

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 Victorian 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 the Victorian 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, and Weights and Measures Act.

Responsibility for administering the following Acts was transferred from the Minister for Local Government as follows:

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 Victorian 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 (Appeals) Act* 1965. 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 \$50,000 or more, a net annual valuation of \$2,500 or more, or an unimproved capital value of \$10,000. 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 \$50,000 unless the Supreme Court decides on application by either party that the issues involved warrant a Court hearing. When the claim exceeds \$50,000 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 1976 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 net 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 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 83 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, a building surveyor, and such other officers as may be necessary. The other officers usually include 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 the Victorian 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 the Victorian 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 204–17). 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 Melbourne 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 217–18). 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 been 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 1973-74 municipal year the combined turnover of these undertakings was approximately \$80m.

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 Victorian 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 site value, or (since 1 June 1968) partly on net annual value and partly on site 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 site value of the rateable property. The proportions are fixed when the system is adopted.

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

Since 1 October 1975 site value has replaced unimproved capital value as a basis for rating. It 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 211 municipalities in Victoria at 30 September 1975, 149 were rating on net annual value, 61 on on site value, and one, the City of Caulfield, partly on net annual value and partly on site 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 199-204.)

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.

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 1975 subsidies for works paid to various municipalities from the Municipalities Assistance Fund amounted to \$999,385, while, for the same period, the amount contributed to the Country Fire Authority was \$2,883,077.

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 Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Roads Grants Act. (See pages 201-3.)

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 attempt 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, because not all municipalities were prepared to contribute to the cost of remitting rates, or because 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 and, in 1974, the Victorian Government financed the remission of rates, garbage, and sanitary charges to the extent of one quarter of the amount charged to eligible pensioners.

Subsequently, the scheme was extended in 1975 to provide assistance in respect of water and sewerage rates. In 1976, the Victorian Government increased this assistance to one half of the amount charged.

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.

Transaction for the years 1970-71 to 1974-75 are shown in the following table :

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

Particulars	Year ended February—				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Income—					
Premium income	3,627	5,401	6,309	7,477	9,601
Interest, dividends, and rents	1,430	1,751	2,149	2,583	3,281
Total income	5,057	7,152	8,458	10,061	12,882
Expenditure—					
Contributions, refunds, and death and withdrawal benefits	1,793	2,140	2,847	3,718	4,300
Contributions to management	302	422	497	598	770
Total expenditure	2,096	2,562	3,344	4,316	5,069
Operating surplus for year	2,961	4,590	5,114	5,744	7,813
Accumulated funds at end of year	24,803	29,393	34,506	40,251	48,063

The accumulated funds at 28 February 1975 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. The whole of the contribution to provide the benefit is paid by employees. This Act also provided that all permanent employees shall be brought within the provisions of the internal retirement and death benefits fund.

Under legislation which came into operation on 1 January 1976, a pension scheme was established to supplement the existing benefits payable under the Local Authorities Superannuation Act. The amount of the pension is one one hundred and twentieth of the contributor's average final salary for each completed year of continuous service up to a maximum of 30 years.

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 the Victorian 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 1974-75) of \$91.2m, rate income of \$18.7m, other revenue of \$30.5m, 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 estimated resident population of 73,800 persons at 30 June 1975 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 844 hectares are parklands and reserves. On those parklands and reserves under its control, the City annually spends more than \$2.5m.

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 seven, 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 seven 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, though the pattern of organisation is Council-wide rather than departmentalised. Broadly, the departments are organised either 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 and Markets	Electric Supply, Abattoirs (a) and Markets (cattle, fruit, vegetables, and fish)
General Purposes	Town Clerk's
	City Architect's
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 reference, 1976

Civic Square

Among the early investigations for the creation of a Civic Square, one proposal in 1961 suggested purchasing properties in the block immediately east of the Melbourne Town Hall and moving the Town Hall eastwards towards Russell Street and thereby creating an open area where the Town Hall now stands. However, this scheme and others were abandoned.

However, one investigation for a building set back from Swanston Street in the area the Civic Square occupies in 1976 took place in 1964. Nothing came of this until 1966, when the Victoria Building (on the south-east corner of Collins Street and Swanston Street opposite the Melbourne Town Hall) was being demolished for a new building development. It then became apparent that this site would be suitable for a Civic Square. The Melbourne City Council purchased the site and so took the first step towards creating an open area in the centre of the city. Originally the Civic Square was to occupy only this site, but the Council purchased adjoining buildings and enlarged the area to the block bounded by Swanston Street, Flinders Lane, Regent Place, and Collins Street.

The Council believed an area of this size would provide a focal point for the city's formal and spontaneous activities, a meeting place for city shoppers, tourists, visitors, and generally a place of enjoyment for the people of Melbourne. With this site came the added advantage of a visual link between two of Melbourne's historic buildings, the Melbourne Town Hall (1867-1870) and St Paul's Cathedral (1889-1891), and the distant vista of the Shrine of Remembrance in St Kilda Road. It was further envisaged that a six to seven storey prestige office building would be constructed immediately west of Regent Place. Property purchases in the area took place over a number of years with the last purchase in 1968.

The Regent/Plaza Theatre building (1925-1927), immediately east of Regent Place, with an auditorium area spanning to Watson Place, was for sale as it no longer conformed to the trend toward smaller, more intimate theatres in the late 1960s. As a pre-requisite to their development plans for the Regent Theatre site, land developers sought discussions with the Council on its plans for the newly created open area. In order that the Council could control the redevelopment of this adjacent site and thereby protect the Civic Square project, the Council in April 1969 purchased the theatre property and received possession in December 1970.

The theatre's frontage to Collins Street was only about a third the width of the auditorium and so, to square up the site, a further three properties were purchased in Collins Street, including the Theosophical Society Building. These property purchases also enabled Watson Place to be extended to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to Collins Street.

In June 1969 the Council had called tenders for the lease and development of the land generally bounded by Collins Street, Regent Place, Flinders Lane, and Watson Place, and in May 1970, accepted a tender lodged on behalf of Star Holdings (Great Britain) Limited. Possession of the land passed to the successful tenderer on 31 December 1971, and planning began for a multi-storey building incorporating office accommodation, international hotel, retail areas, etc. Meanwhile a substantial part of the open area near Swanston Street had been levelled, paved, and embellished with floral displays and seats, and the people of Melbourne began to take advantage of the open area for rallies, public speakings, passive recreation, displays, and public functions. Very considerable problems had beset Star's development proposal and at a special meeting of Council on 25 June 1973, the lease was surrendered. A further phase now began.

In consultation with the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, Victorian Chapter, the Council planned a national architectural competition to select a designer for the Civic Square. As the Regent/Plaza Theatre building had stood vacant during this planning period, sections of the community now began to advocate its retention and restoration, and building unions placed work bans on the whole project in support of retaining the theatres.

In February 1975 a Board of Inquiry found that the Regent Theatre should be retained and in May 1976 the Council approved refurbishing expenditure of \$2.5m. The Council also announced the winner of its architectural competition for the Civic Square design and approved a temporary treatment of the enlarged open area back to Regent Place. With the renovation of the Regent Theatre proceeding, the winning design announced, and the union work bans lifted, the 1966 plan can now be achieved.

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 ; Financing of major works, 1974 ; City of Melbourne strategy plan, 1975 ; Community recreation, 1976 ; Environment of the central business district, 1976 ; Planning in the City of Melbourne, 1976

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 1973-74 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 238-9 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 1974, in municipalities throughout Victoria, there were 2,346 councillors, namely, 33 in the City of Melbourne, 660 in 55 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 1970 to 1974 :

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
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
1974	1,544	1,170,882	21,327,453	448,331	455,449	310,078

Municipal revenue and expenditure

The following table shows for each of the years ended 30 September 1970 to 1974 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
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
1974	262,819	272,367	78,247	79,889

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 \$10,834,000 transferred from other funds, the net General Account income during 1973-74 was \$251,985,000. Of this total, 66.9 per cent was derived from taxation (66.4 per cent from rates and penalties and 0.5 per cent from licences) ; 19.7 per cent from public works and services ; 0.4 per cent from transfers from business undertakings ; 8.0 per cent from government grants ; and 5.0 per cent from other sources. The total amount collected from taxation (\$168,652,000) was equivalent to \$46.49 per head of population.

Details of the principal items of revenue received during the year ended 30 September 1974 are shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: ORDINARY SERVICES:
REVENUE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1974
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Taxation—				
Rates (net)	13,666	103,188	49,775	166,629
Penalties	32	599	198	830
Licences—				
Dog	6	579	229	815
Other	36	251	91	378
Total taxation	13,741	104,617	50,294	168,652
Public works and services—				
Roads, streets, bridges, drains	182	2,569	2,992	5,743
Health and welfare—				
Sanitary and garbage	38	5,268	2,015	7,321
Other	304	1,754	907	2,964
Council properties, sundry income—				
Parks, gardens, baths, and other recreational facilities	279	2,974	2,297	5,550
Markets	2,319	591	754	3,664
Halls	74	679	462	1,215
Libraries, museums, art galleries	4	125	211	340
Plant operating (surplus)	14	1,455	3,371	4,839
Rents, n.e.i.	785	704	518	2,007
Other	37	731	900	1,668
Council properties, sale of capital assets—				
Plant, furniture, etc.	..	390	493	883
Land and buildings, etc.	..	1,056	432	1,488
Other works and services—				
Car parking fees, fines, etc.	2,709	1,707	1,023	5,439
Building and scaffolding fees	125	1,512	497	2,134
Supervision of private streets	..	952	235	1,188
Other	272	1,581	1,259	3,112
Total public works and services	7,141	24,049	18,366	49,555
Government grants—				
Roads, etc.	..	506	1,196	1,702
Parks, gardens, etc.	3	2,202	2,194	4,399
Unemployment relief, etc.	4	313	945	1,263
Infant welfare	144	1,000	440	1,584
Pre-school	102	1,489	889	2,480
Home help	38	936	317	1,291
Libraries, etc.	75	2,342	1,609	4,026
Other	22	1,390	1,968	3,380
Total government grants	389	10,176	9,559	20,124
Transfers from business undertakings	90	919	39	1,048
Transfers from other council funds	931	6,496	3,407	10,834
Oncost (C.R.B., private streets, etc.)	31	2,438	2,982	5,451
Interest on investments	680	3,637	708	5,025
Other revenue	117	1,320	692	2,128
Total revenue	23,120	153,653	86,047	262,819

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

Excluding \$12,637,000 transferred to other funds, the net General Account expenditure during 1973-74 was \$259,730,000. Of this total, 23.5 per cent was

for roads, streets, etc.; 12.8 per cent for health and welfare; 15.6 per cent for maintenance and operating expenses of parks, gardens, and other council properties; 9.0 per cent for capital expenditure on council properties; 6.1 per cent for other public works and services; 11.4 per cent for debt charges; 1.8 per cent for grants and contributions; 19.4 per cent for administration; and 0.4 per cent for miscellaneous items.

Details of the principal items of expenditure from the General Account during the year ended 30 September 1974 are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: ORDINARY SERVICES:
EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1974
(\$'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	1,605	18,428	18,915	38,948
C.R.B. (main roads maintenance)	7	795	1,045	1,847
C.R.B. (other works)	(b)	1,236	3,347	4,583
Cleaning and watering	1,049	4,998	1,099	7,145
Other	634	2,677	650	3,960
Street lighting	(c)	3,719	938	4,656
Health and welfare—				
Sanitary and garbage services	715	11,230	2,808	14,753
Infant welfare (maintenance)	185	2,887	1,271	4,343
Pre-school (maintenance)	549	1,423	856	2,828
Home help	70	2,852	860	3,782
Elderly citizens	41	1,242	354	1,637
Other	568	3,859	1,424	5,852
Council properties (maintenance and operating expenses)—				
Parks, gardens, baths, and other recreational facilities	2,113	11,397	5,687	19,197
Markets	1,466	351	640	2,457
Halls	675	2,534	1,228	4,436
Libraries, museums, art galleries	258	6,134	1,980	8,373
Workshops and depots	317	1,224	500	2,041
Other	381	1,758	1,733	3,872
Council properties (capital expenditure)—				
Plant, furniture, etc., purchase	107	3,806	3,121	7,034
Land and buildings purchase	1	6,174	444	6,619
Buildings (capital works)	35	3,159	2,907	6,102
Other capital works	31	1,821	1,826	3,678
Other works and services—				
Car parking	1,696	1,865	630	4,192
Building and scaffolding inspection	490	2,222	449	3,161
Supervision of private streets	..	1,377	83	1,460
Dog Act expenses	11	401	214	626
Other	349	4,298	1,672	6,319
Total public works and services	13,353	103,865	56,683	173,901
Debt charges (excluding business undertakings)—				
Interest—				
Loans	3,307	7,822	3,483	14,612
Overdraft	23	349	593	965
Redemption	596	7,179	4,661	12,436
Sinking fund	499	467	133	1,099
Other	465	121	24	610
Total debt charges	4,890	15,938	8,893	29,722

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: ORDINARY SERVICES :
EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1974—*continued*
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Grants—				
Fire brigades	330	2,430	12	2,772
Hospitals and other charities	107	205	136	448
Other	368	575	395	1,338
Total grants	806	3,210	542	4,557
General administration	3,722	28,459	18,330	50,511
Transfers to other council funds	952	7,560	4,124	12,637
Miscellaneous	28	696	314	1,038
Total expenditure	23,752	159,728	88,887	272,367

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

(b) Less than \$500.

(c) 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 1970 to 1974, in respect of general municipal administration, are shown in the following table :

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

Particulars	Year ended 30 September—				
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Salaries (a)	16,604	19,366	21,442	24,565	33,613
Mayoral and presidential allowances	366	399	386	413	442
Audit expenses	174	226	244	241	301
Election expenses	140	140	148	205	248
Legal expenses	363	419	405	441	592
Printing, advertising, postage, telephone, etc.	2,405	2,731	3,247	3,750	4,711
Insurances, n.e.i.	1,814	2,112	2,569	3,011	4,013
Pay-roll tax, n.e.i.	1,301	1,399	37	..	..
Superannuation, n.e.i.	1,722	2,096	3,193	3,563	4,450
Long service leave, n.e.i.	725	750	870	1,116	1,375
Other	450	461	508	605	767
Total	26,063	30,100	33,049	37,910	50,511

(a) Including cost of valuations and travelling expenses, but excluding health officers' salaries which are included under "Health and welfare—other" on page 191.

Municipal business undertakings

In Victoria during 1973-74 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 table which follows shows, for the year ended 30 September 1974, revenue and expenditure of the various types of municipal business undertakings :

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : BUSINESS
UNDERTAKINGS, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1974
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistica Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistica Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
REVENUE				
Water supply—				
Rates, sale of water, etc.	..	24	1,020	1,045
Electricity—				
Charges for services and sales of products, etc.	24,711	50,297	..	75,009
Abattoirs—				
Charges for services and sales of products, etc.	..	524	689	1,212
Other (b)—				
Charges for services and sales of products, etc.	..	147	835	981
Total revenue	24,711	50,992	2,544	78,247
EXPENDITURE				
Water supply—				
Working expenses	..	22	799	821
Depreciation	..	1	68	69
Debt charges	..	2	205	207
Other expenditure	..	..	11	11
Total water supply	..	26	1,083	1,109
Electricity—				
Working expenses	23,193	47,636	..	70,829
Depreciation	1,179	966	..	2,145
Debt charges	571	1,837	..	2,408
Other expenditure	90	860	..	950
Total electricity	25,034	51,299	..	76,332
Abattoirs—				
Working expenses	..	384	648	1,032
Depreciation	..	24	15	40
Debt charges	..	83	38	121
Other expenditure	..	261	32	293
Total abattoirs	..	753	734	1,486
Other (b)—				
Working expenses	..	131	732	863
Depreciation	..	7	45	52
Debt charges	..	..	22	22
Other expenditure	..	10	15	24
Total other	..	148	814	962
Total expenditure	25,034	52,225	2,631	79,889

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

(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 1970 to 1974, the second table details the loan raisings for ordinary services and business undertakings during the year ended 30 September 1974, 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						
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
1974	35,227	1,935	2,755	39,917	30,241	3,757	222	34,219

At 30 September 1974 there were unexpended balances in loan accounts amounting to \$40.2m.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: LOAN ACCOUNT RECEIPTS, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1974

(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	1,800	20,565	12,862	35,227
Business undertakings—				
Water supply	..	..	269	269
Electricity	200	1,216	..	1,416
Abattoirs	..	250	..	250
Other receipts (government grants, recoups, etc.)	1,445	713	597	2,755
Total receipts	3,445	22,744	13,728	39,917

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : LOAN ACCOUNT
EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1974
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Ordinary services—				
Roads, streets, bridges, and drains	511	6,547	2,349	9,408
Health and welfare	3	690	235	928
Property construction—				
Parks, gardens, baths, and other recreational facilities	302	2,112	1,342	3,757
Halls	7	1,541	1,460	3,009
Markets	4	66	37	107
Libraries, etc.	..	419	166	585
Other	19	727	232	979
Plant, furniture, etc., purchase	19	571	1,456	2,046
Land and buildings purchase	349	4,693	1,217	6,258
Off-street parking	73	48	810	931
Other	56	77	2,102	2,235
Total ordinary services	1,345	17,491	11,404	30,241
Business undertakings—				
Water supply	..	..	336	336
Electricity	1,637	1,538	..	3,176
Abattoirs	..	236	10	245
Total business undertakings	1,637	1,774	346	3,757
Other (non-works)	..	183	39	222
Total expenditure	2,982	19,448	11,789	34,219

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

Municipal loan liability

The loan liability of the municipalities in Victoria at the end of each of the five years ended 30 September 1970 to 1974 is shown in the following table. 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—		Total	Accumulated sinking funds	Net loan liability	
	Government	Public			Amount	Per head of population
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$
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
1974	3,976	306,102	310,078	21,845	288,233	84.88

Further reference, 1976

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 shows the receipts and expenditure, etc., for the year ended 30 September 1974 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 1974
(\$'000)**

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)	Municipalities outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
Receipts—			
Loans	990	195	1,185
Bank overdraft (increase)	1,018	274	1,292
Owners' contributions	13,207	2,260	15,467
Other	751	51	802
Total	15,967	2,779	18,746
Expenditure—			
Works	9,636	2,033	11,669
Bank overdraft (decrease)	2,215	210	2,425
Debt charges—			
Interest—			
Loans	1,554	126	1,680
Overdraft	201	38	239
Redemption	2,503	289	2,792
Sinking fund	548	2	550
Other	181	1	183
Other	781	119	900
Total	17,620	2,818	20,439
Cash in hand or in bank at 30 September 1974	5,749	711	6,459
Bank overdraft at 30 September 1974	5,251	1,155	6,407
Loan liability at 30 September 1974	21,916	1,871	23,788

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

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 1970 to 1974 are shown in the following table :

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

Particulars	Year ended 30 September—				
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Receipts—					
Loans	2,357	2,241	4,882	2,470	1,185
Bank overdraft (increase)	426				
Owners' contributions	18,584	17,698	18,786	18,642	15,467
Other	569	534	527	423	802
Total	21,936	20,473	24,194	21,536	17,454
Expenditure—					
Works	14,600	12,841	13,528	12,108	11,669
Bank overdraft (decrease)	..	598	1,531	2,050	1,133
Debt charges—					
Interest—					
Loans	1,603	1,575	1,543	1,756	1,680
Overdraft	382	290	315	233	239
Redemption	3,251	3,257	3,164	3,042	2,792
Sinking fund	434	352	450	589	550
Other	196	250	192	227	183
Other	1,644	1,219	1,355	1,276	900
Total	22,111	20,381	22,078	21,280	19,146
Loan liability at 30 September	26,356	24,728	26,334	25,486	23,788

Further reference, 1976

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 1974
(\$'000)

Particulars	Municipalities in Melbourne Statistical Division (a)		Municipali- ties outside Melbourne Statistical Division	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Receipts—				
Refunds from Country Roads Board	12	10,189	19,511	29,712
Direct payment by Country Roads Board Council's proportion of works on unclassi- fied roads	..	2,108	5,657	7,765
Bank overdraft (increase)	(b)	2,337	3,209	5,546
Other	..	1,335	1,548	2,887
		304	48	352
Total	16	16,274	29,972	46,261
Expenditure—				
Main roads	15	7,917	11,019	18,951
Unclassified roads	(b)	7,288	17,945	25,234
Other roads (State highways, etc.)	(b)	479	725	1,204
Bank overdraft (decrease)	..	314	261	576
Other	(b)	275	22	297
Total	16	16,274	29,972	46,261
Bank overdraft at 30 September 1974	17	2,375	3,448	5,839

(a) See list on pages 238-9.

(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 1970 to 1974 are shown in the following table :

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

Particulars	Year ended 30 September—				
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Receipts—					
Refunds from Country Roads Board	25,475	28,518	30,678	28,339	29,712
Direct payment by Country Roads Board Council's proportion of works on un- classified roads	6,395	7,914	8,222	8,530	7,765
Bank overdraft (increase)	4,448	4,742	5,130	5,069	5,546
Other	589	683	..	182	2,311
	332	298	367	160	352
Total	37,239	42,155	44,397	42,279	45,686
Expenditure—					
Main roads	17,110	19,620	19,097	18,944	18,951
Unclassified roads	19,084	21,180	22,864	22,387	25,234
Other roads (State highways, etc.)	916	1,142	1,373	771	1,204
Bank overdraft (decrease)	..	..	970	..	..
Other	128	214	93	178	297
Total	37,239	42,155	44,397	42,279	45,686
Bank overdraft at 30 September	3,583	4,272	3,347	3,528	5,839

Length of roads and streets

The following table shows the estimated length of all roads and streets open for general traffic in Victoria in 1975. The information was supplied by the Country Roads Board, municipal councils, and other authorities.

**VICTORIA—LENGTH OF ALL ROADS AND STREETS OPEN FOR
GENERAL TRAFFIC AT 30 JUNE 1975
(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.	7,009	13,486	1,056	34,238	55,789
Water-bound macadam, gravel, sand, and hard loam pavements	253	1,095	784	43,857	45,989
Formed, but not otherwise paved	..	12	..	28,165	28,177
Not formed but open for general traffic	..	11	..	29,182	29,193
Total	7,262	14,604	1,840	135,442	159,148

(a) Includes 206 kilometres of freeways consisting of extra-metropolitan freeways (by-pass roads) and metropolitan freeways.

Further reference, 1976**SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES *****Country Roads Board***Introduction*

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 1975 comprised 7,056 kilometres of State highways, 206 kilometres of freeways, 801 kilometres of tourists' roads, 1,038 kilometres of forest roads, and 14,605 kilometres of main roads.

State 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 1975 there were 7,056 kilometres of State highways, 6,803 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.

National highways in Victoria

For a period of three years from 1 July 1974 Commonwealth financial assistance to the States for road purposes was provided under the Roads Grants Act, the National Roads Act, and the Transport (Planning and Research) Act. The National Roads Act provides financial assistance for roads considered to be of national importance.

A national highway is a road or proposed road that in the opinion of the Commonwealth Department of Transport is or will be the principal road linking: (1) two or more State capitals; (2) a State capital city and Canberra; (3) a State capital city and Darwin; (4) Brisbane and Cairns; or (5) Hobart and Burnie; or a road or proposed road that should, in the opinion of the Commonwealth Department of Transport, be treated by reason of its national importance as a national highway.

The construction of national highways in Victoria is carried out by the Country Roads Board as the State's road authority. At present the Hume Highway and the Western Highway have been declared as national highways under the National Roads Act, excluding sections within the urban areas of Melbourne and Ballarat.

Long-term proposals for the Hume Highway include its development to a dual carriageway road from the outskirts of Melbourne to Wodonga. The construction of local by-passes and deviations around settlements and townships, for example, Seymour, Mangalore, Avenel, Euroa, Violet Town, Benalla, and Wangaratta will be considered. The completion of the freeway between Wallan and Broadford in mid-1976 extended the construction of dual carriageways from the outskirts of Melbourne to Seymour.

The Western Highway between Melbourne and Ballarat is being progressively developed to dual carriageway standard. Further work on the sections between Ballarat and Murray Bridge at the South Australian border is a long-term consideration. Work already commenced or completed includes the construction of a four-lane highway between the outskirts of Melbourne and east of Ballan, a freeway by-passing the settlement of Gordon, and dual carriageways between Leigh Creek and Ballarat. The completion of the by-pass of Ballan, Wallace, and Bungaree will provide a continuous four-lane carriageway between Melbourne and Ballarat.

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, Gordon, and Myrning; 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 west 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 801 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 1975 there were 1,038 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 1975 there were 14,605 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.

Finance for roads, 1974-1977

For the three year period 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1977, Commonwealth financial assistance to Victoria for roads was provided under three Commonwealth Acts: the National Roads Act, the Roads Grants Act, and the Transport (Planning and Research) Act.

During this period construction and reconstruction work on Victoria's principal road system was deferred because the level of funds available had fallen short of requirements. Inflation in the road construction industry reduced the amount of work which could be carried out from funds available to the Country Roads Board.

In 1974-75 material prices rose; overall road construction prices increased by 20.2 per cent. The price of road metal for delivery in the Melbourne metropolitan area increased by 53.9 per cent, hot mix, supply and lay, by 27.1 per cent, bitumen by 84.6 per cent, distillate by 38.3 per cent, cement by 22.9 per cent, steel by 14.1 per cent, reinforced concrete pipes by 50.2 per cent, and reinforced concrete box culverts by 99.4 per cent. Wages paid by the Board increased by 13.4 per cent after a 34.1 per cent in the previous year. Salaries increased by 11.6 per cent, following a 29.7 per cent rise in 1973-74.

In recognition of the Board's need for additional revenue the Victorian Government increased motor registration fees from 10 February 1975 by 35 per cent. Notwithstanding this increase, works in progress had to be retarded and several new projects postponed. Road maintenance work was reduced to a minimum compatible with safety and long-term economy.

In the urban areas of Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat, and Bendigo funds were just adequate for the continuation of current projects, but left little scope for new projects.

Sources of finance

The Board's two main sources of finance are Commonwealth and Victorian 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 a major 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. From 1 July 1974, all additional registration fees, less cost of collection, became payable to the newly-created Transport Fund under the control of the Ministry of Transport.

(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 from Commonwealth sources. In 1974-75 receipts from the Commonwealth amounted to \$79m.

Total funds available to the Board in 1974-75, including unexpended balance of \$0.8m brought forward from 1973-74, amounted to \$166.6m.

Receipts and expenditure

Receipts and expenditure covering the operations of the Board for each of the years 1970-71 to 1974-75 are shown in the following table:

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
RECEIPTS					
Fees—Motor Car Act (less cost of collection)	32,895	34,296	35,428	37,537	41,985
Municipalities contributions—Permanent works and maintenance—Main roads	2,018	2,190	2,182	2,136	2,047
Commonwealth grants	41,425	45,300	49,785	55,274	(a)78,977
Roads (Special Projects) Fund	7,761	6,721	5,675	7,643	30,429
Proceeds from Commercial Goods Vehicles Act	8,903	9,136	9,745	10,359	10,038
Loans from Victorian Government	388	400	400	300	300
Grants from Victorian Government	783	983	1,333	568	772
Other receipts	543	713	703	860	1,247
Total	94,715	99,739	105,251	114,677	165,795
EXPENDITURE					
Construction, maintenance, etc., of roads and bridges	79,972	81,453	83,411	92,349	135,107
Plant purchases	1,956	2,060	1,765	1,116	1,783
Buildings, workshops, etc.	599	331	641	565	806
Interest and sinking fund payments	2,504	2,584	2,612	2,619	2,688
Payment to Tourist Fund	617	658	686	709	751
Payment to Transport Regulation Board	513	534	548	585	622
Payment to Traffic Authority Fund	309	329	343	354	375
Payment to Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	..	200	200	200	200
Planning and research	941	1,283	1,157	1,039	2,205
Management and operating expenditure	8,426	10,252	12,123	16,207	21,432
Total	95,838	99,685	103,488	115,742	165,969

(a) Includes \$3,134,000 for relief of unemployment.

Expenditure on roads and bridges

The following table summarises the total expenditure by the Country Roads Board on roads and bridges during each of the five years 1970-71 to 1974-75 :

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
State highways—					
Construction	14,081	15,581	10,931	11,385	17,165
Maintenance	6,384	6,531	7,113	7,589	9,280
Freeways—					
Construction	18,515	17,875	23,341	29,677	47,983
Maintenance	354	471	516	714	1,368
Main roads—					
Construction	13,720	14,217	14,468	13,535	18,029
Maintenance	5,653	6,155	6,192	6,608	8,469
Unclassified roads—					
Construction	14,425	13,737	14,122	15,061	24,169
Maintenance	2,792	3,110	3,391	4,181	4,165
Tourists' roads—					
Construction	1,991	1,566	1,054	1,032	1,032
Maintenance	674	717	695	828	1,102
Forest roads—					
Construction	556	380	349	370	416
Maintenance	347	478	491	540	686
Metropolitan bridges	..	..	..	..	1
Metropolitan Intersection Control Programme	..	..	..	..	333
Murray River bridges and punts	69	120	130	177	123
Traffic line marking	413	515	619	652	784
Total construction	63,287	63,356	64,265	71,060	108,794
Total maintenance	16,204	17,462	18,398	20,460	25,071
Total other	481	635	748	829	1,242
Total expenditure	79,972	81,453	83,411	92,349	135,107

Further reference, 1976

Water supply authorities

The principal authorities controlling water supply for domestic purposes in Victoria at 30 June 1975 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 in Chapter 13. The finances of the Commission are included in tables in Chapter 20 of this *Year Book*.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

Introduction

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is the authority for providing water supply, sewerage, and main drainage services to the Melbourne metropolitan area. 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 the Victorian 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 appointment, 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 the Victorian 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, or planning, rate, all of which are based on net annual valuations of rateable properties with certain minimum amounts payable for the three former rates. 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 usable storage capacity of 610,000 megalitres, including the 27,000 megalitre Greenvale Reservoir and the 287,000 megalitre Cardinia Reservoir.

Greenvale Reservoir, completed in 1971, is a major "off-stream" storage on a branch of the Moonee Ponds Creek and is used as a "balancing" reservoir to supply the northern and western areas of the metropolitan area. Greenvale has virtually no catchment of its own and is supplied by pipeline from either the Yan Yean or Silvan Reservoir systems. Silvan, which is also a balancing storage, stores water from the Upper Yarra, O'Shannassy, and Thomson systems, and was built in the Dandenong Ranges between 1926 and 1932. Cardinia Reservoir, another off-stream storage near Emerald, was completed in 1973 and is the Board's largest storage reservoir, exceeding the capacity of the next largest, Upper Yarra, by some 87,000 megalitres. Cardinia is filling from Upper Yarra, via Silvan, to supply the southern suburbs of Melbourne through the Dandenong and Notting Hill service reservoirs. Apart from Greenvale, Cardinia, Upper Yarra, Silvan, and O'Shannassy Reservoirs, storages at Maroondah, Yan Yean, and Toorourrong are also part of the metropolitan supply network.

In mid-1973, the Victorian Government announced a dam-building programme aimed at further increasing the storage capacity of the water supply system. The proposed programme envisaged the first stage of the Lower Yarra Scheme

involving a storage reservoir on the Yarra River at Yarra Brae, above Warrandyte ; a storage on the Sugarloaf Creek, a tributary of the Yarra near Yarra Glen ; and a major reservoir with a capacity of more than one million megalitres on the Thomson River, near Erica, as stage three of the Thomson diversion scheme. Following an environmental study of the proposals affecting the Yarra River, the Victorian Government subsequently announced that a modified scheme would be built and that the Yarra Brae dam would not proceed. Instead it was decided to proceed with the Sugarloaf Creek reservoir (95,000 megalitres) which will store water pumped from the Yarra River at Yering Gorge, upstream of Yarra Brae, and the nearby Maroondah aqueduct. This water, after being stored in Sugarloaf Reservoir, will be fully treated (because the catchment area is inhabited) and introduced into the supply system. As with the rest of Melbourne's water supply, water from Sugarloaf will be fluoridated in accordance with the requirements of the Health Act.

The proposed Thomson Dam is the third stage of a dual purpose development which began in 1969, and which involves diverting water from the Upper Thomson and Aberfeldy Rivers, more than 170 kilometres east of Melbourne, into the metropolitan supply system. Regulated releases are to be made also for water users in the Thomson valley.

The first stage of the project allowed for diversion of water from the Thomson River through a 19.6 kilometre tunnel running west from the Thomson to Fehrings Creek, a tributary of the Yarra River. Water from the Thomson was channelled into the tunnel, then into the Yarra River via Fehrings Creek. From the Yarra River, the flow entered the Upper Yarra Reservoir.

Stage two of the project involves extending this tunnel at both its western and eastern ends. The western extension carries the tunnel direct to the Yarra River (superseding the Fehrings Creek outlet), while the eastern tunnel extension is designed to allow diversion of flow from the Thomson at a point known as Swingler, below the confluence of the Thomson and Jordan Rivers, thus making use of a larger catchment area. Work on stage two, which also involves construction of a diversion structure and a small concrete dam at Swingler, was well advanced by mid-1976. The western tunnel extension had been completed and put into service, while concrete lining of the eastern extension was scheduled for the second half of the year.

The third stage of the Thomson scheme includes the construction of a large storage reservoir on the Thomson River, north of Erica, extension of the Thomson-Yarra tunnel south-easterly to the reservoir's Melbourne outlet, and an outlet at the dam for downstream water users. A final decision about proceeding with the dam was made by the Victorian Government early in 1976 after a study of the dam's environmental implications during both its construction and subsequent operation phases. The dam's most important virtue will be its ability to store water in wet, or above average, stream flow years, and hence ensure sufficient water in storage for dry, or below average, years. This will enable the Board to operate its existing storages much more efficiently than would be possible without a back-up storage such as the Thompson Reservoir. In addition, the dam will provide regulation of the stored water to supplement the variable flows in the Thomson River downstream of it to ensure that water users in the downstream Thomson valley-Gippsland area receive a guaranteed flow to meet requirements for irrigation and town supply. The reservoir will also provide some degree of flood mitigation downstream.

The Thomson Dam is being designed by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, and preliminary work on construction of roads and camp sites started early in 1976. Work on the other part of this stage—an extension of the main tunnel from Swingler to the proposed Thomson Reservoir—is being designed by Board engineers and construction was scheduled to start in 1977.

Water reaches houses and industry in the Melbourne metropolitan area 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 1975, 809,372 improved properties were connected to the Board's water reticulation system and the estimated total population being supplied with water was 2,475,000. Average daily consumption per head of estimated population served was 393.66 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 1970-71 to 1974-75, together with the total expenditure (less depreciation) to 30 June 1975 :

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	Total cost to 30 June 1975
Yan Yean System (including Greenvale)	2,440	1,293	813	246	320	15,630
Maroondah System	37	44	47	136	802	7,057
O'Shannassy, Upper Yarra, and Thomson System (including Silvan and Cardinia)	7,824	14,202	19,923	26,350	36,678	166,408
Service reservoirs	1,680	895	441	1,286	1,627	12,897
Large mains and pumping stations	5,401	7,027	9,827	6,134	3,690	88,106
Reticulation	4,666	4,412	4,667	4,533	5,963	79,098
Afforestation	5	8	5	2	22	730
Investigations, future works	148	209	796	1,994	1,917	5,429
Total outlay	22,201	28,089	36,519	40,681	51,017	375,356

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.

Stream flow 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 1970-71 to 1974-75 are shown in the following table :

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
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
1974-75	31,900	108,500	170,300	351,000	25,300	687,000

Consumption of water

During the year ended 30 June 1975 the maximum consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs on any one day was 2,274 megalitres on 7 February 1975, and the minimum consumption was 620 megalitres on 26 December 1974.

The following table shows, for each of the years 1970-71 to 1974-75, 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
1970-71	696,018	332,506	1,863	502	911	393.01	559,000
1971-72	722,016	331,465	1,943	568	906	384.33	575,221
1972-73	748,990	315,208	1,637	534	864	357.60	591,673
1973-74	787,052	361,858	2,202	590	991	405.48	621,161
1974-75	809,372	355,625	2,274	620	974	393.66	640,165

Sewerage system

Farm at Werribee

For nearly eighty years, the Board's Metropolitan Farm at Werribee treated and disposed of some 96 per cent of the wastes 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 when work started on a new pumping station at Brooklyn nearly twice the capacity of the original Spotswood plant. The new plant was commissioned in 1964. Other measures to improve sewerage services include introduction of the South-eastern Sewerage System, and construction of the Dandenong Valley Trunk Sewer, and associated "feeder" sewers to expand the sewerage system in the eastern sector of the metropolis. The Board also plans, when adequate funds are available, to build a North-west Intercepting Sewer to divert wastes from the north-western sector of the metropolitan area to the Brooklyn Pumping Station and thence the Werribee Farm. Subject to the same consideration, a Western Trunk Sewer to replace the existing Main Outfall Sewer, which has been in service since 1897, and sections of which are deteriorated open channel, is planned. However, priority is being given to investigations to determine the best way of augmenting existing treatment facilities at the Werribee Farm to enable it to cope with future demands.

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 economic venture. Adjoining Port Phillip Bay to the south of Werribee it has grown from 3,200 hectares of barren land to about 10,800 hectares supporting up to 22,000 beef cattle and 30,000 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 1975 is shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS:
FARM AT WERRIBEE, 1974-75

Total area of farm	10,849 hectares
Area used for wastewater disposal	7,289 hectares
Average rainfall over 82 years	488 millimetres
Net cost of wastewater purification per head of population served	\$1.96
Loss on cattle and sheep	\$262,514

Further facilities at Werribee

Additional purification facilities will need to be in operation at the Werribee Farm by the early 1980s to enable the Farm to cope with increasing sewage flows and the higher waste content of sewage from the industrialised central, northern and western sectors of Melbourne. The existing facilities will need to be amplified to enable continued development in those areas and to ensure that the beneficial uses of Port Phillip Bay, adjacent to the Farm's shoreline are protected.

The Sewerage Committee of the Board, early in 1975, directed that a study of the Environmental Implications of Purification Schemes for the Western Sewerage System be undertaken. The study began late in 1975 and consists of investigations into alternative proposals for the treatment and disposal of sewage at the Farm, consistent with economical and environmental considerations. The effects that each alternative would have on the environment are receiving particular attention. Because, like the rest of Australia, Victoria has limited natural water resources, the study is also investigating the practicability of re-using sewage effluent, particularly for agricultural or industrial purposes and for groundwater recharge.

Detailed investigations are being undertaken into the specific methods of purification which could be used to achieve the quality of effluent required at the Farm in future years. Also being investigated is the continued use of the Farm for further purification of effluent from any new facilities, and the disposal of effluent in excess of the Farm's capacity, ensuring protection of the beneficial uses of the waters receiving the effluent. In the schemes being considered, the Farm's land would be used for additional sewage purification and the livestock grazing activity would continue in normal years to produce an economic return.

The basic objectives of the environmental study are to ascertain the environmental implications of purification schemes being considered for the Western Sewerage System by investigating such matters as the effects on the environment, the technical practicability and reliability of each scheme, the effects on the flora and fauna (especially the bird life), the economic feasibility of the alternative scheme, means of ensuring that no odours are produced at the Farm, the effects on the community of any increasing traffic in the area, the effects on the employment situation within the local communities, the problems of acquiring private land by purchase or easement, and any access difficulties to such land.

Currently, areas of the Farm are being used for important experiments involving the use of purified sewage. Vegetable crops and trees are being irrigated with effluent and the effectiveness of using stabilised sludge as a fertiliser is being investigated. The experiments are expected to make a significant contribution to world knowledge in the area of wastewater recycling.

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 persons, 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 plant 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 plant in the South-eastern System was the subject of thorough investigations, having regard to the following important factors: 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); an adequate area to provide a buffer zone between the purification units and adjoining private property; sufficient isolation from existing residential areas; suitable topography, elevation above sea level, and sub-soil conditions; proximity to the area served to ensure that the sewage reaches the purification plant in a reasonably fresh condition,

thereby minimising hydrogen sulphide problems; suitable location with regard to the point of final dispersal of the purified effluent; and 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 4 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 616 hectares. 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 twelve years after the initial stage was brought into operation), following which the treatment capacity and outfall will be amplified by stages.

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. Stage two of the outfall will double the available discharge capacity. The position will require further examination based on actual flow conditions in about the year 2025 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 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. An important component of the Sewerage System to serve the eastern areas of Melbourne is the Dandenong Valley Trunk Sewer, which is now under construction. The sewer will extend from the Bayswater-Ringwood area to the purification plant at Carrum, and tributary sewers are being built simultaneously in the valleys of the Blind Creek, Corhanwarrabul Creek, and Eumemmerring Creek. As 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 neighbourhood plants will similarly become redundant, in due course, as main sewers are extended into the areas they serve.

There is likely to be considerable long-term potential for the use of purified effluent from the Carrum plant, but the initial demand and opportunities in the

immediate future will be small in comparison with the quantities available. Significant advances towards full-scale re-use might be achieved in the future.

Further reference, 1976

Cost of the sewerage system

The cost of sewerage works during each of the years 1970-71 to 1974-75, and the total cost (less depreciation) to 30 June 1975 are shown in the following table:

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	Total cost to 30 June 1975
Farm purchase and preparation	488	519	707	496	560	14,501
Treatment works	4,671	10,760	21,091	21,265	11,425	79,057
Outfall sewer and rising mains	5,911	15,012	16,675	2,975	1,430	47,163
Pumping stations, buildings, and plant	1,784	2,750	4,770	4,935	2,772	33,965
Main and branch sewers	12,633	11,853	12,879	24,201	43,301	211,045
Reticulation sewers	5,632	5,979	7,001	12,096	20,067	150,112
Cost of house connections charge- able to capital	..	..	..	..	..	794
Sanitary depots	Cr. 1	2	..	Cr. 48	(a)	706
Investigations	220	220	149	1,057	1,437	4,342
Total outlay	31,338	47,095	63,273	66,978	80,992	541,686

(a) Less than \$500.

Disposal of nightsoil from unsewered premises

The responsibility for the collection, removal, and disposal of nightsoil from unsewered premises within the Melbourne metropolitan area 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 1974-75 working expenses were \$191,988, and interest \$40,457 making a total of \$232,445. Revenue was \$400,804, giving a surplus of \$168,359.

Drainage and rivers

The Board has been responsible since 1923 for main stormwater drainage in the metropolitan area, 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 open and underground drain construction, maintenance, and beautification. Local drainage responsibilities i.e., those relating to areas of less than about 60 hectares, rest with the various municipal councils.

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 more than twenty retarding basins in the metropolitan area which are, in effect, small dams which release water at a slower rate than in its flow during the peak of floods. Because

of the silty and sandy nature of soils around Melbourne, erosion near water courses can be quite a fast process. Lined channels are used in especially susceptible areas, and other measures include the building of rock walls and the planting of grass and trees to consolidate and beautify the banks.

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.

Most of the rivers and streams throughout the Melbourne 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 sewered 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 Environment Protection Authority 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 Environment Protection Authority 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 1975 was \$57m. The length of the main drains under the control of the Board at 30 June 1975 was 454 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 are being designed for a variety of recreational uses and activities, both passive and active. In the short-term, the proposals cover three specific areas, and in the long-term an extensive metropolitan parks system will be organised and developed. The three initial areas chosen for development as parks are the Yarra valley—1,700 hectares containing the flood plain and adjacent slopes of the valley of the Yarra River extending from Burke Road, Ivanhoe, to

Pound Bend, Warrandyte ; the Dandenong valley—1,300 hectares extending south from Boronia Road, Nunawading, to Wellington Road, Mulgrave, and featuring the flood plain and adjoining slopes of the valley of the Dandenong Creek ; and the Maribyrnong valley—200 hectares comprising the various open space reserves bordering the Maribyrnong River between the Calder Highway and Sunshine Road around the Horseshoe Bend area at Keilor. Other designated areas at Point Cook and Braeside will be developed at a later stage.

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 initial areas which have been classified for development as parks are close to settled areas of the metropolis. The selected locations 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 integrated, 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 significant contribution to metropolitan recreational facilities. In each 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. The first sections of the Dandenong valley and Maribyrnong valley metropolitan parks were opened to the public in mid-1976.

Metropolitan planning, 1974

Assessed value of property

The net annual value of property in 1974-75 for the purpose of the Board's rating is shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS:
ASSESSSED VALUE OF PROPERTY RATED, 1974-75
(\$m)

Rate	Net annual value of property
Water rate	769.9
Metropolitan general rate (for sewerage services)	623.3
Metropolitan drainage and river improvement rate	662.5
Metropolitan improvement rate	794.3

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 Board is empowered under Section 187 of its Act to borrow up to \$1,000m, exclusive of loans of \$4.8m originally raised by the Victorian Government for the construction of waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. In addition, the Board may, under Section 200 of its Act, receive advances by way of loan from the Treasurer of Victoria, and the value of these loans is not included in the limit of \$1,000m quoted in Section 187. At 30 June 1975, the Board's total loan liability amounted to \$866.7m, of which \$736.1m had been incurred under Section 187. All moneys borrowed are charged and secured upon the Board's revenues.

Revenue, expenditure, etc.

The following table 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 1970-71 to 1974-75. The Board keeps a separate account of its financial activities as the Metropolitan Planning Authority.

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
REVENUE					
Water supply—					
Water rates and charges (including revenue from water supplied by measure)	22,785	26,934	30,960	34,926	44,960
Sewerage—					
Sewerage rates	24,925	30,648	32,083	41,294	57,688
Trade waste charges	2,864	3,126	3,168	3,490	1,280
Sanitary charges	571	609	1,225	1,329	3,471
Metropolitan farm—					
Grazing fees, rents, pastures, etc.	5	4	4	3	3
Balance, livestock account	256	279	589	756	Dr. 263
Metropolitan drainage and rivers—					
Drainage and river improvement rate	5,937	6,139	6,299	8,068	8,366
River water charges	22	18	13	12	16
Total	57,365	67,757	74,340	89,878	115,521
EXPENDITURE					
Water supply—					
Management	3,603	3,529	4,655	6,068	6,394
Maintenance	4,798	5,899	6,916	8,226	11,531
Water supply works	860	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Sewerage—					
Management	2,915	3,401	4,365	5,811	9,232
Maintenance	3,757	4,101	5,098	6,616	11,364
Sewerage works	1,700	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
Metropolitan farm—					
Management	212	256	329	399	465
Maintenance	1,308	1,296	1,441	1,645	2,118

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
<i>EXPENDITURE—continued</i>					
Metropolitan drainage and rivers—					
Management	647	709	979	1,298	1,053
Maintenance	1,321	1,539	1,626	2,097	2,734
Drainage works	990	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Pensions and allowances	418	544	283	376	404
Loan flotation expenses	474	369	273	384	628
Interest (including exchange)	26,701	30,699	36,978	42,027	51,708
Contributions to—					
Sinking fund	1,468	1,677	1,883	2,023	2,210
Loans redeemed reserve	2,384	2,840	3,616	4,125	4,955
Renewals fund	1,004	1,148	988	1,109	1,151
Depreciation	251	329	341	264	320
Superannuation account	1,641	2,733	871	1,640	3,123
Municipalities—					
For road maintenance	63	59	49	62	62
Valuations	129	133	150	204	211
Rates equalisation reserve	718	1,493	Cr. 1,513	505	858
Other	3	3	13	..	..
Total	57,365	67,757	74,340	89,878	115,521
Capital outlay at 30 June—					
Water supply	220,191	247,138	283,657	324,338	375,356
Sewerage	283,348	330,443	393,716	460,694	541,686
Drainage and river improvement works	39,802	41,657	45,215	49,285	57,104

Town planning, metropolitan freeways, etc.

As a result of the passing of the *Metropolitan Bridges, Highways, and Foreshores Act 1974* by the Victorian Parliament, 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.

Also, under the same Act, the Board's responsibility for foreshores reverted to the Public Works Department.

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 1970-71 to 1974-75:

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Revenue—					
Metropolitan improvement rate and sundry income	8,437	8,682	9,022	11,760	12,438
Recoup from Country Roads Board	..	..	..	..	1,026
Total revenue	8,437	8,682	9,022	11,760	13,464

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Expenditure—					
Management	1,534	1,720	1,644	2,144	2,936
Maintenance	345	900	1,216	1,110	42
Interest	57	59	65	70	73
Contributions to sinking fund	24	24	24	24	24
Transfers to planning and highways reserve	6,388	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Compensation for reserved land and acquisitions (b)	..	4,938	4,441	6,056	9,303
Road and foreshore works (b)	..	4,252	1,452	114	..
Contribution to Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority	..	..	174	306	721
Transfer to rates equalisation fund (b)	..	Cr. 3,417	Cr. 163	1,778	61
Other	88	207	170	158	303
Total expenditure	8,437	8,682	9,022	11,760	13,464
Capital outlay at 30 June (c)	82,262	103,370	121,580	145,472 (d)	41,121

(a) Planning and highways reserve was discontinued from 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 : 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.

(d) Excludes highways and bridge works, and foreshore works, responsibility for which has been transferred to other authorities.

Further references, 1974, 1975, 1976

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 persons. 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 96 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 1974-75 the Commission directly administered the water supply to 151 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 40 small towns in the Wimmera-Mallee and 22 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 1975 local authorities constituted for the administration of town water supplies numbered 208, all of which had works in operation serving a total of 303 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 during 1974. However, municipally controlled water supply undertakings have been excluded, as details of their finances are shown on page

**VICTORIA—COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITIES:
INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC., 1974**

Particulars	Ballarat	Geelong	Latrobe valley	Other (a)	Total
At end of year—					
Estimated population served	67,900	127,660	(b)	437,984	633,544
Number of properties supplied	24,035	38,034	(b)	141,324	203,393
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
For year—					
Income	1,045	2,925	985	6,597	11,552
Expenditure	1,055	2,983	740	6,124	10,902
At end of year—					
Works, etc., at cost	6,410	24,516	(c) 17,937	71,636	(d) 120,499
Loan liability	5,471	22,727	(c) 16,966	50,275	(d) 95,439

(a) Consists of 187 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) See 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 118 sewerage authorities constituted at 30 June 1975 (including the Ballarat Sewerage Authority, the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board), 98 authorities had systems in operation. A further thirteen authorities had systems under construction.

The following table shows particulars of all country sewerage systems that were in operation or in the course of construction (with the exception of those controlled by the State Electricity Commission) during 1974:

**VICTORIA—COUNTRY SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES: POPULATION SERVED,
PROPERTIES CONNECTED, INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC., 1974**

Particulars	Ballarat	Geelong	Latrobe valley	Other (a)	Total
At end of year—					
Estimated population served	61,200	120,607	(b)	610,119	791,926
Number of properties connected to sewers	18,613	34,459	(b)	185,599	238,671

VICTORIA—COUNTRY SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES: POPULATION SERVED,
PROPERTIES CONNECTED, INCOME, EXPENDITURE, ETC., 1974—*continued*

Particulars	Ballarat	Geelong	Latrobe valley	Other (a)	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
General revenue account—					
Income—					
Rates	501	1,605	(b)	7,647	9,753
Other	340	283	472	4,398	5,493
Total	841	1,889	472	12,045	15,247
Expenditure—					
Working expenses	355	867	300	4,942	6,464
Other	506	1,082	259	7,064	8,911
Total	862	1,949	559	12,006	15,375
House connections account—					
Receipts	44	30	..	1,856	1,930
Expenditure	35	30	..	2,086	2,151
Loan account—					
Receipts	767	1,194	79	14,382	16,423
Expenditure	701	747	79	12,773	14,301
Loan liability (at end of year)	6,724	16,660	(c)5,987	95,838 (d)	125,208

(a) Consists of 102 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) Figures from Consolidated Balance Sheet; includes loan liability of water supply.

(d) See 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 1970 to 1974 are shown in the following table:

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

Particulars	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Number of systems in operation	78	83	88	89	96
Number of systems under construction	11	12	10	12	9
Estimated population served (at end of year)	664,089	698,886	734,266	753,780	791,926
Number of properties connected to sewers (at end of year)	196,205	207,858	218,671	225,836	238,671
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
General revenue account—					
Income—					
Rates	6,134	6,815	7,705	8,529	9,753
Other	2,967	3,316	3,851	4,459	5,493
Total	9,101	10,131	11,557	12,987	15,247
Expenditure—					
Working expenses	2,963	3,608	4,373	5,085	6,464
Other	5,902	6,336	7,053	7,882	8,911
Total	8,864	9,945	11,425	12,967	15,375
House connections account—					
Receipts	1,965	1,729	2,552	2,753	1,930
Expenditure	1,943	1,698	2,049	2,439	2,151

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

Particulars	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loan account—					
Receipts	10,087	8,794	12,399	14,332	16,423
Expenditure	9,251	10,513	10,303	11,391	14,301
Loan liability (at end of year)	88,657	94,228	104,516 (a)	125,090 (a)	125,208

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

Further reference, 1976

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board

Until 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. As a result of amended legislation, operative since the beginning of 1974, contributions have subsequently been received in the proportions of one eighth from the Victorian Government, one eighth from municipal councils, and three quarters from fire insurance companies. During 1974–75 contributions by municipalities were equivalent to 0.35 cents in the dollar of the annual value of property, amounting to \$672m, while fire insurance companies contributed at a rate of \$28.007 for every \$100 of fire insurance premiums paid on insured property. Premiums received in the Metropolitan Fire District in 1974–75 amounted to \$50.9m.

Particulars of the revenue, expenditure, and loan indebtedness of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board for each of the years 1970–71 to 1974–75 are shown in the following table:

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

Particulars	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74	1974–75
REVENUE					
Statutory contributions—					
Treasurer of Victoria				889	2,376
Municipalities	3,037	3,149	3,864	3,264	2,372
Insurance companies	6,070	6,299	7,652	10,040	14,254
Brokers and owners	65	170	125	118	194
Charges for services	779	858	966	1,220	1,623
Interest and sundries	421	527	538	673	808
Total	10,371	11,003	13,146	16,204	21,627
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries	6,424	7,800	8,749	11,223	14,587
Administrative charges, etc.	1,068	943	1,078	1,380	1,760
Allowances to partially-paid firemen and special service staff	486	552	601	735	968
Plant purchase and repairs	720	523	655	686	927
Interest	31	48	128	188	223
Repayment of loans	17	21	34	47	53
Superannuation fund	568	670	750	940	1,371
Motor replacement reserve	154	164	205	220	242
Pay-roll tax	180	289	336	533	791
Properties—additions	424	227	43	1,022	325
Miscellaneous	23	29	27	41	52
Total	10,095	11,266	12,606	17,015	21,299
Net surplus (+) or deficit (—)	+277	—264	+540	—811	+328
Loan indebtedness at 30 June	537	1,717	2,883	3,236	3,683

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 for each of the years 1971 to 1975 :

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

Particulars	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Fire stations	46	46	47	47	47
Staff employed—					
Fire fighting	1,242	1,226	1,248	1,321	1,396
All other	271	250	251	272	282

Further reference, 1976

Country Fire Authority

The headquarters of the Country Fire Authority are situated in Malvern, a suburb of Melbourne, where an operations centre is in direct radio contact with every fire control region throughout Victoria. At 30 June 1975 there were 92 permanent firemen employed in brigades at Ballarat, Bendigo, Boronia, Dandenong, Frankston, Geelong, North Geelong, Geelong West, and Springvale, with a total of 89 permanent brigade officers at these stations and at Chelsea, Doveton, Mildura, Morwell, Norlane, Shepparton, Traralgon, Wangaratta, and Warrnambool.

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 155 insurance companies thus contributing during 1974-75.

Up to 30 June 1975 the Authority had raised 104 loans, representing a total of \$9.2m, 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 1970-71 to 1974-75, are shown in the first of the following tables. The second table shows particulars of the number of fire brigades, personnel, and motor vehicles for the same years.

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

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
REVENUE					
Statutory contributions—					
Municipalities Assistance Fund	1,309	1,498	1,638	2,144	2,883
Insurance companies	2,618	2,996	3,277	4,288	5,766
Other	184	103	166	212	326
Total	4,111	4,597	5,081	6,644	8,975
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries and wages	1,781	2,009	2,474	3,346	4,662
Depreciation	139	157	355	387	Cr. 36
Insurance	225	164	164	201	235
Interest	224	260	276	315	383
Maintenance	641	655	766	816	1,274
Motor replacement fund	316	342	180	180	656
Other	589	707	838	1,066	1,598
Total	3,915	4,294	5,053	6,311	8,772
Net surplus	196	303	28	333	203
Loan expenditure	628	668	446	628	944
Loan indebtedness (at 30 June)	3,897	4,275	4,650	5,235	6,179

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

Particulars	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Fire brigades—					
Urban	212	212	212	215	215
Rural	1,052	1,049	1,054	1,061	1,061
Personnel—					
Permanent	311	319	331	371	398
Volunteer	112,730	113,221	114,709	117,250	118,283
Vehicular fleet—					
Self-propelled	1,320	1,379	1,390	1,411	1,452
Trailer units	335	383	395	420	389

Further reference, 1976

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

The following table shows particulars of the new money loan raisings for capital works, during each of the years 1970-71 to 1974-75, 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	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
LOCAL GOVERNMENT					
Due to government	458	277	39	181	465
Due to public creditor	26,155	37,248	43,478	38,932	51,249
Total	26,613	37,525	43,517	39,113	51,715
SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL, ETC.					
Due to government	55,940	50,204	70,092	100,544	143,239
Due to public creditor	141,113	158,458	203,297	196,722	234,983
Total	197,053	208,662	273,389	297,266	378,222
ALL AUTHORITIES					
Due to government	56,398	50,481	70,131	100,724	143,704
Due to public creditor	167,268	195,706	246,775	235,654	286,233
Total	223,666	246,187	316,906	336,379	429,937

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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.