enrolled in its place. In the case of public statutory corporations, however, this is optional. No person is entitled to be enrolled for property which has a net annual value of less than \$25, unless there is a house on such property and the person resides there.

Plural voting was abolished by legislation enacted in 1969. Each person enrolled on the municipal roll now receives only one vote. A person may, however, be enrolled in more than one subdivision of a municipality and may vote once at any election of councillors for each such subdivision. In the case of polls under Part II of the Local Government Act (i.e., on severances, re-subdivisions, and the constitution of new municipalities, etc.), polls on changes in the basis of rating, and polls on proposed borrowings, each voter has only one vote whether enrolled in more than one subdivision or not.

Voting is compulsory in 80 municipalities. However, the owner of rateable property whose usual place of residence is outside the municipal district is

not subject to the compulsory voting regulations, nor is a person who is not a natural born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty.

Officers

Each council must appoint a municipal clerk (who is known as the town clerk in a city, town, or borough, and the shire secretary in a shire), an engineer, and such other officers as may be necessary. The other officers usually include a building surveyor, a valuer, a rate collector, a medical officer of health, and a health inspector. The Local Government Act requires that certain officers must obtain special qualifications from examining boards constituted under the Act. The officers who must hold these special qualifications before appointment are municipal clerks, engineers, electrical engineers, and building surveyors. The Health Act requires that medical officers of health shall be duly qualified medical practitioners, and that every health inspector shall hold a prescribed certificate of competency. In the terms of the Valuation of Land Act an appropriate certificate must also be held by municipal valuers.

Powers and duties of municipalities

The Local Government Act and other Acts of Parliament confer powers and impose duties on municipal councils. Some of these are as follows:

By-laws

Councils may make by-laws on a number of subjects specified in the Local Government Act and other Acts. The power to make laws of local application is delegated by Parliament, and councils must be careful not to exceed the authority conferred upon them.

Roads and bridges

The construction and maintenance of roads and bridges has always been one of the principal functions of municipalities. With the exception of those roads which are the responsibility of the Country Roads Board, councils have the care and management of all public highways (i.e., streets and roads which the public have a right to use) in the municipal district, and have a duty to keep them open for public use and free from obstruction. The Country Roads Board is wholly responsible for the cost of maintaining proclaimed State highways, freeways, tourists' roads, and forest roads, and shares with local councils the cost of maintaining main roads. Subsidies are also granted to councils from the funds administered by the Board for works on unclassified roads. From 1 July 1974 the Country Roads Board became wholly responsible for the Melbourne metropolitan roads and bridges for which the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works had formerly been responsible.

Private streets

A private street as defined in Division 10 of Part XIX of the Local Government Act is, broadly speaking, a street set out on privately owned land, as opposed to a street set out on land of the Crown or of a public authority. Under certain circumstances, councils may construct such private streets and charge the cost, or part of the cost, to the owners of the land abutting on the street.

After construction, the maintenance of a private street becomes the responsibility of the council. When a council constructs a street which is not a private street as defined above, it may charge abutting owners half the cost of making the footpath and kerb (or the kerb and channel if these are cast in one piece).

Under legislation enacted in 1955, councils were authorised to refuse consent to land subdivisions unless the developers concerned agreed to construct, or to meet the cost of, constructing the new streets on their subdivisions.

Sewers, drains, and watercourses

With certain exceptions, every council has vested in it responsibility for all public sewers and drains within its municipal district or of which it has management and control, and all sewers and drains, whether public or not, in and under the streets of such municipal district. The exceptions to this rule are sewers and drains vested in any other municipality, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, and any sewerage authority under the Sewerage Districts Act. Councils may enlarge or otherwise improve any sewers or drains vested in them and may also scour, cleanse, and keep open all ditches, creeks, gutters, drains, or watercourses within or adjoining their municipal districts. When a drainage area is constituted in any municipal district under the Drainage Areas Act, additional drainage powers are conferred on the council. Drainage areas may be constituted by the Governor in Council on the petition of the council or of land owners in the area. Both the Local Government Act and the Health Act confer powers on councils to provide for the proper drainage of houses, buildings, or land, and, in some instances, the owners of land benefiting as a result of this may be required to meet the cost.

Water supply and sewerage

In the Melbourne metropolitan area, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is responsible for water supply and sewerage (see pages 192-9). The members of the Board are municipal councillors nominated by the councils in the metropolitan area. Outside the metropolitan area, the special water and sewerage needs of the Geelong district and the La Trobe valley are served by the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, respectively. Elsewhere outside the metropolitan area, the Governor in Council may constitute waterworks trusts and sewerage authorities, under the provisions of the Water Act and the Sewerage Districts Act, respectively (see page 192). Members of a municipal council may, together with government nominees, be the members of the sewerage authority or waterworks trust. Alternatively, some members of these bodies may be elected by councillors or ratepayers. In many instances, municipal officers also carry out duties for waterworks trusts and sewerage authorities. The Water and Sewerage Districts Acts are administered by the Minister of Water Supply. Seventeen councils operate waterworks under powers provided in the Local Government Act and, in addition, thirteen municipalities have been constituted local governing bodies, under the provisions of the *Water Act* 1958, with defined water supply districts.

Building control

Since 1945 building in most municipalities in Victoria has been subject to a building code, known as the Uniform Building Regulations, which is administered by municipal councils. From 1 December 1972 these regulations have applied to all municipalities in Victoria.

The regulations leave certain matters to be determined by councils which are empowered to make by-laws for the purpose. These by-laws are subject to approval by the Governor in Council. The Uniform Building Regulations are made on the recommendation of the Building Regulations Committee. The members of this body are appointed by the Governor in Council and include representatives of government departments, the municipalities, the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, the Institution of Engineers (Australia), and the Master Builders' Association of Victoria. In addition to its function of preparing draft regulations, the Committee acts as a referee to determine

disputes arising out of the regulations and may also, on the application of any party concerned, modify or vary the regulations in special cases.

Other powers and duties

In recent years the provision of services for people has assumed increasing importance in the municipal field. This is illustrated by the general power to provide any social services for the benefit of the people of the municipality which was conferred on councils in 1972. The general powers of municipalities are very wide-ranging, but some of the other more familiar functions are:

- (1) supervision of land subdivision and the laying out of streets on private property;
- (2) removal and disposal of household and trade waste;
- (3) sweeping, cleansing, and watering of streets;
- (4) supervision of boarding houses, lodging houses, eating houses, and food premises, including inspection of food in shops;
- (5) provision and maintenance of parks, gardens, recreation reserves, swimming pools, libraries, and museums;
- (6) registration of dogs;
- (7) establishment and maintenance of infant welfare and pre-school centres;
- (8) establishment and maintenance of emergency home-help services;
- (9) establishment and maintenance of elderly citizens' centres; meals-on-wheels;
- (10) appointment of street parking areas and off-street parking areas for motor cars, and the collection of parking fees;
- (11) supervision of weights and measures; and
- (12) traffic engineering.

Revenue

Each council makes an annual estimate of the cost of its intended programme of ordinary works and services. After determining the expenditure to be financed, and the revenue available from sources other than rates, the council levies a local tax on the owners or occupiers of rateable property in the municipal district. This tax, known as the General Rate, produces the principal part of the annual revenue of a council.

Sources of revenue other than rates include income from public works and services, government grants, licence fees, and miscellaneous income.

Revenue from public works and services comprises charges for garbage disposal, sanitary and other health services, contributions to road and pavement works, and sundry income from the hire of council properties.

Some municipalities also operate business undertakings, such as electric supply, abattoirs, pipe works, quarries, and waterworks, and for the 1972-73 municipal year the combined turnover of these undertakings was approximately \$70m.

Rating of land and property

All land (including houses and buildings) in a municipal district is rateable, unless specifically exempted by the Local Government Act.

Non-rateable land is defined fully in the Act, but, in general, it consists of land owned or used by the Government, certain public bodies, churches, and charitable organisations.

The council of every municipality is required, from time to time, to have a valuation made of all rateable property within the municipal district.

Metropolitan municipalities which have at least one whole subdivision subject to any rate made by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works must have valuations at not more than four-year intervals. In other municipalities valuations must be made at not more than six-year intervals. These provisions are aimed at ensuring a uniformity of municipal valuations used by large rating authorities covering more than one municipality.

In Victoria a municipality is required to rate on the net annual value of rateable property unless, at the instance of the council or as the result of a poll of its ratepayers, it has decided to rate on unimproved capital value, or (since 1 June 1968) partly on net annual value and partly on unimproved capital value. Under the latter system a proportion of the required revenue is obtained by levying an appropriate rate on the net annual value of rateable property and the balance from an appropriate rate on the unimproved capital value of the rateable property. The proportions are fixed when the system is adopted.

The amending legislation which provides for a combination rate also provides for the gradual replacement of unimproved capital value as a basis of rating by a modified form of unimproved capital value known as site value. Site value superseded unimproved capital value by 1 October 1975.

The net annual value of a property is the rental it might be expected to earn from year to year if let, after deducting expenses such as rates, taxes, and insurances. In the case of farm land or dwellings the net annual value is limited to 5 per cent of the capital improved value of the property, but in other cases must not be less than 5 per cent of the capital improved value.

The unimproved capital value, however, is the amount a property might be expected to realise if sold in an unimproved state.

Site value differs from unimproved capital value in that the valuer is not required to notionally restore the land to its primitive condition. Instead, the improvements which are to be imagined as not existing are those which can be seen, i.e., buildings, fences, sown pastures, etc., and including works undertaken on the land such as the removal of timber or stone, draining or filling of the land, erosion works, etc., which have been made within the 15 years preceding the valuation.

Of the 210 municipalities in Victoria at 30 September 1973, 149 were rating on net annual value, 58 on unimproved capital value, two on site value (the shires of Buninyong and Orbost), and one, the City of Caulfield, partly on net annual value and partly on unimproved capital value.

The principal rate levied by a municipality, the general rate, is made for the purpose of defraying the ordinary expenditure of the council, and is paid into the General Fund, part of the general fund of the municipality known as the Municipal Fund.

Where a municipality is subdivided into wards or ridings, the council may levy differing rates on the various subdivisions in accordance with services provided. Such differential general rates, however, apply equally to all rateable property within the subdivisions concerned.

The general rate must be made at least once in each municipal year. Councils may levy the general rate at a lower amount in the dollar on farm land, urban farm land, or residential use land than on other properties, if justified by special circumstances. However, the council may fix a minimum amount to be paid on every rateable property within its municipal district.

Before making a general rate, a municipality must prepare an estimate of the amount required to defray the ordinary expenditure of the council for the period to be covered by the rate, and then to strike a rate that will be sufficient to raise the money so required. In a subdivided municipality, an extra rate may be made by the council, in any subdivision or any part of it, on the request of not less than two thirds of the councillors of the subdivision in which it is to be raised. In certain circumstances, an extra rate may also be made and levied in a municipality which is not subdivided. An extra rate may be made for a period of not less than three months but not exceeding one year, as the council thinks fit.

A ratepayer may elect to pay any general or extra rate made for a period of one year in four equal instalments on or before the last day of December, February, May, and August, respectively. If the rate notice is posted on or

after 18 December, the first instalment is payable within fourteen days of the date of posting of the rate notice.

Apart from general and extra rates, a municipality, in certain circumstances, may levy a separate rate (or make a special improvement charge) on a section of the municipality, for the purpose of defraying the cost of special works or undertakings which benefit the ratepayers in that particular area.

Other types of rates which may be levied by municipalities include a sanitary rate (or sanitary charge) under the provisions of the Health Act for the purpose of providing for the disposal of refuse or nightsoil, and a rate under the provisions of the Country Roads Act for the purpose of raising certain moneys payable by the council to the Country Roads Board.

Government grants

Extensive government funds are provided to municipalities for expenditure on constructing and maintaining a network of roads throughout Victoria. Planning for this is carried out by the Country Roads Board. (See pages 188-92.)

Other government departments also provide financial assistance to municipalities for a number of special functions. These functions tend to increase as the demand on local councils for implementation of facilities to meet community requirements is recognised. Such functions include pre-natal and infant welfare services, crèches, day nurseries and pre-school centres, home help and meals-on-wheels services, elderly citizens clubs, immunisation programmes, recreation and tourist facilities, swimming pools and libraries, public halls and local public works, traffic control and road safety measures, vermin and noxious weed destruction, and drainage schemes. Further assistance to augment their funds is provided to certain rural municipalities which have substantial areas of non-rateable land, occupied by State forests, etc.

Municipalities have also been assisted by the ability to carry out certain works under various government-financed schemes for unemployment relief.

Most of the Victorian municipalities shared in the initial distribution of funds as recommended by the Australian Grants Commission in 1974.

These funds were not directed towards any particular project, although particular projects in some municipalities have been assisted by funds made available by the Australian Department of Urban and Regional Development.

Municipalities Assistance Fund

The Municipalities Assistance Fund was established in 1951 and derives its income mainly from a proportion of motor driver licence fees and motor driving instructors licence fees collected in accordance with the *Motor Car Act* 1958, less the cost of collection. The proportion to be credited to the Fund has been fixed at one quarter of the amounts collected.

Payments from the Fund are made, first, towards the cost of works of municipalities and other public bodies of such sums approved by the Minister for Local Government, and second, towards the annual cost of the Country Fire Authority, in order to relieve country municipalities of the contributions to that body which they were formerly required to make.

The amount which the Minister is authorised to approve as expenditure in any one financial year was increased in 1974 from \$600,000 to \$1m.

Where the amount standing to the credit of the Fund is insufficient to meet commitments, a contribution may be made from the Consolidated Fund.

The municipal works usually assisted from this Fund comprise the establishment and improvement of recreation reserves and sporting facilities, children's playgrounds, and public comfort stations.

For the year ended 30 June 1974 subsidies for works paid to various municipalities from the Municipalities Assistance Fund amounted to \$508,038,

while, for the same period, the amount contributed to the Country Fire Authority was \$2,143,928.

Country Roads Board recoups and grants

Municipalities throughout Victoria undertake construction and maintenance work on main roads within their boundaries on behalf of the Country Roads Board under the provisions of the Country Roads Act. Expenditure on this work is incurred in the first instance by the municipalities, but, subject to adherence to prescribed conditions and satisfactory performance of the work, this expenditure is refunded to the municipalities by the Board. Each municipality undertaking main road maintenance work, however, is required to make an annual contribution to its cost and this is calculated by the Board as a proportion of the total maintenance expenditure on each road for the particular year. The proportion payable varies according to the capacity of the municipality to pay, and the extent to which it has benefited from the work done.

For the purpose of making and maintaining certain rural roads, municipalities also receive grants from the Country Roads Board from its own funds and from funds provided by the Australian Government under the provisions of the Roads Grants Acts. (See page 191.)

Expenditure

The ordinary revenue of a municipality is applied to providing works and services for its citizens. These works and services comprise construction and maintenance of roads, streets, and bridges, provision of sanitary, garbage, and other health services, provision and maintenance of parks, gardens, and other council properties, repayment of moneys borrowed for permanent works and undertakings, and other sundry works and services.

Assistance to pensioners

In an endeavour to assist pensioners in meeting their financial obligations to municipalities, the Victorian Government introduced the *Municipalities Assistance Act 1973*, whereby it offered to reimburse municipalities for up to one half of the rates remitted or deferred up to a maximum of \$40 in respect of the municipal rates levied on the principal or sole place of residence of certain eligible pensioners.

Many pensioners were unable to obtain these benefits, as not all municipalities were prepared to contribute to the cost of remitting rates, or alternatively many pensioners were unwilling to accept a situation whereby unpaid rates would remain as a charge upon their property.

Accordingly, a new scheme was introduced in 1974, and the Government is now prepared to finance the remission of rates, garbage, and sanitary charges to the extent of one quarter of the amount charged to eligible pensioners.

Borrowing powers

Extensive borrowing powers are conferred on municipalities by the Local Government Act to enable them to undertake large scale works, or purchase expensive equipment in circumstances where it is advisable, on economic grounds, for the costs to be spread over a number of years. In practice, municipalities seldom borrow to the limit of their powers, and their capacity to borrow is limited by the general allocation of loan funds and the state of the loan market.

Money may be borrowed for permanent works and undertakings (as defined in the Local Government Act), or to liquidate the principal moneys owing by the municipality on account of any previous loan. Under a municipality's ordinary borrowing powers the amount borrowed shall not exceed the net annual valuation of all rateable property in the municipal district, as shown by the municipality's

last audited financial statement; provided that, where money is borrowed for gas, electricity, water supply, quarrying, or abattoirs, an additional amount may be borrowed, not exceeding one half of the net annual value of all rateable property in the municipal district as shown by the last audited financial statement.

Under extended borrowing powers, a municipality may borrow additionally, on the security of its income, an amount not exceeding five times the average amount of such income for the preceding three years. Income for this purpose excludes rates and licence fees.

Moneys borrowed under the ordinary or extended borrowing powers may be raised by the sale of debentures or by mortgage agreement. Repayment of any such loan may be made by periodical instalments of principal and interest, or by the creation of a sinking fund for the purpose of liquidation of the loan at the end of its term.

Before proceeding to borrow money for permanent works and undertakings, a municipality is required to prepare plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost of the works and undertakings to be carried out, together with a statement showing the proposed expenditure of the amount to be borrowed. This information is to be available for a specified period for inspection by any ratepayer. The Local Government Act provides that notice of intention to borrow shall be advertised, and also contains provisions under which a number of ratepayers may oppose the proposal to borrow and demand that it be submitted to a poll of ratepayers. Should a poll be held and a majority of ratepayers vote against the proposal, the loan is forbidden.

Subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, a municipality may also borrow, to a limited extent, from an adjoining municipality, by a mortgage or first charge over a proportion of its income, for the purpose of making or repairing roads leading into the district of the municipality which lends the money.

A municipality may also borrow by mortgage agreement or by the issue of debentures, on the security of a separate rate or special improvement charge, for the purpose of carrying out the works for which the rate was levied or the charge made.

In addition to the powers mentioned above, a municipality may borrow, by means of overdraft from its bankers, for the following purposes:

- (1) temporarily financing general fund expenditure;
- (2) private street construction;
- (3) works carried out under the Country Roads and Roads Grants Acts; or
- (4) purchase and acquisition of land, or the payment of compensation in connection with certain specified schemes.

Investment of municipal funds

Frequently municipalities have funds lying idle for short periods. These funds may consist of revenue credits on current account, temporarily unexpended loan funds, or funds reserved for specific purposes. Municipalities may place these moneys in a variety of "safe" investments. These investments are specified in the Local Government Act, and include the short-term money market if the transaction is with an authorised dealer.

Interest earned from these investments provides a useful source of additional revenue for councils.

Accounts

Every municipality is required to keep proper books of accounts in the form prescribed for use by all municipalities in Victoria, and these must be balanced to 30 September in each year. The accounts must be audited by an auditor qualified in terms of the Local Government Act and appointed by the Governor in Council.

Municipal Association of Victoria

All municipalities in Victoria are members of the Municipal Association, which was founded in 1879 and given statutory recognition by the *Municipal Association Act* 1907. The Association was established, to quote the preamble to that Act, "for the purpose of promoting the efficient carrying out of municipal government throughout the State of Victoria and of watching over and protecting the interests, rights, and privileges of Municipal Corporations". The Victorian Government has also found the Association a valuable organisation because it simplifies its task of dealing with the municipalities. The Association operates the Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund and under the *Municipal Association (Accident Insurance) Act* 1964 was empowered to issue accident insurance policies insuring councillors of any municipality against accidents arising in the course of their municipal duties.

Local Authorities Superannuation Board

The Local Authorities Superannuation Act provides for a compulsory superannuation scheme for permanent employees of municipal councils (other than the Melbourne City Council which has its own superannuation fund), water and sewerage authorities, weights and measures unions, cemetery trusts, the Portland Harbor Trust, and the First Mildura Irrigation Trust.

The scheme is administered by a Local Authorities Superannuation Board and provides benefits for employees on retirement, or for their dependants should the employees die before reaching retirement age.

Contributions to the scheme are based on a percentage of the salaries and wages of employees, and are met in equal proportions by employees and employers. Since 1962 the Board has adopted the year ending February as its accounting period. Under the new scheme a Local Authorities Benefit Contracts Account was established by the Board in 1961.

Transactions for the years 1969-70 to 1973-74 are given in the following table:

VICTORIA—LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPERANNUATION BOARD:
BENEFIT CONTRACTS ACCOUNT
(S'000)

Particulars	Year ended February—				
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Income—					
Premium income	3,362	3,627	5,401	6,309	7,477
Interest, dividends, and rents	1,254	1,430	1,751	2,149	2,583
Total income	4,615	5,057	7,152	8,458	10,061
Expenditure—					
Contributions, refunds, and death and withdrawal benefits	1,814	1,793	2,140	2,847	3,718
Contributions to management	276	302	422	497	598
Total expenditure	2,091	2,096	2,562	3,344	4,316
Operating surplus for year	2,525	2,961	4,590	5,114	5,744
Accumulated funds at end of year	21,842	24,803	29,393	34,506	40,251

The accumulated funds at 28 February 1974 consisted of investments in semi-governmental and local government loans and cash deposits.

The *Local Authorities Superannuation (Disability Benefits) Act* 1970 introduced a scheme to provide benefits for permanent employees who are forced into premature retirement by becoming permanently incapacitated. This

Act also provided that all permanent employees shall be brought within the provisions of the internal retirement and death benefits fund.

Melbourne City Council

Organisation and functions

Melbourne has the distinction of being the oldest municipality in Victoria. Incorporated as a town by Act of the New South Wales Governor and Legislative Council in 1842, it was raised to the status of city by Letters Patent of Queen Victoria dated 25 June 1847.

The City of Melbourne still operates to some extent under sections of the 1842 Act and its amendments. All other municipalities (with the exception of Geelong, which was given local government in 1849 by an extension of the 1842 Act) receive their enabling powers from the Local Government Act of Victoria. Parts only of this general Act apply to Melbourne. As regards other Acts of Parliament, there is no such nice distinction, and in common with other municipalities, Melbourne derives powers from or administers such Acts as Health, Pounds, Dog, Country Roads, Road Traffic, Weights and Measures, Town and Country Planning, Summary Offences, Petrol Pumps, Motor Car, Electric Light and Power, and Markets.

With a net annual value (for the year 1973-74) of \$85.6m, rate income of \$13.6m, other revenue of \$34.2m, and a work force of approximately 3,000 employees, it is the foremost municipality in Victoria. Though its daily influx of population is high, its resident population of 74,000 at 30 June 1974 ranked only tenth among metropolitan municipalities. For electoral purposes it is divided into eleven wards and each ward returns three members, giving a full council of thirty-three members. Elections are held annually and one member from each ward retires in rotation, a member thus holding office for three years.

Melbourne is distinctively a garden city. Of its total area of 3,142 hectares no less than 841 hectares are parklands and reserves. On those parklands and reserves under its control, the City annually spends over \$1.9m.

The Council both generates and reticulates electricity. In this respect, it is completely integrated into the State electricity grid. In its power station at Lonsdale Street it is able to generate, at a maximum, 90,000kW. Of this, 60,000kW is available to be fed into the State grid as required. The remaining 30,000kW constitutes the reserve capacity of the station. It is expected, as the generating capacity of the State Electricity Commission increases, that the Council's power generation will decrease further until the power station is closed down or held completely as reserve capacity.

The detailed work of the Council at councillor level is achieved by the division of its powers and responsibilities among a number of committees. The permanent or standing committees number eight, while special committees are constituted from time to time for specific purposes. No councillor may be chairman of more than one permanent committee or serve on more than three committees. The committees are the workshops of the Council, but the Local Government Act does not allow even partial delegation of authority, and all the work of the committees must be reported back to the Council and all decisions approved. Despite this, the organisation is effective and achieves all the desirable advantages which come from division of labour.

Of the eight permanent committees, two, Finance and General Purposes, are primarily co-ordinating, while the others are functional in their purpose. The authorities delegated to committees are made mutually exclusive and cover the full field of the Council's activities.

Administrative organisation

The work force is organised on a departmental basis, but no precise pattern of organisation has emerged. Broadly, the departments are either organised by

major process or by purpose, but, in some cases, a hybrid of these two forms has been brought about. There are eleven departments, namely, the Town Clerk's, Electric Supply, City Engineer's, Parks, Gardens and Recreations, City Treasurer's, City Architect's, City Planning, Building Surveyor's, City Valuer's, Abattoirs and Markets (cattle, fruit, vegetables, and fish), and Health and Social Services. The Town Clerk's Department handles liaison work for the necessary co-ordination and integration both of the deliberative body as organised by committees and the administrative staff as organised by departments, and of the departments themselves. For the effective functioning of the committees and for purposes of staff review and control, departments are associated with committees, but this does not mean the committee has exclusive access to the activities of that particular department. Obviously departments, particularly when organised by major activity, are there to provide service to any committee requiring it. This underlines the need for a general co-ordinating staff as exemplified by the Town Clerk's Department. At present the dovetailing of committees and departments is as follows :

MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL—ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

Committee	Department
Public Works and Traffic	City Engineer's
Health and Social Services	Health and Social Services
Finance	City Treasurer's
	City Valuer's
Electric Supply	Electric Supply
General Purposes	Town Clerk's
	City Architect's
Abattoirs and Markets	Abattoirs (a) and Markets (cattle, fruit, vegetables, and fish)
Parks, Gardens, and Recreations	Parks, Gardens, and Recreations
Building and Town Planning	City Planning
	Building Surveyor's

(a) Abattoirs leased to private enterprise in 1969.

Further references, 1961-1975

Community recreation

The Housing Commission of Victoria in the early 1960s developed four high-rise, subsidised-living complexes within the residential area of the city and the Melbourne City Council accepted responsibility for the recreational needs and the general welfare of the residents. This service was arranged to provide on a seven-day-a-week basis for both sexes of all age groups. Community centres and elderly citizens facilities were established to serve both the Commission's tenants and nearby residents of each locality.

The first centre was established in North Melbourne in 1967, when two disused factory buildings were remodelled for community purposes. They now comprise facilities for theatre, dancing, gymnastics, arts and crafts, and similar interests covering an area of more than 1,690 square metres. The centre has 1.5 hectares of open playing areas, including playgrounds surrounding the buildings, as well as an elderly citizens building added in more recent years.

In 1974 the Council and the Education Department agreed to the joint use of the Hotham Community Centre and the new Boundary Road Primary School for recreational and cultural activities. Sections of the school buildings and the school grounds are now part of the community centre.

In central Carlton, a Council-owned hall in close proximity to the Housing Commission's high-rise flats has been remodelled for community-recreation purposes. Agreement was reached in 1974 with the Education Department and the school committee of the new Neill Street Primary School for the use of both the building and one hectare of grounds as part of the community centre when they are not being used for educational purposes.

The Council retained the shell of an old factory building situated on freehold land in Debney's Park, Flemington, and remodelled it to meet the needs of a community centre. This centre has a floor area of 2,155 square metres and its own swimming and wading pools. Surrounding the centre are 9.3 hectares of sports fields and playgrounds. The latest innovation at the Debney's Park community centre is a television-production centre which was financed by a grant from the Housing Commission. Television productions, news, etc., are relayed by direct line from the community centre to the residents of the high-rise flats in the area.

In the Kensington area, the J. J. Holland Park Community Centre has been constructed at a cost of \$420,000. This will meet the recreation needs of the residents of the most recently completed high-rise developments of the Housing Commission. Temporary halls and meeting rooms were used in order to establish activities on an interim basis. Associated with the new buildings are swimming and wading pools. There are 10 hectares of sports fields and playgrounds surrounding the centre.

Community centres are controlled through their own constitutions. The Council maintains overall control and provides the permanent staff, but each centre is operated through an executive committee of local people, including ward councillors, in order to develop neighbourhood interests and to assist in financing the activities of the many groups working from within the respective centres. The Council's financial allocation for the operation of all centres in 1974-75 was \$205,000, a small percentage of which was recouped by grants from the Victorian Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, and the Australian Council for the Arts.

The activities of the centres are many and varied, including as they do ballet, ballroom dancing, theatre, drama, art, music, ethnic-group activities, painting, craft, pottery, carpentry, table tennis, judo, cricket, baseball, basketball, volleyball, football (Australian Rules and soccer), marching, and other physical fitness activities.

In the year 1973-74, an estimated 140,600 people participated in Council programmes that comprised 52 different activities.

Environment of the central business district

The central business area of Melbourne is primarily a place to visit. Approximately 300,000 people travel to it daily to work, to carry out business and shop, or to enjoy entertainments. Over the last decade, the office floor space in the area has nearly doubled and thus increased the need for improved conditions for pedestrians. The Council has been enhancing the area by providing well designed street furniture and an imaginative programme of street landscaping.

During the decade, the Council has encouraged developers to provide facilities for pedestrians in new developments. These facilities, such as arcades, colonnades, plazas, and forecourts, give the pedestrian greater freedom of movement, seating, visual stimuli, and protection from the weather. Apart from their prime function, these open spaces also contribute to the general environment by offsetting the massive scale of city office buildings.

The Council allows extra floor space in new buildings for the provision of these facilities. Thus, the allowable plot ratio of a new building is increased in proportion to the value of the facility provided. These incentives have provided a number of open spaces and pedestrian-ways that have enhanced the pedestrian environment of the area at no cost to the ratepayers of the City.

In the past, the Council has virtually allowed the bonuses in plot ratio as of right. The developer could then calculate his entitlement by means of a set formula. Now, it has been found that some of the features provided are inadequate: for instance, plazas that are subject to wind problems, and forecourts that, because of the cross-slope of the street, are not of great benefit to the

pedestrian public. As a result, the Council is reviewing all the bonus features for possible upgrading, and for adding items that can further improve the environment of the central business district.

The studies will attempt to find solutions to these previous mistakes and provide additional benefits, for example, in relation to the provision of direct access to future underground railway stations, view and vista protection, historic preservation, protection of adjacent historic buildings, and roof-scape appearance. The new benefits will be flexible instead of rigid as under the previous system, so that a larger bonus will be granted for open space in a required area than in a less desirable area.

The strategy plan also recommended a number of further detailed studies, called action plans, for the area, to improve the pedestrian environment. Studies including the feasibility of a pedestrian mall in Bourke Street, an open-space-and-recreation study, aspects of urban design, and development of the areas around the underground railway stations and their environs, are already under way. These action plans will set priorities, plan areas of the central business district in detail, and set programmes for Council expenditure.

The Council's policy of enhancing the environment of the central business district is not static, and the further studies listed above should improve the central business district of Melbourne to make it a pleasant, safe, and attractive place for people to live in and to visit.

Planning in the City of Melbourne

Since the Council adopted its strategy plan in July 1974, it has embarked on the next stage of the planning programme: putting into effect the goals and objectives of the plan. This is being done through action plans, which are detailed on-going studies of specific subjects or areas.

There are basically two types of action plans. The first relates to those areas of planning involving the establishment of development standards covering such items as density of development, pedestrian routes, open space, and view-protection corridors, and the means of preserving or enhancing historic buildings or precincts. The second type is related to those areas of planning where new programmes requiring major capital expenditure by the Council are involved. It includes such matters as the creation of pedestrian precincts by street closures and re-development of the former roadway, freeway impact studies, and district-community-resource schemes.

The programme is being carried out simultaneously by two different means, namely, a planning programme for the various communities in the municipality, and a programme of action plans for the central business district and other city-wide planning proposals.

Community planning programme

The Council has engaged in a new method of public participation. Experience has shown that adequate public participation is essential to the success of the planning process. The Council has requested that its consultants place a strong emphasis on public participation.

During the preparation of the strategy plan, it was found that one of the most important aspects was the contribution made by a wide range of residents, public authorities, business and professional groups, and neighbouring municipalities. The Council believes that, now the more detailed stage of the planning process has commenced, it is essential to embark on more direct methods of involving the people for whom it is planning. Consequently, after further studies, it has commenced a programme of direct participation.

Under this programme, called the Community Planning Programme, the municipal area outside the central business district has been divided into seven community planning areas. In each of these communities, a community planning

group of representatives of residents and workers in the area, elected by the members of the community, has been set up under a charter laid down by the Council. These groups will, with the assistance of the Council's professional planning staff who will work under group direction, prepare planning proposals and schemes for their own communities, and submit them to the Council for approval. The community planning groups must work within the context of the goals and objectives set out in the strategy plan. The programme commenced in March 1975. As it is a new concept in planning, the Council decided that, as a first stage, three community planning groups covering the areas of Carlton, East Melbourne, and Kensington should be set up. These groups began functioning in May 1975.

Central business district programme

Action plans relating to the central business district, and those that have a general and city-wide application, are being undertaken by the Council, in some cases with the assistance of consultants. Studies now being carried out include a feasibility study of a pedestrian mall in the heart of the retail area (Bourke Street), urban-design standards, and future planning of the area around Parliament House and its proposed underground station, a new plot ratio system for the central business district, and an open-space-and-recreation study.

Traffic control, 1968 ; Re-development in the Central Business Area, 1969 ; Financing of major works, 1970-1974 ; Re-development of Queen Victoria Market site, 1972

STATISTICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Municipal finance statistics are compiled from statements of accounts and returns furnished by the local councils.

In tables for the year 1972-73 which follow, municipalities have been divided into the City of Melbourne, other municipalities in the Melbourne Statistical Division, and municipalities outside the Melbourne Statistical Division.

The municipal areas which comprise the Melbourne Statistical Division are set out on pages 225-6 of this *Year Book*. Three of these areas are parts only of the Shires of Berwick, Cranbourne, and Healesville, but because it is not practicable to dissect the finances of municipalities for statistical purposes, the whole of each of these shires has been treated in the tables which follow as being within the Melbourne Statistical Division.

At 30 September 1973, in municipalities throughout Victoria, there were 2,340 councillors, namely, 33 in the City of Melbourne, 654 in 54 other municipalities in the Melbourne Statistical Division, and 1,653 in 155 municipalities in the remaining statistical divisions.

Properties rated, loans outstanding, etc.

In the following table the number of properties rated, the value of rateable property, receipts and expenditure of all funds, and the amount of loans outstanding, are shown for each of the years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973 :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: PROPERTIES RATED, LOANS OUTSTANDING, ETC.

Year ended 30 September—	Number of rateable properties	Value of rateable property		Receipts all funds	Expenditure all funds	Loans out- standing
		Net annual value	Estimated capital improved value			
	'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1969	1,400	791,141	14,929,094	289,451	292,630	216,698
1970	1,442	829,184	15,486,346	305,335	304,094	229,100
1971	1,468	889,595	16,497,122	329,245	326,158	240,968
1972	1,498	922,745	17,279,333	365,074	356,557	263,792
1973	1,517	1,127,992	20,601,679	403,778	392,707	287,996

Municipal revenue and expenditure

The following table shows for each of the years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973 the general revenue and expenditure of municipalities in Victoria on account of ordinary services, together with similar details for the business undertakings under municipal control :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : ORDINARY SERVICES AND BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

Year ended 30 September—	Ordinary services		Business undertakings	
	Revenue	Expenditure	Revenue	Expenditure
1969	143,104	142,771	58,262	57,963
1970	155,307	156,546	60,506	59,706
1971	171,930	171,631	63,635	63,594
1972	193,297	190,848	65,752	66,409
1973	224,313	222,359	70,277	70,187

General Account

The ordinary revenue of a municipality, consisting of rates, government grants, etc., is payable into the General Account, and this account is applied toward the payment of all expenses incurred in respect of administration, debt services, ordinary municipal services, etc.

After exclusion of \$7,854,000 transferred from other funds, the net General Account income during 1972-73 was \$216,459,000. Of this total 65.0 per cent was derived from taxation (64.5 per cent from rates and penalties and 0.5 per cent from licences) ; 22.5 per cent from public works and services ; 0.3 per cent from transfers from business undertakings ; 8.5 per cent from government grants ; and 3.7 per cent from other sources. The total amount collected from taxation (\$140,727,000) was equivalent to \$39.24 per head of population.

Details of the principal items of revenue received during the year ended 30 September 1973 are given below :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : ORDINARY SERVICES : REVENUE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973 (\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Taxation—				
Rates (net)	11,231	87,294	40,425	138,950
Penalties	23	512	165	700
Licences—				
Dog	6	490	200	697
Other	36	256	88	380
Total taxation	11,297	88,552	40,878	140,727

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : ORDINARY SERVICES :
REVENUE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973—*continued*
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Public works and services—				
Roads, streets, bridges, drains	176	2,669	2,169	5,014
Health and welfare—				
Sanitary and garbage	39	4,889	1,761	6,690
Other	220	1,539	795	2,554
Council properties, sundry income—				
Parks, gardens, baths, and other recreational facilities	281	2,359	1,938	4,578
Markets	2,387	518	849	3,754
Halls	62	554	429	1,045
Libraries, museums, art galleries	4	110	236	350
Plant operating (surplus)	53	1,876	3,812	5,741
Rents, n.e.i.	759	570	378	1,707
Other	43	740	1,004	1,786
Council properties, sale of capital assets—				
Plant, furniture, etc.	..	387	305	692
Land and buildings, etc.	3	2,821	319	3,144
Other works and services—				
Car parking fees, fines, etc.	2,262	1,722	1,017	5,001
Building and scaffolding fees	225	1,665	397	2,288
Supervision of private streets	..	1,030	151	1,181
Other	134	2,311	729	3,173
Total public works and services	6,649	25,762	16,289	48,700
Government grants—				
Roads, etc.	..	364	737	1,102
Parks, gardens, etc.	..	124	1,596	1,721
Unemployment relief, etc.	128	1,557	5,461	7,145
Infant welfare	82	560	325	968
Pre-school	72	678	440	1,190
Home help	57	873	303	1,232
Libraries, etc.	60	1,844	1,125	3,029
Other	21	913	1,207	2,140
Total government grants	419	6,914	11,194	18,527
Transfers from business undertakings	90	428	36	554
Transfers from other council funds	637	4,543	2,675	7,854
Oncost (C.R.B., private streets, etc.)	26	1,612	2,067	3,705
Interest on investments	302	1,427	349	2,079
Other revenue	179	1,334	655	2,168
Total revenue	19,598	130,572	74,143	224,313

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

Excluding \$10,719,000 transferred to other funds, the net General Account expenditure during 1972-73 was \$211,640,000. Of this total 25.1 per cent was for roads, streets, etc. ; 12.0 per cent for health and welfare ; 16.3 per cent for maintenance and operating expenses of parks, gardens, and other council properties ; 7.7 per cent for capital expenditure on council properties ; 5.6 per cent for other public works and services ; 12.4 per cent for debt charges ; 2.6 per cent for grants and contributions ; 18.0 per cent for administration ; and 0.3 per cent for miscellaneous items.

Details of the principal items of expenditure from the General Account during the year ended 30 September 1973 follow:

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: ORDINARY SERVICES:
EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Public works and services—				
Roads, streets, bridges, drains—				
Construction and maintenance	1,533	16,858	16,001	34,392
C.R.B. (main roads maintenance)	2	795	1,106	1,903
C.R.B. (other works)	16	1,131	3,036	4,184
Cleaning and watering	808	4,064	867	5,740
Other	517	2,351	584	3,452
Street lighting	(b)	2,761	729	3,489
Health and welfare—				
Sanitary and garbage services	509	9,076	2,307	11,893
Infant welfare (maintenance)	149	2,146	1,012	3,307
Pre-school (maintenance)	420	1,064	511	1,995
Home help	97	2,049	587	2,732
Elderly citizens	37	869	255	1,160
Other	471	2,776	1,073	4,321
Council properties (maintenance and operating expenses)—				
Parks, gardens, baths, and other recreational facilities	1,896	9,264	5,817	16,977
Markets	1,227	310	525	2,062
Halls	428	2,000	1,348	3,776
Libraries, museums, art galleries	194	4,785	1,729	6,707
Workshops and depots	296	995	423	1,715
Other	296	1,384	1,692	3,372
Council properties (capital expenditure)—				
Plant, furniture, etc., purchase	70	2,992	2,238	5,300
Land and buildings purchase	5	2,415	449	2,870
Buildings (capital works)	9	2,015	2,657	4,681
Other capital works	35	1,322	2,070	3,428
Other works and services—				
Car parking	1,240	1,431	456	3,127
Building and scaffolding inspection	338	1,615	324	2,277
Supervision of private streets	..	1,219	61	1,281
Dog Act expenses	9	309	158	477
Other	265	2,959	1,430	4,653
Total public works and services	10,869	80,955	49,446	141,270
Debt charges (excluding business undertakings)—				
Interest—				
Loans	3,090	6,787	3,058	12,935
Overdraft	31	201	386	618
Redemption	489	6,505	4,099	11,092
Sinking fund	491	471	120	1,081
Other	334	188	18	541
Total debt charges	4,435	14,151	7,681	26,267
Grants—				
Fire brigades	480	3,623	9	4,113
Hospitals and other charities	72	177	145	395
Other	402	395	176	972
Total grants	954	4,195	331	5,480

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : ORDINARY SERVICES :
EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973—*continued*
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
General administration	2,906	21,259	13,745	37,910
Transfers to other council funds	843	6,688	3,187	10,719
Miscellaneous	3	445	264	713
Total expenditure	20,011	127,694	74,654	222,359

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

(b) Cost of street lighting is charged to electricity undertaking.

Municipal administrative costs

Particulars of the principal items of expenditure during each of the years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973, in respect of general municipal administration, are given in the following table :

VICTORIA—COST OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
(\$'000)

Particulars	Year ended 30 September—				
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Salaries (a)	15,074	16,604	19,366	21,442	24,565
Mayoral and presidential allowances	349	366	399	386	413
Audit expenses	159	174	226	244	241
Election expenses	123	140	140	148	205
Legal expenses	279	363	419	405	441
Printing, advertising, postage, telephone, etc.	2,160	2,405	2,731	3,247	3,750
Insurances, n.e.i.	1,923	1,814	2,112	2,569	3,011
Pay-roll tax, n.e.i.	1,225	1,301	1,399	37	..
Superannuation, n.e.i.	1,608	1,722	2,096	3,193	3,563
Long service leave, n.e.i.	729	725	750	870	1,116
Other	281	450	461	508	605
Total	23,909	26,063	30,100	33,049	37,910

(a) Including cost of valuations and travelling expenses, but excluding health officers' salaries which are included under "Health and welfare—other" on page 180.

Municipal business undertakings

In Victoria during 1972-73 eleven municipal councils conducted electricity supply undertakings. These constituted the principal trading activities of municipalities. Other trading activities included water supply, abattoirs, quarries, and reinforced concrete pipe and culvert works, but, relatively, these were not extensive.

The tables which follow show, for the year ended 30 September 1973, revenue and expenditure of the various types of municipal business undertakings :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : BUSINESS
UNDERTAKINGS, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
REVENUE				
Water supply—				
Rates, sale of water, etc.	..	23	885	908
Electricity—				
Charges for services and sales of products, etc.	22,034	45,169	..	67,203
Abattoirs—				
Charges for services and sales of products, etc.	..	497	693	1,190
Other (b)—				
Charges for services and sales of products, etc.	..	192	784	976
Total revenue	22,034	45,882	2,362	70,277
EXPENDITURE				
Water supply—				
Working expenses	..	17	684	701
Depreciation	..	1	65	66
Debt charges	..	2	187	189
Other expenditure	..	..	5	5
Total water supply	..	20	941	962
Electricity—				
Working expenses	20,350	42,136	..	62,486
Depreciation	1,087	907	..	1,994
Debt charges	580	1,583	..	2,163
Other expenditure	90	523	..	613
Total electricity	22,107	45,148	..	67,255
Abattoirs—				
Working expenses	..	296	562	858
Depreciation	..	24	11	36
Debt charges	..	32	36	68
Other expenditure	..	75	10	85
Total abattoirs	..	428	620	1,048
Other (b)—				
Working expenses	..	152	632	784
Depreciation	..	7	51	58
Debt charges	..	..	22	22
Other expenditure	..	33	27	60
Total other	..	192	731	923
Total expenditure	22,107	45,789	2,292	70,187

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

(b) Consists of quarries and reinforced concrete pipe and culvert works.

Municipal loan finance*Municipal loan account receipts and expenditure*

The following tables show loan account receipts and expenditure of municipalities exclusive of redemption loans, loans raised for works on private streets, and separate rate loans.

The first table shows total loan account receipts and expenditure for each of the years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973, the second table details the loan raisings for ordinary services and business undertakings during the year ended 30 September 1973, and the third table details the principal items of expenditure from loan funds during the year.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: LOAN ACCOUNT RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

(Excluding redemption, private street, and separate rate loans)
(\$'000)

Year ended 30 September—	Receipts				Expenditure			
	Loans for—		Other	Total	Ordinary services	Business under- takings	Other (non- works)	Total
	Ordinary services	Business under- takings						
1969	22,622	1,394	2,102	26,118	24,641	3,332	83	28,057
1970	22,764	1,298	2,372	26,434	21,005	3,264	146	24,416
1971	23,175	1,578	2,603	27,357	21,089	3,319	154	24,562
1972	30,131	1,440	2,309	33,880	26,387	3,017	198	29,602
1973	35,893	2,872	3,223	41,988	29,282	3,798	242	33,323

At 30 September 1973 there were unexpended balances in loan accounts amounting to \$34.6m.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: LOAN ACCOUNT RECEIPTS, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973

(Excluding redemption, private street, and separate rate loans)
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Loan raisings for—				
Ordinary services	3,200	22,914	9,779	35,893
Business undertakings—				
Water supply	..	..	283	283
Electricity	600	1,790	..	2,390
Abattoirs	..	150	35	185
Quarry	..	..	14	14
Other receipts (government grants, recoups, etc.)	2,217	630	376	3,223
Total receipts	6,017	25,485	10,486	41,988

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: LOAN ACCOUNT
EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Ordinary services—				
Roads, streets, bridges, and drains	134	6,203	2,111	8,447
Health and welfare	1	534	247	783
Property construction—				
Parks, gardens, baths, and other recreational facilities	263	2,376	815	3,454
Halls	4	864	1,239	2,107
Markets	16	85	131	233
Libraries, etc.	..	1,577	102	1,679
Other	71	357	186	614
Plant, furniture, etc., purchase	11	411	1,484	1,906
Land and buildings purchase	3,570	4,487	996	9,054
Off-street parking	73	61	99	233
Other	42	325	406	772
Total ordinary services	4,185	17,281	7,817	29,282
Business undertakings—				
Water supply	..	..	437	437
Electricity	1,751	1,445	..	3,196
Abattoirs	..	150	1	151
Quarry	..	..	14	14
Total business undertakings	1,751	1,595	452	3,798
Other (non-works)	..	212	31	242
Total expenditure	5,936	19,087	8,300	33,323

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

Municipal loan liability

The loan liability of the municipalities in Victoria at the end of each of the five years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973 is given below. Liability of municipalities for private street construction and separate rate loans is included, but liability to the Country Roads Board is excluded.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: LOAN LIABILITY

At 30 September—	Gross loan liability due to—			Accumulated sinking funds	Net loan liability	
	Government	Public	Total		Amount	Per head of population
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$
1969	3,117	213,581	216,698	13,604	203,093	59.75
1970	3,120	225,980	229,100	15,017	214,083	61.92
1971	3,459	237,509	240,968	16,286	224,682	63.82
1972	3,663	260,129	263,792	18,229	245,563	68.89
1973	3,799	284,198	287,996	19,429	268,567	74.61

Further references, 1961-1975

Construction of private streets

The council of any municipality may construct roads or streets on private property, and may also construct, on land of the Crown or of any public body, means of back access to, or drainage from, property adjacent to such land. The cost of this work is recoverable from the owners of adjoining or neighbouring properties where, in the opinion of the council, the work performed accrues to the benefit of those properties. At the request of any owner, the amount apportioned as his total liability may be made payable by forty or, if the council so directs, sixty quarterly instalments, bearing interest on the portion that, from time to time, remains unpaid.

For the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of work for which any person is liable to pay by instalments, the council may, on the credit of the municipality, obtain advances from a bank by overdraft on current account or borrow money by the issue of debentures, but such borrowings shall not exceed the total amount of instalments payable.

The following table details the receipts and expenditure, etc., for the year ended 30 September 1973 of the Private Street Account for areas outside that controlled by the Melbourne City Council (which has no such account) :

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : PRIVATE
STREET ACCOUNT : RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURE, ETC.,
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973
(\$'000)**

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)	Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
Receipts—			
Loans	2,378	93	2,470
Bank overdraft (increase)	457	152	609
Owners' contributions	16,493	2,148	18,642
Other	345	79	423
Total	19,673	2,472	22,145
Expenditure—			
Works	10,552	1,556	12,108
Bank overdraft (decrease)	2,309	350	2,659
Debt charges—			
Interest—			
Loans	1,636	120	1,756
Overdraft	193	40	233
Redemption	2,737	305	3,042
Sinking fund	583	5	589
Other	225	1	227
Other	1,114	162	1,276
Total	19,350	2,540	21,890
Cash in hand or in bank at 30 September 1973	7,337	732	8,068
Bank overdraft at 30 September 1973	6,457	1,091	7,549
Loan liability at 30 September 1973	23,670	1,816	25,486

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

Details of receipts and expenditure of the Private Street Account including the net increase or decrease in bank overdraft, during each of the years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973 are shown below :

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : PRIVATE STREET
ACCOUNT : RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURE, ETC.
(\$'000)**

Particulars	Year ended 30 September—				
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Receipts—					
Loans	3,794	2,357	2,241	4,882	2,470
Bank overdraft (increase)	..	426	..	..	..
Owners' contributions	18,746	18,584	17,698	18,786	18,642
Other	672	569	534	527	423
Total	23,212	21,936	20,473	24,194	21,536
Expenditure—					
Works	17,454	14,600	12,841	13,528	12,108
Bank overdraft (decrease)	615	..	598	1,531	2,050
Debt charges—					
Interest—					
Loans	1,589	1,603	1,575	1,543	1,756
Overdraft	460	382	290	315	233
Redemption	3,036	3,251	3,257	3,164	3,042
Sinking fund	411	434	352	450	589
Other	17	196	250	192	227
Other	2,008	1,644	1,219	1,355	1,276
Total	25,589	22,111	20,381	22,078	21,280
Loan liability at 30 September	27,305	26,356	24,728	26,334	25,486

Further references, 1961–1975

Country Roads Board Account

Works carried out by municipalities on main roads and unclassified roads jointly with the Country Roads Board are financed by means of a separate municipal bank account. Expenditure is made initially from overdraft, claims subsequently being made on the Board for recovery of funds expended. With the exception of any disallowances by the Board, the full amount expended on main roads is recoverable from the Board and credited to the Country Roads Board Account, with the council later making an annual payment from General Revenue to the Country Roads Board for the council's share of the cost. The Country Roads Board assists municipal councils financially to carry out construction and maintenance works on approximately 32,000 kilometres of unclassified roads each year. Funds expended by councils on these roads, after deduction of councils' proportion of the cost (which is charged to the General Account), are also recoverable from the Country Roads Board. Direct payments by the Country Roads Board itself on works, or for supply of materials, etc., for works, are included on both sides of the Country Roads Board Account so that the full amount of the expenditure on relevant roads may be shown in the Account for the year concerned. Any expenditure by a council on State highways, freeways, tourist roads, and forest roads, is charged to the Country Roads Board Account and is fully recoverable from the Country Roads Board.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : COUNTRY ROADS
BOARD ACCOUNT, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Receipts—				
Refunds from Country Roads Board	34	10,722	17,582	28,339
Direct payment by Country Roads Board	..	2,728	5,802	8,530
Council's proportion of works on unclassified roads	16	2,254	2,799	5,069
Bank overdraft (increase)	..	601	564	1,165
Other	..	134	27	160
Total	50	16,439	26,773	43,262
Expenditure—				
Main roads	12	8,479	10,453	18,944
Unclassified roads	33	7,036	15,318	22,387
Other roads (State highways, etc.)	1	222	548	771
Bank overdraft (decrease)	3	556	425	983
Other	(b)	147	31	178
Total	50	16,439	26,773	43,262
Bank overdraft at 30 September 1973	13	1,354	2,162	3,528

(a) See list on pages 225-6.

(b) Less than \$500.

Details of receipts and expenditure of the Country Roads Board Account including the net increase or decrease in bank overdraft during each of the years ended 30 September 1969 to 1973 are shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
COUNTRY ROADS BOARD ACCOUNT
(\$'000)

Particulars	Year ended 30 September—				
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Receipts—					
Refunds from Country Roads Board	23,858	25,475	28,518	30,678	28,339
Direct payment by Country Roads Board	6,029	6,395	7,914	8,222	8,530
Council's proportion of works on unclassified roads	3,796	4,448	4,742	5,130	5,069
Bank overdraft (increase)	686	589	683	..	182
Other	44	332	298	367	160
Total	34,413	37,239	42,155	44,397	42,279
Expenditure—					
Main roads	16,761	17,110	19,620	19,097	18,944
Unclassified roads	16,894	19,084	21,180	22,864	22,387
Other roads (State highways, etc.)	636	916	1,142	1,373	771
Bank overdraft (decrease)	..	..	..	970	..
Other	121	128	214	93	178
Total	34,413	37,239	42,155	44,397	42,279
Bank overdraft at 30 September	2,998	3,583	4,272	3,347	3,528

Length of roads and streets

The following table shows the estimated length of all roads and streets open for general traffic in Victoria in 1974. The information was supplied by the Country Roads Board, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, municipal councils, and other authorities.

VICTORIA—LENGTH OF ALL ROADS AND STREETS OPEN FOR
GENERAL TRAFFIC AT 30 JUNE 1974
(kilometres)

Type of road or street	State highways, freeways (a)	Main roads	Tourist roads, forest roads	Other roads and streets	Total
Bituminous seal, concrete, etc.	7,024	13,486	1,046	33,199	54,755
Water-bound macadam, gravel, sand, and hard loam pavements	253	1,095	798	43,492	45,638
Formed, but not otherwise paved	..	12	..	29,546	29,558
Not formed but open for general traffic	..	11	..	29,784	29,795
Total	7,277	14,604	1,844	136,021	159,746

(a) Includes 197 kilometres of freeways consisting of 184 kilometres of extra-metropolitan freeways (by-pass roads) and 13 kilometres of metropolitan freeways.

Further references, 1961-1975

SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES *

Country Roads Board

The Country Roads Board, constituted under the *Country Roads Act* 1912, commenced operations in 1913.

There are about 160,000 kilometres of public roads in Victoria of which some 23,700 kilometres comprise the State's principal system of Country Roads Board declared roads. Under the provisions of the Country Roads Act the Board may, subject to the confirmation of the Governor in Council, declare any road to be a State highway, a freeway, or a main road. The Board also has power to recommend to the Governor in Council that any road be proclaimed as a tourists' road or a forest road.

The Board meets the full cost of works required to cater for the needs of through traffic on State highways, freeways, tourists' roads, and forest roads. State highways and freeways, while serving the immediate district through which they pass as arterial routes, also carry much long distance traffic. Tourists' roads and forest roads generally pass through areas where little or no rate revenue is available to the local municipality. Main roads, the construction and maintenance costs of which are partly borne by local municipal councils, form what may be described as a secondary system of important roads in Victoria. In addition, there is a vast network of unclassified roads, many of which carry considerable traffic and which, within the limits of available finance, are subsidised by the Board as needs and priorities warrant.

The Board's system of classified or declared roads at 30 June 1974 comprised 7,080 kilometres of State highways, 184 kilometres of freeways, 804 kilometres of tourists' roads, 1,040 kilometres of forest roads, and 14,604 kilometres of main roads.

Highways

Under legislation passed in 1924, a "State highway" in Victoria has a specific meaning. It is a road declared as such by the Board with the confirmation of the Governor in Council. State highways are the principal road arteries forming interstate connections and links between important provincial centres. The more important State highways also form part of the national route system of interstate

* This section includes only those semi-governmental authorities having close associations with local government.

highways. At 30 June 1974 there were 7,080 kilometres of State highways, 6,827 kilometres of which had a sealed surface.

State highways providing links between interstate centres are the Princes Highway, Hume Highway, Western Highway, and Sturt Highway. The Princes Highway (part of National Route 1) runs from the South Australian border to New South Wales, passing through Warrnambool, Geelong, Melbourne, Warragul, Sale, Bairnsdale, and Orbost. Melbourne is linked with Sydney by the Hume Highway which runs through Seymour, Wangaratta, and Wodonga. The Western Highway provides another route between Melbourne and Adelaide and passes through Ballarat, Horsham, and Nhill, while the Sturt Highway crosses the north-west corner of Victoria on the direct route from Sydney to Adelaide via Mildura.

The Calder Highway, named after the first Chairman of the Board, Mr W. Calder, joins Melbourne with the important provincial centres of Bendigo and Mildura. Important agricultural settlements are joined by the Murray Valley Highway which runs from Corryong in north-eastern Victoria to Hattah in the north-west; while the picturesque Omeo Highway passes through the mountainous country from Tallangatta in the north-east to Bairnsdale in the south-east.

Freeways

An amendment to the Country Roads Act in 1956 gave the Board power to construct by-pass roads (freeways), the first constructed being the Maltby Freeway at Werribee, opened in 1961. Since then the development of freeways by the Board has continued with the opening of the Lower Yarra Freeway; the Calder Freeway to Keilor East; the Western Freeway at Bacchus Marsh, Pentland Hills and Gordon; the Mulgrave Freeway from Springvale Road, Mulgrave, to north of Dandenong; the South Eastern Freeway; the Tullamarine Freeway; the Princes Freeway, between Moe and Morwell; sections of the Princes Freeway between Melbourne and Geelong; Mornington Peninsula Freeway between Dromana and Rosebud; Frankston Freeway; and sections of the Hume Freeway between Melbourne and Seymour. Construction is under way on the Eastern Freeway between Collingwood and Bulleen; the Mulgrave Freeway east of Springvale Road; and the Hume Freeway between Wallan and Broadford.

Some sections of freeway were developed from existing single carriageway State highways, while others were completely new routes adding to Victoria's total road length.

Tourists' roads

The *Tourists' Road Act* 1936 empowered the Board to carry out permanent works on and maintain tourists' roads which are proclaimed as such by the Governor in Council. Of the 804 kilometres of tourists' roads, the best known is the Great Ocean Road between Torquay and Peterborough. The Great Ocean Road was proclaimed in 1936 and is the only memorial road in Australia. It was built by the Board for the Great Ocean Road Trust to give employment to returned soldiers and sailors and as a memorial to their fallen comrades.

Other tourists' roads have been built to provide access to places of interest such as the Grampians and the various alpine ski resorts at Mount Hotham, Mount Buffalo, Mount Buller, and Falls Creek.

Forest roads

Forest roads are proclaimed or constructed in those areas of Victoria within or adjacent to any State forest area or areas which the Board considers to be timbered, mountainous, or undeveloped. Under the *Forest Roads and Stock Routes Act* 1943, municipalities are relieved of all costs of construction and maintenance of such roads. At 30 June 1974 there were 1,040 kilometres of forest roads.

Main roads

The Board is empowered under the Country Roads Act to declare as a main road any road which in its opinion is of sufficient importance. Main roads are generally roads linking centres of industry, commerce, or settlement. At 30 June 1974 there were 14,604 kilometres of main roads.

Roadside development

Roads are among the most permanent structures, and once built they cannot be considered apart from their surroundings. In recent years the Board has furthered the development of what is termed the complete highway to provide a balanced combination of safety, utility, economy, and beauty. Such factors as the preservation of flora, conservation of landscape features, rehabilitation of cleared areas, and erosion control are important aspects of the Board's road design practices. Some 80,000 trees and shrubs are planted annually on declared road reserves. The Board is also developing roadside stopping places for motorists' convenience. They include rest areas with water and toilet facilities, wayside stops, scenic view points, and parking areas.

New responsibilities

From 1 July 1974 the Country Roads Board acquired from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works the latter's road-making powers, road assets, etc., plus relevant staff, thus increasing the scope of the Country Roads Board's responsibility.

Finance

The Board's two main sources of finance are Victorian and Australian Government funds. Funds derived from Victorian sources are:

- (1) *Motor registration fees.* Fees payable on the registration and re-registration of motor vehicles and trailers less the costs of collecting the fees (excluding metropolitan omnibus registration fees and the specified proportion of registration fees paid to the Roads [Special Projects] Fund).
- (2) *Additional registration fees.* Two thirds of the additional registration fees levied on first registration and subsequent change of ownership of motor vehicles and trailers, less two thirds of the cost of collecting the fees (the remainder, less the cost of collection is paid to the Level Crossings Fund).
- (3) *Registration number plate fees.* Fees payable for the provision and/or replacement of number plates less the costs of providing the plates and collecting the fees.
- (4) *Examiners' licence fees.* Fees payable by persons licensed to conduct motor car roadworthiness examinations, less cost of collection of the fees.
- (5) *Authorised log book fees.* Fees payable for the purchase of log books less the cost of providing the books and collecting the fees.
- (6) *Drivers' licence testing fees.* Seven eighths of the fee payable for the test of proficiency of candidates for motor car drivers' licences less seven eighths of the cost of conducting the test and collecting the fee (the remainder, less the cost of collection is paid to the Drivers' Licence Suspense Account).
- (7) *Motor car drivers' licence fees and tractor drivers' licence fees.* One eighth of the fees payable for the issue of drivers' licences less one eighth of the cost of collecting the fees (one half, less one half cost of collection, is paid to the Consolidated Fund; one quarter, less one quarter cost of collection, is paid to the Municipalities Assistance Fund; and one eighth, less one eighth cost of collection, is paid to the Drivers' Licence Suspense Account).
- (8) *Motor driving instructors' appointment and testing fees.* Fees payable by candidates for motor driving instructors' licences, less cost of collection of the fees.

(9) *Motor driving instructors' licence fees.* One quarter of the fees payable for the issue of motor driving instructors' licences less one quarter of the costs of collection of the fees (one half, less one half cost of collection, is paid to the Consolidated Fund; and one quarter, less one quarter cost of collection, is paid to the Municipalities Assistance Fund).

(10) *Proprietorship notification fee.* A fee payable with the notification by a proprietor of a motor car or trailer of repossession of the item under a hire purchase agreement, bill of sale or like instrument, less the costs of collection of the fee.

(11) Fines imposed under the provisions of the Country Roads Act.

(12) All moneys received under Part II of the Commercial Goods Vehicles Act (tonne-kilometre tax).

(13) Municipal payments on account of main road works.

(14) Any special moneys appropriated by Parliament.

(15) Loan money.

(16) Allocation from the Roads (Special Projects) Fund.

Moneys are also provided under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Acts. In 1973-74 receipts from this source amounted to \$55.3m.

Total funds available to the Board in 1973-74, including unexpended balance of \$1.9m brought forward from 1972-73, amounted to \$116.6m.

Receipts and expenditure

Receipts and expenditure covering the operations of the Board for each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74 are as follows:

VICTORIA—COUNTRY ROADS BOARD: RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
RECEIPTS					
Fees—Motor Car Act (less cost of collection)	30,868	32,895	34,296	35,428	37,537
Municipalities contributions—Permanent works and maintenance—Main roads	1,904	2,018	2,190	2,182	2,136
Commonwealth Aid Roads Acts	38,160	41,425	45,300	49,785	55,262
Roads (Special Projects) Fund	3,533	7,761	6,721	5,675	7,643
Proceeds from Commercial Goods Vehicles Act	8,555	8,903	9,136	9,745	10,359
Loans from Victorian Government	900	388	400	400	300
Grants from Victorian Government	849	783	983	1,333	568
Other receipts	498	543	713	703	872
Total	85,267	94,715	99,739	105,251	114,677
EXPENDITURE					
Construction and maintenance of roads and bridges	73,678	79,559	80,938	82,793	91,696
Traffic line marking and traffic lights	319	413	515	619	652
Plant purchases	1,818	1,956	2,060	1,765	1,116
Buildings, workshops, etc.	618	599	331	641	565
Interest and sinking fund payments	2,443	2,504	2,584	2,612	2,619
Payment to Tourist Fund	578	617	658	686	709
Payment to Transport Regulation Board	471	513	534	548	585
Payment to Traffic Authority Fund	289	309	329	343	354
Payment to Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	..	..	200	200	200
Planning and research	720	941	1,283	1,157	1,039
Management and operating expenditure	6,181	8,426	10,252	12,123	16,207
Total	87,115	95,838	99,685	103,488	115,742

Expenditure on roads and bridges

The following is a summary of the total expenditure by the Country Roads Board on roads and bridges during each of the five years 1969-70 to 1973-74 :

VICTORIA—COUNTRY ROADS BOARD : EXPENDITURE ON
ROADS AND BRIDGES
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
State highways—					
Construction	15,946	14,081	15,581	10,931	11,385
Maintenance	6,132	6,384	6,531	7,113	7,589
Freeways—					
Construction	13,288	18,515	17,875	23,341	29,677
Maintenance	151	354	471	516	714
Main roads—					
Construction	12,585	13,720	14,217	14,468	13,535
Maintenance	5,198	5,653	6,155	6,192	6,608
Unclassified roads—					
Construction	13,843	14,425	13,737	14,122	15,061
Maintenance	2,512	2,792	3,110	3,391	4,181
Tourists' roads—					
Construction	2,509	1,991	1,566	1,054	1,032
Maintenance	603	674	717	695	828
Forest roads—					
Construction	507	556	380	349	370
Maintenance	291	347	478	491	540
Murray River bridges and punts—					
Maintenance	112	69	120	130	177
Total construction	58,678	63,287	63,356	64,265	71,060
Total maintenance	14,999	16,272	17,582	18,528	20,637
Total expenditure	73,678	79,559	80,938	82,793	91,696

Further references, 1961-1975

Water supply authorities

The principal authorities controlling water supply for domestic purposes in Victoria at 30 June 1974 were the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, the Ballarat Water Commissioners, the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, the Mildura Urban Water Trust, the West Moorabool Water Board, and 189 Waterworks Trusts. In addition, more than a dozen municipal councils were directly responsible for water supply.

Information about the activities of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission can be found on pages 203-4 and 346-58. The finances of the Commission are included in tables in Chapter 20 of this *Year Book*.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is the authority for providing water supply, sewerage, and main drainage services to metropolitan Melbourne. The formation of such a body was urged by an 1889 Royal Commission into Melbourne's sanitary conditions after continuous agitation by local municipalities for a sewerage system in the City. The Board was constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1890 and began operations in July 1891. Its initial functions were to provide a sewerage system for Melbourne and the metropolitan area, and to assume responsibility for the City's water supply, previously administered by the Public Works Department.

In the years since its inception, the Board, in addition to assuming responsibility for main drainage, has also been made responsible for maintenance and improvement of metropolitan rivers and watercourses, town planning, and metropolitan parks. With the exception of town planning, the Board's responsibilities are laid down in the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958* (as amended). The Board comprises 54 unpaid commissioners, a full-time, elected chairman and, from 1975, a deputy chairman. A commissioner, who must be a member of a municipal council, cannot hold his seat for more than three years without re-election, while the maximum term for the chairman is four years before his appointment is reviewed. The deputy chairman also serves four years before there is a review of his appointment.

Acts of Parliament empower the Board to levy four rates annually; the water rate, metropolitan general rate (for sewerage services), metropolitan drainage and river improvement rate, and the metropolitan improvement rate; all of which are based on net annual valuations of rateable properties with certain minimum amounts payable for the three former. The incoming revenue is used to operate and maintain the water, sewerage, and main drainage systems, to pay interest and redemption charged on loans raised for capital works, and to meet administrative expenses.

The proceeds of the metropolitan improvement rate meet annual expenditure for town planning, payments of compensation for lands reserved under the Metropolitan Planning Scheme, and for metropolitan parks. The capital works of the Board are financed mainly from moneys which the Board is given approval to borrow after the annual meeting of the Australian Loan Council has considered the projected loan programmes of semi-governmental authorities throughout Australia.

Water supply

Since 1891, when the Board was given responsibility for the City's water supply, the system has undergone far-ranging expansion, and today Melbourne has access to a supply network with a storage capacity of more than 610,000 megalitres, including the 27,000 megalitre Greenvale Reservoir and the 287,000 megalitre Cardinia Reservoir completed in 1971 and 1973, respectively.

Greenvale Reservoir, a major "off-stream" storage on a branch of the Moonee Ponds Creek, is used as a "balancing" reservoir to supply the northern and western areas of the metropolis. Greenvale has virtually no catchment of its own and is supplied by pipeline from either the Yan Yean or Silvan Reservoir systems. Silvan is a balancing storage for water from the Upper Yarra and O'Shannassy systems and was built in the Dandenong Ranges between 1926 and 1932.

Before completion in 1973 of the Cardinia Reservoir, near Emerald, the Upper Yarra Reservoir, east of Warburton, was the Board's biggest storage with a capacity of 200,000 megalitres. Upper Yarra was completed in 1957 after having been envisaged as a source of supply as early as 1888. The reservoir tripled the amount of water then impounded for Melbourne's supply, but investigation of new sources was already under way. Severe droughts in 1967 and 1972 further emphasised the necessity of extending the available catchment areas and providing more storages to regulate flow.

In mid-1973 the Victorian Government announced a multi-million dollar dam-building programme aimed at further increasing storage capacity. The proposed programme involved a 42,700 megalitre reservoir at Yarra Brae above Warrandyte, a storage on the Sugarloaf Creek, a nearby tributary of the Yarra River, and a reservoir of more than one million megalitres capacity on the Thomson River as stage three of the Thomson diversion scheme. Following an environmental study of the Yarra proposals, the Victorian Government subsequently announced that the Yarra Brae dam would not go ahead because

it would have meant inundation of a unique section of the Yarra and its banks. Instead, water from the Yarra River and the Maroondah aqueduct will be diverted at Yering Gorge, upstream of Yarra Brae, and pumped to the 96,000 megalitre Sugarloaf storage. The water will be stored in Sugarloaf before being fully treated and fluoridated, and then introduced to the supply system.

Water reaches houses and industry in the metropolis from various service reservoirs situated in the highest convenient places so that a maximum pressure can be maintained, and underground mains and pipes convey the water from the service reservoirs. At 30 June 1974, 789,296 houses were connected to the Board's water reticulation system and the total population being supplied with water was 2,667,427. Average daily consumption per head was 371.66 litres.

As part of its water management programme, the Board is carrying out extensive forest hydrology research at Coranderrk and North Maroondah, two eucalypt forest areas north of Healesville. The experiments are designed to determine a scientifically-founded, efficient policy of catchment management. At Coranderrk, the effects of various harvesting treatments applied to mature eucalypt forests are being monitored, while at North Maroondah studies are being made of the effects of a young eucalypt crop on catchment performance.

Thomson-Yarra development scheme 1972, 1974; Cardinia Reservoir, 1975

Cost of water supply system

The cost of capital works in respect of the water supply system under the control of the Board is shown in the following table for each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74, together with the total expenditure (less depreciation) to 30 June 1974 :

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS : CAPITAL OUTLAY ON WATERWORKS (\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	Total cost to 30 June 1974
Yan Yean System (including Greenvale)	5,362	2,440	1,293	813	246	15,310
Maroondah System	238	37	44	47	136	6,255
O'Shannassy, Upper Yarra, and Thomson System (including Silvan and Cardinia)	6,551	7,824	14,202	19,923	26,350	129,730
Service reservoirs	937	1,680	895	441	1,286	11,270
Large mains	3,010	5,401	7,027	9,827	6,134	84,417
Reticulation	4,127	4,666	4,412	4,667	4,533	73,135
Afforestation	20	5	8	5	2	709
Investigations, future works	68	148	209	796	1,994	3,512
Total outlay	20,313	22,201	28,089	36,519	40,681	324,338

Streamflow yields

Melbourne's water supplies are drawn from a number of stream systems fed by mountain catchment areas. These systems are :

Yan Yean System : Includes Toorourrong and Yan Yean Reservoirs and diversions from Silver and Wallaby Creeks.

Maroondah System : Maroondah Reservoir and diversions from Sawpit and Donnelly's Creeks.

O'Shannassy System : O'Shannassy Reservoir and diversions from Cement and Coranderrk Creeks.

Upper Yarra System : Upper Yarra Reservoir and diversions from the Yarra tributaries comprising Armstrong, McMahon, and Starvation Creeks.

Thomson System : Diversions from Upper Thomson and Tanjil Rivers only.

Streamflow yields in the water supply system have varied from year to year. The yields from the various streams supplying the system for each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74 were as follows :

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS :
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS : STREAMFLOW YIELDS
(megalitres)

Year	Yan Yean	Maroondah	O'Shannassy	Upper Yarra	Thomson	Total water yield
1969-70	19,600	84,700	119,400	237,800	4,100	465,600
1970-71	18,900	105,000	150,600	307,000	2,400	583,900
1971-72	25,500	98,300	138,100	255,200	3,700	520,800
1972-73	15,000	63,200	102,800	128,800	17,200	327,000
1973-74	27,400	93,800	136,200	206,500	26,500	490,400

Consumption of water

During the year ended 30 June 1974 the maximum consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs on any one day was 2,202 megalitres on 31 January 1974, and the minimum consumption was 590 megalitres on 15 April 1974.

The following table shows, for each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74, the number of properties supplied with water and sewers, the quantity of water consumed, the daily average consumption, the daily average consumption per head of population served, etc. :

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS :
WATER CONSUMPTION AND SEWERAGE CONNECTIONS

Year	Improved properties supplied with water at 30 June	Total annual consumption of water	Consumption of water on any one day		Daily average of annual consumption of water	Daily consumption of water per head of population served	Improved properties for which sewers were provided at 30 June
			Maximum	Minimum			
	number	megalitres	megalitres	megalitres	megalitres	litres	number
1969-70	676,111	304,874	1,804	511	835	365.55	543,870
1970-71	696,018	332,506	1,863	502	911	386.19	559,000
1971-72	722,016	331,465	1,943	568	906	370.10	575,221
1972-73	748,990	315,208	1,637	534	864	342.68	591,673
1973-74	787,052	361,858	2,202	590	991	405.48	621,161

Sewerage system

Farm at Werribee

For over eighty years, the Board's Metropolitan Farm at Werribee has treated and disposed of most of the waste from the sewered sections of Melbourne and the metropolitan area, but population growth and industrial expansion have necessitated a major amplification of the sewerage system. The expansion programme began in 1958 with the establishment of a new pumping station at Brooklyn nearly twice the capacity of the original Spotswood plant. Other measures to improve sewerage services include introduction of the South-eastern Sewerage System, and a start on construction of the Eastern Region Sewerage Scheme. The Board also plans a North-west Intercepting Sewer, a Western Trunk Sewer, and a major purification plant at the Werribee Farm.

The present treatment process at Werribee involves returning to the soil the valuable parts of wastewater (mineral salts, trace elements, and water) to promote the growth of grass much of which in turn is converted into stock

food. When the Farm started, land treatment was the favoured method of waste water purification provided certain basic requirements could be met. It is not practised more extensively today because few cities have these requirements—an ample area of suitable land reasonably remote from the city, with low rainfall and high evaporation. The Board's Farm meets all these conditions, at the same time turning the treatment of wastewater into an economical venture. Adjoining Port Phillip Bay to the south of Werribee it has grown from 3,200 hectares of barren land to about 10,800 highly cultivated hectares supporting up to 19,000 beef cattle and 50,000 sheep. Depending on the season and the rate of flow from the system the farm employs three methods of purification: land filtration, for the period of high evaporation between September and April; grass filtration, for the period of low evaporation between May and August; and lagooning, for peak daily and wet weather flows.

Statistical data for the year ended 30 June 1974 was as follows:

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS:
FARM AT WERRIBEE, 1973-74

Total area of farm	10,858 hectares
Area used for wastewater disposal	7,212 hectares
Average rainfall over 81 years	487 millimetres
Net cost of wastewater purification per head of population served	\$1.13
Profit on cattle and sheep	\$755,638

South-eastern Sewerage System

The South-eastern Sewerage System is the largest single sewerage project undertaken by the Board since work began on the Werribee Farm in 1892. It consists of a 33 kilometre trunk sewer from Kew to Carrum, intercepting systems, the Carrum treatment plant, and a 56 kilometre gravity outfall from the plant for the discharge of purified wastewater into Bass Strait near Cape Schanck. The plant uses the activated sludge process to produce reconditioned water, and electric power is generated on site from by-product methane gas. The plant has an initial capacity to serve a population of almost 900,000, but treatment facilities will be expanded in accordance with population growth and increasing sewage loadings.

The South-eastern Trunk Sewer extends southerly from the Yarra valley near the Burke Road bridge in the City of Kew. It passes under Gardiners Creek before veering south-easterly in a substantially direct line to the Carrum purification works in the municipality of Springvale.

The sewer intercepts the main sewer in the Gardiners Creek valley, thereby relieving the South Yarra main sewer of all sewer flows in the valley upstream of the point of interception—including most or all of the flows from the Cities of Waverley, Ringwood, Nunawading, and Box Hill, together with flows from small portions of the Cities of Camberwell and Malvern. It also intercepts the North Yarra and Yarra East main sewers in the Yarra valley generally, thus relieving the North Yarra main of sewage flows from a substantial part of the Cities of Northcote, Kew, Camberwell, Box Hill, and Nunawading, and will collect also the future sewage flows from the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. Completion of the trunk sewer has made possible interception of various overloaded sewers in the Cities of Brighton, Caulfield, Moorabbin, Oakleigh, and Sandringham, has relieved the load on the Braeside Purification Plant, ultimately rendering the plant unnecessary, and has enabled many well developed areas in the outer south-eastern suburbs to be provided with urgently needed sewerage facilities.

Selection of a site for the purification works in the South-eastern System was the subject of thorough investigations, having regard to the following important factors—(a) strategic location relating to present and future development of the south-eastern region of Melbourne, including provision in the Dandenong valley for a trunk sewer (now under construction); (b) an adequate area to provide a buffer zone between the purification units and adjoining private property; (c) sufficient isolation from existing residential areas; (d) suitable topography, elevation above sea level, and sub-soil conditions; (e) proximity to the area served to ensure that the sewage reaches the purification works in a reasonably fresh condition—thereby minimising hydrogen sulphide problems; (f) suitable location with regard to the point of final dispersal of the purified effluent; and (g) conformity with town planning requirements.

The site on which the South-eastern Purification Plant is situated is on the south side of the Patterson River and the east side of Wells Road about four kilometres from the foreshore at Carrum. The site is the only one which fulfilled the essential requirements. The area acquired for the purification plant and a suitable surrounding buffer area comprises approximately 550 hectares, and a further adjacent area of approximately 450 hectares has been reserved for future expansion of the plant as wastewater loadings increase. The initial stage of the plant has been constructed to handle a sewage flow of some 291 megalitres (which was calculated to meet requirements for a period of about 12 years after the initial stage was brought into operation), following which the treatment works and outfall will be amplified by stages. Investigations into the scheme led to the conclusion that there was no acceptable way of disposing of the effluent other than into Bass Strait or Port Phillip Bay, or into a stream leading into one of these major marine waters. Whereas sewage is often discharged into marine waters with little or no prior treatment, it was considered that, for the South-eastern System, the overall interests of the community would be best served by adopting a high standard of purification with the added provisions of sterilisation.

Within the South-eastern Purification Plant, incoming flow is screened, pre-aerated, and grit is removed. This is followed by primary sedimentation, scum removal, biological treatment by diffused aeration, and secondary sedimentation. Screenings and scum are dewatered and incinerated. Waste activated sludge from secondary sedimentation is thickened and digested with primary sludge in concrete sludge digestion tanks with floating gas covers. Gas produced in the digestion process is used as fuel for the diesel-alternator units which generate electric power for the plant. Digested sludge is stored in holding basins for further dewatering and stabilisation. Purified effluent is raised by the Outfall Pumping Station and discharged to Bass Strait through the outfall pipeline. Facilities are provided at the purification plant to chlorinate both incoming and outgoing flows. Effluent storage basins provide balancing capacity for peak flows, thereby optimising the use of the outfall system. Stage one of the outfall has a flow capacity of 705 megalitres a day. This capacity is sufficient to match mean dry weather flows to the purification plant of 455 megalitres daily, but is expected to become insufficient by about the end of 1984. Stage two of the outfall will double the available discharge capacity. This would be equivalent to a mean dry weather flow of 910 megalitres daily, but would not be adequate for the expected median flow in the year 2025. The position will then require further examination based on actual flow conditions to determine the size of subsequent stages of the outfall.

The catchment area of the South-eastern System extends from Greensborough in the north to the South-eastern Purification Plant at Carrum, nearly 32 kilometres south-east of the city centre. The closed catchment incorporates the bulk of the present eastern suburbs and is bounded by the Brooklyn, North

Western, Central Yarra, and Dandenong Valley catchments, with a total area of some 34,000 hectares. Sewering of the catchment is based on the South-eastern Trunk Sewer and the Caulfield Intercepting Sewer. The Caulfield Intercepting Sewer and associated North Road Pumping Station divert sewage flows from the southern part of the Hobsons Bay catchment to the South-eastern System. Eventually, the South-eastern Sewerage System will become part of an overall Eastern System. All domestic sewage and trade waste discharges to this Eastern System—which will serve the South-eastern, Central Yarra, Dandenong Valley, Eumemmerring Creek, Hallam Valley, and Outer Berwick catchments—will in time be carried to the South-eastern Purification Plant. In the event of population growth beyond the Metropolitan Planning Area boundaries in the south-east, consideration has been given to sewerage a further urban corridor extending eastward towards Drouin. If substantial development took place in such an extension area, the resulting sewage flows would also be collected in the Eastern System and conveyed to Carrum. As the relevant areas are progressively incorporated into the South-eastern System, existing purification plants at Kew, Braeside, Lower Plenty, and Heatherton will be phased out of operation. Existing temporary regional and neighborhood plants will similarly become redundant, in due course, as main sewers are extended into the areas they serve.

The desirability of discharging large quantities of purified effluent from the Carrum plant into the ocean has been queried, and a preliminary feasibility study of effluent re-use has been conducted by the Board in conjunction with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. In an interim report it was noted that there is likely to be considerable potential for the use of effluent from the Carrum plant, but that the initial demand and opportunities in the immediate future would be small in comparison with the quantities available. Significant advances towards full-scale re-use might be achieved in the not too distant future.

Further references, 1965–1975

Cost of the sewerage system

The cost of sewerage works during each of the years 1969–70 to 1973–74, and the total cost (less depreciation) to 30 June 1974 are shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS: CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SEWERAGE SYSTEM (\$'000)

Particulars	1969–70	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74	Total cost to 30 June 1974
Farm purchase and preparation	429	488	519	707	496	13,941
Treatment works	1,925	4,671	10,760	21,091	21,265	67,632
Outfall sewer and rising mains	1,213	5,911	15,012	16,675	2,975	45,734
Pumping stations, buildings, and plant	1,943	1,784	2,750	4,770	4,935	31,192
Main and branch sewers	15,020	12,633	11,853	12,879	24,201	167,744
Reticulation sewers	9,618	5,632	5,979	7,001	12,096	130,045
Cost of house connections chargeable to capital	..	..	..	..	..	794
Sanitary depots	5	Cr. 1	..	..	Cr. 48	706
Investigations	356	220	220	149	1,057	2,905
Total outlay	30,507	31,338	47,095	63,273	66,978	460,694

Disposal of nightsoil from unsewered premises

The responsibility for the collection, removal, and disposal of nightsoil from unsewered premises within the metropolis was transferred from the individual municipal councils to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works by legislation in 1922. By agreement, each council pays to the Board a prescribed amount per annum to offset the cost of the service, etc. For the year 1973-74 working expenses were \$190,801, and interest \$41,260, making a total of \$232,061. Revenue was \$473,955, giving a surplus of \$241,884.

Drainage and rivers

The Board has been responsible since 1923 for the disposal of rain and stormwater in the metropolis, this disposal system being separate from the sewerage system. The drainage area under the Board's control covers nearly 1,500 square kilometres in a 20 kilometre radius from the G.P.O. The drainage functions of the Board are aimed at the control of floods, erosion and pollution, and include drain construction, maintenance, and beautification.

Total prevention of flooding is not financially feasible so efforts are directed towards control and minimisation. Measures adopted are : underground drains, open channels, levee banks, and retarding basins. There are about twenty retarding basins in the metropolitan area which are, in effect, small dams which release water at a slower rate than in its normal flow. Because of the silty and sandy nature of soils around Melbourne, erosion near water courses can be quite a fast process. Channels are used in especially susceptible areas, and other measures include the building of concrete walls and the planting of grass and trees to consolidate and beautify the banks. It costs the Board about \$1.5m a year to maintain metropolitan drains, including repairs and planting operations. Drain inspections are carried out with sophisticated equipment, including television cameras, and small bulldozers are used where possible to clear the larger drains of debris.

More stringent controls over recent years have helped to alleviate some of the problems associated with drainage. By-laws ban building within 7.6 metres of a water course and within 61 metres of the Yarra River. Under powers vested in it for drainage control, the Board can compulsorily acquire land and enter private land for surveying, and drilling bores. It can also make by-laws to prevent interference with the drains, to control soil removal and pollution and to control boating to stop wave erosion in water courses. The Board's current annual drainage budget exceeds \$5m, including \$1m for diverting water courses which are affected by road construction operations.

Most of the rivers and streams throughout the metropolitan area are the responsibility of the Board, which works in close co-operation with the Environment Protection Authority. The Environment Protection Act has made the Board responsible for licensing discharges of wastes into water for the greater part of the metropolitan area and the Yarra valley. The licences cover the discharge into drains and water courses of trade and industrial wastes, effluent from septic tanks serving commercial and industrial premises outside the declared sewerage area, and effluent discharged from package treatment plants. The Board's sewage purification plants are licensed by the Environment Protection Authority.

When a discharge occurs in the area under the Board's control, an application must be lodged with the Board. The applicant is required to provide all relevant details of the discharge including property location, reason for discharge, and the characteristics of the discharge, and the part of the environment likely to be affected—drain, river, creek, etc. Licence conditions are then assessed from this information. A list of processed applications is forwarded weekly to the E.P.A. which provides a copy to councils and other authorities which may require

special conditions to be added to the proposed licence. Conditions of licence may require an applicant to negotiate with the Board to provide suitable treatment apparatus to improve the quality of the discharge or, where possible, to divert the waste to the sewerage system. Detection of illegal discharges and monitoring of licensed discharges is carried out by inspectors who take samples for chemical, physical or bacteriological analyses at the Board's South Melbourne laboratories. If it is found that the quantity or quality of the discharges infringes the licence conditions, the E.P.A. on the Board's recommendation decides if the offender will be prosecuted or the licence revoked.

Regular maintenance, such as de-snagging and clearing of dumped rubbish, is also part of the programme to improve metropolitan water courses. Trees and shrubs are planted along river and creek banks, and, in co-operation with local councils, many areas adjacent to water courses are being developed for public recreation.

The total cost of drainage and river improvement works (less depreciation) to 30 June 1974 was \$49m. The length of the main drains under the control of the Board at 30 June 1974 was 447 kilometres.

Metropolitan parks

To expand recreational facilities in Melbourne, the Board has begun work on a number of recreational parks in strategic locations in the metropolitan area. The parks will be designed for a variety of recreational uses and activities. In the short term, the proposals cover six specific areas totalling some 4,750 hectares, and in the long-term the Board envisages accepting the major role and financial responsibility for organising and developing an extensive metropolitan parks system. The six initial areas chosen for development as parks are the Yarra Valley—1,040 hectares containing the flood plain and adjacent slopes of the valley of the Yarra River, extending from Banksia Street, Bulleen, to Pound Bend, Warrandyte; the Dandenong Valley—1,300 hectares extending south from Boronia Road, Nunawading, to Wellington Road, Waverley, and featuring the flood plain and adjoining slopes of the valley of the Dandenong Creek; the Maribyrnong Valley—233 hectares comprising the various open space reserves bordering the Maribyrnong River, with particular emphasis on the Horseshoe Bend Reserve at Keilor; Lysterfield—an area of about 1,300 hectares extending east from the Dandenong Creek, and comprising the former Police Paddock Area and the Churchill National Park. When combined with the adjoining Lysterfield reservoir catchment area, the total area available for recreation will be approximately 2,600 hectares; Point Cook—an area of 567 hectares located south-west of Altona, and comprising low-lying coastal swamps and sand dunes with beaches of comparatively clean sand and a relative lack of rock outcrop; and Braeside—a significant flora and fauna habitat totalling approximately 311 hectares.

The general concept of park areas dates back to 1956, when legislation was passed to allow the Board to acquire and develop metropolitan parks with finance from the Metropolitan Improvement Fund. Since then, under the Metropolitan Planning Scheme, the Board has concentrated mainly on reserving land in the most suitable locations for proposed public open space. This land is acquired as the occasion arises to preserve the opportunity for future parkland development. In keeping with the general strategy of the proposed parks system, the six initial areas which have been classified for development as parks are close to most of the metropolitan population. They comprise areas of particular or significant natural features, creek or river valleys, tree-covered landscapes, topographical features, scenic views, and extensive open areas with future potential for large-scale park development. The main aims of the parks programme are protection, preservation, and, where necessary, the improvement of natural features. This will provide a basis for the creation of complementary

passive recreation areas, and within this framework areas of active recreational use will be assimilated, so that ideally a wide range of both active and passive facilities suited to the widest cross-section of community demands will be provided.

The suitability of a particular park for recreational facilities will be a major consideration before any work is undertaken. The Board will aim to avoid alienation of any part of a park once it becomes, in the metropolitan sense, a publicly-accepted area for recreation. The parks will be a positive contribution to metropolitan recreational facilities and the Board initially will concentrate on the Dandenong and Maribyrnong Valley areas. In these, and in each subsequent development, there will be controls on building height, shape, and colour, and protective measures for flora and fauna. There will also be stringent controls to limit noise, air, water, and land pollution. The parks' ultimate layout and development will recognise their natural character or charm and deter uses or activities which could cause major deterioration in their inherent quality.

Assessed value of property

The net annual value of property in 1973-74 for the purpose of the Board's rating was as follows :

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS: ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTY RATED, 1973-74 (\$m)

Rate	Net annual value of property
Water rate	734.1
Metropolitan general rate (for sewerage services)	594.9
Metropolitan drainage and river improvement rate	640.0
Metropolitan improvement rate	761.2

Finance for capital works

Capital works are financed mainly from moneys which the Board is given approval to borrow after the annual meeting of the Australian Loan Council has considered the projected loan programmes of semi-governmental authorities throughout Australia.

Board's borrowing powers and loan liability

The amount that the Board is empowered to borrow was increased from \$500m to \$1,000m on 17 December 1974 and is exclusive of loans amounting to \$4.8m originally raised by the Government for the construction of waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. The Board's total loan liability at 30 June 1974 was \$747m. All moneys borrowed are charged and secured upon the Board's revenues.

Revenue, expenditure, etc.

The table on page 202 shows the revenue, expenditure, surplus or deficit, and capital outlay of the Board in respect of its water supply, sewerage, and drainage functions during each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74. The Board keeps a separate account of its financial activities as the Metropolitan Planning Authority.

Further reference, 1966 ; Metropolitan planning, 1974

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS:
REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
REVENUE					
Water supply—					
Water rates and charges (including revenue from water supplied by measure)	20,266	22,785	26,934	30,960	34,926
Sewerage—					
Sewerage rates	20,626	24,925	30,648	32,083	41,294
Trade waste charges	2,705	2,864	3,126	3,168	3,490
Sanitary charges	550	571	609	1,225	1,329
Metropolitan farm—					
Grazing fees, rents, pastures, etc.	5	5	4	4	3
Balance, livestock account	371	256	279	589	756
Metropolitan drainage and rivers—					
Drainage and river improvement rate	4,540	5,937	6,139	6,299	8,068
River water charges	33	22	18	13	12
Total	49,096	57,365	67,757	74,340	89,878
EXPENDITURE					
Water supply—					
Management	2,831	3,603	3,529	4,655	6,068
Maintenance	3,969	4,798	5,899	6,916	8,226
Water supply works	910	860	1,400	1,400	1,400
Sewerage—					
Management	2,340	2,915	3,401	4,365	5,811
Maintenance	3,269	3,757	4,101	5,098	6,616
Sewerage works	1,700	1,700	2,600	2,600	2,600
Metropolitan farm—					
Management	161	212	256	329	399
Maintenance	1,077	1,308	1,296	1,441	1,645
Metropolitan drainage and rivers—					
Management	462	647	709	979	1,298
Maintenance	726	1,321	1,539	1,626	2,097
Drainage works	990	990	1,000	1,000	1,000
Pensions and allowances	504	418	544	283	376
Loan flotation expenses	471	474	369	273	384
Interest (including exchange)	23,668	26,701	30,699	36,978	42,027
Contributions to—					
Sinking fund	1,380	1,468	1,677	1,883	2,023
Loans redeemed reserve	2,063	2,384	2,840	3,616	4,125
Renewals fund	904	1,004	1,148	988	1,109
Depreciation	57	251	329	341	264
Superannuation account	1,210	1,641	2,733	871	1,640
Municipalities—					
For road maintenance	49	63	59	49	62
Valuations	130	129	133	150	204
Rates equalisation reserve	Cr. 299	718	1,493	Cr. 1,513	505
Special reserve	500				
Other	25	3	3	13	..
Total	49,096	57,365	67,757	74,340	89,878
Capital outlay at 30 June—					
Water supply	198,817	220,191	247,138	283,657	324,338
Sewerage	252,009	283,348	330,443	393,716	460,694
Drainage and river improvement works	37,594	39,802	41,657	45,215	49,285

Highways, freeways, and bridges

The following table summarises the revenue, expenditure, and capital outlay of the Board in connection with its functions as the Metropolitan Planning Authority during the period 1969-70 to 1973-74:

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS:
METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENT FUND: REVENUE ACCOUNT
AND CAPITAL OUTLAY
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Revenue—					
Metropolitan improvement rate and sundry income	7,570	8,437	8,682	9,022	11,760
Expenditure—					
Management	1,213	1,534	1,720	1,644	2,144
Maintenance	217	345	900	1,216	1,110
Interest	56	57	59	65	70
Contributions to sinking fund	24	24	24	24	24
Transfers to planning and highways reserve	5,978	6,388	(a)	(a)	(a)
Compensation for reserved land and acquisitions (b)	..	..	4,938	4,441	6,056
Road and foreshore works (b)	..	..	4,252	1,452	114
Transfer to rates equalisation fund (b)	..	..	Cr. 3,417	Cr. 163	1,778
Other	83	88	207	344	463
Total expenditure	7,570	8,437	8,682	9,022	11,760
Capital outlay at 30 June (c)	70,721	82,262	103,370	121,580	145,472

(a) Planning and highways reserve was discontinued at 30 June 1971.

(b) Replaces planning and highways reserve expenditure. See footnote (a).

(c) Includes expenditure of the following amounts paid from the Roads (Special Projects) Fund: 1969-70, \$9,141,000; 1970-71, \$7,039,000; 1971-72, \$7,813,000; 1972-73, \$5,712,000; and 1973-74, \$8,864,000. Also includes expenditure of the following amounts paid from the Commonwealth Aid Roads Fund: 1970-71, \$443,000; 1971-72, \$4,106,000; 1972-73, \$9,301,000; and 1973-74, \$10,458,000.

By Victorian Act No. 8573 of 14 May 1974, the Board's road-making powers, road assets, etc., and certain officers and other employees were transferred to the Country Roads Board, as from 1 July 1974.

Further references, 1967-1975*Parks and foreshores*

From 1 July 1974 the Board's responsibility for foreshores reverted to the Public Works Department under parliamentary legislation enacted in May of that year.

Further reference, 1974**Water supply and sewerage in country towns**

Constituted under the *Water Act* 1905, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission commenced operations in 1906. In that year it took over from the Victorian Water Supply Department the general control of water supply to 111 towns, with a total population of 261,000. The Commission assumed direct responsibility for supplying 75,000 persons in fifteen centres. These centres included the mining towns of Bendigo and Castlemaine and the sea port of Geelong (now served by the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust System).

The other ninety-six centres which had operated through local authorities now came under the general supervision of the Commission. Of these local authorities, one quarter were within the Wimmera-Mallee Waterworks Districts, a similar number along the route from Melbourne to Wodonga, and the rest were concentrated in the Ballarat area, the old mining towns to the north and

north-west of that city, towns in the Sunbury-Kyneton-Lancefield area, and the northern irrigation areas.

During 1973-74 the Commission directly administered the water supply to 128 towns with a population of 332,142 persons. The major urban systems directly involving the Commission are the Mornington Peninsula, Bellarine Peninsula, Otway, and Coliban systems.

Other important groups include nearly forty small towns in the Wimmera-Mallee and twenty-two centres in the irrigation areas, but most of the urban population in the latter areas is served by local authorities taking bulk supply from the Commission.

Country water supply authorities

At 30 June 1974 local authorities constituted for the administration of town water supplies numbered 207, of which 202 had works in operation serving 298 towns. In addition to their function as water supply authorities three local authorities are also responsible for sewerage systems. These authorities are the Ballarat Water Commissioners, the Ballarat Sewerage Authority (the members of the Water Commissioners constitute the Sewerage Authority); the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust; and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board.

The West Moorabool Water Board was constituted in order to construct and operate the Lal Lal Reservoir and to apportion the regulated flow from the reservoir between the Ballarat and Geelong water supply authorities, thus supplementing the supplies to their respective districts. The Bannockburn District Waterworks Trust benefits similarly.

The following table shows particulars of country water supply authorities under local control which were operational or which had works under construction in 1973. However, municipally controlled water supply undertakings have been excluded as details of their finances are shown on page 202.

VICTORIA—COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITIES: INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC., 1973 (\$'000)

Particulars	Ballarat	Geelong	Latrobe Valley	Other (a)	Total
At end of year—					
Estimated population served	65,700	125,050	(b)	423,658	614,408
Number of properties supplied	22,662	36,810	(b)	136,982	196,454
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
For year—					
Income	907	2,620	915	5,595	10,037
Expenditure	853	2,675	744	5,152	9,424
At end of year—					
Works, etc., at cost	5,953	23,909	(c)17,828	66,621 (d)	114,311
Loan liability	4,904	22,030	(c)17,019	46,163 (d)	90,115

(a) Consists of 178 waterworks trusts, and also the Mildura Urban Water Trust and the West Moorabool Water Board.

(b) Not available. The Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board charges consumers, including local water supply authorities, by measure. It does not levy a water rate.

(c) Figures from Consolidated Balance Sheet; includes sewerage data.

(d) Refer to footnote (c).

Country sewerage authorities

With the exception of sewerage systems operated by the State Electricity Commission and the Eildon Sewerage District (under the direct administration of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission), country sewerage works

are controlled by local authorities. These local sewerage authorities operate under the direct supervision of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in a similar manner to the local water supply authorities. Of the one hundred and sixteen local sewerage authorities constituted at 30 June 1974 (including the Ballarat Sewerage Authority, the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board), ninety-four authorities had systems in operation. A further fourteen authorities had systems under construction.

The following table shows particulars of all country sewerage systems that were in operation or in course of construction (with the exception of those controlled by the State Electricity Commission) during 1973 :

VICTORIA—COUNTRY SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES: POPULATION SERVED, PROPERTIES CONNECTED, INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC., 1973

Particulars	Ballarat	Geelong	Latrobe Valley	Other (a)	Total
Estimated population served (at end of year)	59,500	117,110	(b)	577,170	753,780
Number of properties connected to sewers (at end of year)	18,259	33,460	(b)	174,117	225,836
General revenue account—	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income—					
Rates	482	1,558	(b)	6,489	8,529
Other	299	220	420	3,520	4,459
Total	781	1,778	420	10,009	12,987
Expenditure—					
Working expenses	304	751	248	3,783	5,085
Other	477	1,015	260	6,129	7,882
Total	781	1,766	508	9,912	12,967
House connections account—					
Receipts	51	41	..	2,661	2,753
Expenditure	49	41	..	2,348	2,439
Loan account—					
Receipts	465	798	36	13,033	14,332
Expenditure	402	606	36	10,346	11,391
Loan liability (at end of year)	6,137	16,095	(c)17,019	85,840	(d)125,090

(a) Consists of 97 sewerage authorities.

(b) The Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board does not connect properties to sewers, but it receives, together with a large amount of industrial wastes, domestic sewage from some sewerage authorities for which it charges by measure. It does not levy a sewerage rate.

(c) Includes loan liability of water supply; from Consolidated Balance Sheet.

(d) Refer to footnote (c).

Details of particulars of all country sewerage systems, in operation or with works under construction (excluding those under State Electricity Commission control), for each of the years 1969 to 1973 are as follows :

VICTORIA—COUNTRY SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES: POPULATION SERVED, PROPERTIES CONNECTED, INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC.

Particulars	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Number of systems in operation	72	78	83	88	89
Number of systems under construction	11	11	12	10	12
Estimated population served (at end of year)	634,711	664,089	698,886	734,266	753,780
Number of properties connected to sewers (at end of year)	186,319	196,205	207,858	218,671	225,836

VICTORIA—COUNTRY SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES: POPULATION
SERVED, PROPERTIES CONNECTED, INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC.—*continued*

Particulars	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
General revenue account—	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income—					
Rates	5,796	6,134	6,815	7,705	8,529
Other	2,634	2,967	3,316	3,851	4,459
Total	8,430	9,101	10,131	11,557	12,987
Expenditure—					
Working expenses	2,980	2,963	3,608	4,373	5,085
Other	5,617	5,902	6,336	7,053	7,882
Total	8,597	8,864	9,945	11,425	12,967
House connections account—					
Receipts	2,075	1,965	1,729	2,552	2,753
Expenditure	1,991	1,943	1,698	2,049	2,439
Loan account—					
Receipts	10,785	10,087	8,794	12,399	14,332
Expenditure	10,210	9,251	10,513	10,303	11,391
Loan liability (at end of year)	84,331	88,657	94,228	104,516(a)	125,090

(a) Includes loan liability of water supply of the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board; from the Board's Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Further references, 1963–1975

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board

Prior to January 1974, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District contributed one third and fire insurance companies transacting business in the same area provided two thirds of the amount required to maintain metropolitan fire brigades. Due to amended legislation, operative from the beginning of 1974, contributions were subsequently received in the proportions of one eighth from the Government of Victoria, one eighth from municipal councils, and three quarters from fire insurance companies. During 1973–74 contributions by municipalities were equivalent to 0.51 cents in the dollar of the annual value of property amounting to \$644m while fire insurance companies contributed at a rate of \$21.97 for every \$100 of fire insurance premiums paid on insured property. Premiums received in the Metropolitan Fire District in 1973–74 amounted to \$45.9m.

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, and loan indebtedness of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board for each of the five years 1969–70 to 1973–74 are as follows:

VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD:
REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969–70	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74
REVENUE					
Statutory contributions—					
Treasurer of Victoria					889
Municipalities	2,402	3,037	3,149	3,864	3,264
Insurance companies	4,803	6,070	6,299	7,652	10,040
Brokers and owners		65	170	125	118
Charges for services	731	779	858	966	1,220
Interest and sundries	371	421	527	538	673
Total	8,307	10,371	11,003	13,146	16,204

VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD :
REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.—*continued*
(S'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries	5,585	6,424	7,800	8,749	11,223
Administrative charges, etc.	827	1,068	943	1,078	1,380
Allowances to partially-paid firemen and special service staff	430	486	552	601	735
Plant purchase and repairs	618	720	523	655	686
Interest	32	31	48	128	188
Repayment of loans	22	17	21	34	47
Superannuation fund	389	568	670	750	940
Motor replacement reserve	141	154	164	205	220
Pay-roll tax	158	180	289	336	533
Properties—additions	164	424	227	43	1,022
Miscellaneous	22	23	29	27	41
Total	8,386	10,095	11,266	12,606	17,015
Net surplus (+) or deficit (-)	-80	+277	-264	+540	-811
Loan indebtedness at 30 June	554	537	1,717	2,883	3,236

The following table shows particulars of the number of fire stations operated by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and the number of staff employed at 30 June in each of the years 1970 to 1974 :

VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD : NUMBER
OF FIRE STATIONS AND STAFF EMPLOYED AT 30 JUNE

Particulars	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Fire stations	45	46	46	47	47
Staff employed—					
Fire fighting	1,166	1,242	1,226	1,248	1,321
All other	269	271	250	251	272

Further references, 1961-1975

Country Fire Authority

The headquarters of the Authority are situated in Malvern where an operations centre is in direct radio contact with every fire control region throughout Victoria. At 30 June 1974 there were seventy-six permanent firemen employed in brigades at Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Geelong West, and Dandenong, with a total of sixty-seven permanent brigade officers at these stations and at Boronia, Chelsea, Doveton, Frankston, North Geelong, Mildura, Morwell, Norlane, Shepparton, Springvale, Traralgon, Wangaratta, and Warrnambool.

The Authority has established a training centre at Fiskville where teaching facilities and accommodation are provided. Emphasis on training remains at group and brigade level with teacher training given by the Training Wing to selected volunteers. In-service training has been developed at Fiskville for permanent officers and firemen. Volunteer representatives of urban and rural brigades receive instruction at weekend schools and training committees organise local training sessions. Training has been extended by the completion of an urban complex designed for both day and night training in the use of breathing apparatus and for ship, building, and inflammable liquid fires.

The revenue of the Country Fire Authority consists mainly of statutory contributions, in the proportion of one third from the Victorian Treasury's Municipalities Assistance Fund and two thirds from insurance companies

underwriting fire risks in the country area of Victoria. There were 151 insurance companies thus contributing during 1973-74.

Up to 30 June 1974 the Authority had raised 100 loans, representing a total of \$8.16m, which has been used for the provision of buildings and equipment for brigades.

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, surplus, and loan expenditure and indebtedness of the Country Fire Authority, for each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74, are shown in the first of the following tables. The second table gives details of the number of fire brigades, personnel, and motor vehicles for the same years.

VICTORIA—COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY : REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
REVENUE					
Statutory contributions—					
Municipalities Assistance Fund	1,225	1,309	1,498	1,638	2,144
Insurance companies	2,451	2,618	2,996	3,277	4,288
Other	117	184	103	166	212
Total	3,793	4,111	4,597	5,081	6,644
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries and wages	1,486	1,781	2,009	2,474	3,346
Depreciation	152	139	157	355	387
Insurance	118	225	164	164	201
Interest	189	224	260	276	315
Maintenance	526	641	655	766	816
Motor replacement fund	287	316	342	180	180
Other	685	589	707	838	1,066
Total	3,443	3,915	4,294	5,053	6,311
Net surplus	350	196	303	28	333
Loan expenditure	506	628	668	446	628
Loan indebtedness (at 30 June)	3,521	3,897	4,275	4,650	5,235

VICTORIA—COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY : NUMBER OF FIRE
BRIGADES, PERSONNEL, AND MOTOR VEHICLES AT 30 JUNE

Particulars	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Fire brigades—					
Urban	211	212	212	212	215
Rural	1,050	1,052	1,049	1,054	1,061
Personnel—					
Permanent	289	311	319	331	371
Volunteer	111,635	112,730	113,221	114,709	117,250
Vehicle fleet—					
Self-propelled	1,266	1,320	1,379	1,390	1,411
Trailer units	223	335	383	395	420

Further references, 1961-1975

Local government and semi-governmental bodies : new money loan raisings

In the following table particulars are given of the new money loan raisings for capital works, during each of the years 1969-70 to 1973-74, by local government, semi-governmental, and other public bodies in Victoria :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL, AND
OTHER PUBLIC BODIES: NEW MONEY LOAN RAISINGS
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
LOCAL GOVERNMENT					
Due to government	174	458	277	39	181
Due to public creditor	26,687	26,155	37,248	43,478	38,932
Total	26,860	26,613	37,525	43,517	39,113
SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL, ETC.					
Due to government	54,976	55,940	50,204	70,092	100,544
Due to public creditor	117,961	141,113	158,458	203,297	196,722
Total	172,937	197,053	208,662	273,389	297,266
ALL AUTHORITIES					
Due to government	55,150	56,398	50,481	70,131	100,724
Due to public creditor	144,648	167,268	195,706	246,775	235,654
Total	199,798	223,666	246,187	316,906	336,379

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* Bibliographies for Chapters 6 to 28 inclusive list selected publications issued by the Victorian and Central Offices of the Australian Bureau of Statistics which provide detailed statistical information on topics covered in the chapters. Publication reference numbers are shown beside titles.