

CHAPTER IV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction.

1. **General.**—The construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries are generally part of the functions of local authorities, but in New South Wales and South Australia, more especially in the large unincorporated areas, these duties are undertaken directly by the Government. In some States, moreover, a certain proportion of the roads and bridges is constructed and maintained by the Government, which, in addition, advances money for main roads to be expended by municipalities under the supervision of special Boards. Although roads, bridges and ferries constructed and maintained directly by Government do not properly come under the heading of "Local Government," they have been included in this chapter for the sake of convenience. The following statistics relating to "Local Government" are somewhat incomplete and otherwise unsatisfactory, but, hitherto, it has not been possible to obtain more complete information. A defect in the figures is due to inconsistency in some cases in the treatment of proceeds of loans and the expenditure thereof. These are sometimes included with the general revenue and expenditure, at others they are shown separately, and in still further cases particulars of loan receipts and expenditure have not been supplied.

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

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

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

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

§ 2. Government Roads, Bridges, Etc.

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

(ii) *Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* At the 30th June, 1932, the "National" works consisted of 97 bridges with a total length of 33,840 feet, and 5 ferries, while in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division, under the control of the Public Works Department, there were 6,181 miles of roads (of which 301 miles were metalled or ballasted, 662 formed only, and 2,503 cleared only), 149 bridges of a total length of 19,647 feet, 736 culverts, 1,130 causeways, and 5 hand punts.

(iii) *Expenditure on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* The total expenditure by the Government during 1931-32 was £1,696,272, comprising expenditure from votes of the Public Works Department £161,903, from funds of the Main Roads Board £1,311,698 and endowments and grants to Councils from votes of the Local Government Department £222,671.

The Government expenditure in connexion with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, £1,629,178 in 1931-32 and £9,766,124 to the 30th June, 1932, is not included in the above figures. Of the total sum expended on the bridge to date, £8,088,437 was provided by General Loan Account, £1,667,378 from proceeds of municipal and shire rates and £10,304 from the Unemployment Relief Fund. Interest and exchange accounted for £1,484,902, and resumptions for £1,325,789. Surplus lands included in resumptions are to be sold, thus reducing the total cost of the bridge.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *General.* A small sum is expended annually by the State Government on roads and bridges, and a considerable amount of loan money is advanced in each year to the Country Roads Board for the purpose of constructing and maintaining main and developmental roads. The amount expended from loan and on account of loan funds, during the year ending 30th June, 1931, was £211,603, and in 1931-32, £85,582. An annual payment temporarily reduced from £50,000 to £40,000 is also made out of Consolidated Revenue to the Board for maintenance works.

(ii) *Direct Expenditure by Government.* The amount of money expended directly by the Government through the Public Works Department on roads and bridges during the year 1931-32 was £42,167.

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

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

(1) *Country Roads Board Fund.* All registration fees, licence fees and fines under the Motor Car Act, all licence fees and fines under the Motor Omnibus Act, and all registration fees and fines for traction-engines are credited to this fund. The total receipts for the year 1931-32 were £1,547,532, made up as follows:—Motor registration and licence fees £1,058,490; contributions by municipalities for permanent works £142,636, and for maintenance works £171,434; sale of stores and material £106,167; and other sources £68,805. The expenditure for the year was £1,518,383, comprising maintenance and reconditioning of main roads and State highways £647,422; interest, stores, administration, etc., £700,691; road construction £7,952; and other expenses £162,318.

(2) *Country Roads Board Loan Account.* Loans to the amount of £4,822,000 have been authorized from time to time for permanent works under the Country Roads Acts. One half of the amount expended on permanent works and one-third of the amount expended on maintenance must be refunded by the municipalities affected, 6 per cent. of the amount due in respect of permanent works being payable annually, and the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid before the 1st of July in each year. A special rate, not exceeding 6d. in the pound, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality for the purpose of such repayment. Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £16,700, and the total to that date £4,630,366.

(3) *Developmental Roads Loan Account.* For the purpose of constructing and maintaining subsidiary or developmental roads, the Government has been authorized to borrow sums aggregating £6,475,000. The work is carried out under the supervision of the Country Roads Board, and the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability; the municipalities, however, are required to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan and to maintain the roads when constructed. The amount expended during the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £81,967, and the total expenditure to that date was £6,146,956.

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

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

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

At 30th June, 1932, there were 8,776 miles of roads gazetted in the State, comprising 6,687 miles of main, 419 miles of developmental, 102 miles of tourist roads, and 1,568 miles of State highways; 1,991 miles of roadway and 33,457 lineal feet of bridges had been completed at that date, and 290 miles of road and 3,733 lineal feet of bridges were in course of construction. In addition, there were at 30th June, 1932, 44 miles of roads in course of construction under the State Unemployment Relief Scheme.

During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the receipts of the Commission amounted to £1,576,655, including £200,000 from the Treasury Loan Fund, £470,497 from motor fees, £355,480 from the Commonwealth for works under the Federal Aid Road scheme and £425,056 from the State Unemployment Relief Scheme. Disbursements amounted to £1,239,719, including £234,918 on permanent works, £198,378 on works under the Federal Aid Roads scheme, £138,863 on the maintenance of roads and £424,396 on works under the State Unemployment Relief scheme.

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

The Main Roads Fund is to be credited with (a) licence fees and registration fees under the Motor Vehicles Acts 1921 to 1929; (b) licence fees under the Vehicles (Licensing) Act 1925; (c) fines, penalties, and forfeitures in respect of convictions for offences against the Motor Vehicles Acts (exclusive of any sum received for costs), or the Width of Tires Acts; (d) fees for hawkers' licences issued by the Treasurer; (e) contributions from Councils; (f) all sums appropriated by Parliament for main roads; (g) all loans raised and appropriated for main roads. In accordance with legislation passed in 1930 and 1932 a considerable portion of these receipts is temporarily payable into general revenue. All moneys received by the State from the Commonwealth under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement are also expended by the Commissioner of Highways under the general provisions of the Highways Act.

The expenditure from the Main Roads Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £351,991; the amount received from the Commonwealth Government for expenditure on Federal Aid Roads was £234,128; the amount allocated for roads in newly settled areas, etc., was £12,018; and grants in aid of rates collected paid to Councils amounted to £27,000. In the sparsely-settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department under arrangement with the Commissioner of Highways. The amount expended during the same period was £7,971.

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

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

Up to the 30th June, 1932, the loan expenditure on these works was £5,015,444 (roads, £4,138,248; tracks, £232,930; bridges, £644,266). In addition, half the proceeds of the sale of land has been applied to form a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. Under this provision £686,134 has been expended. This fund has in recent years more than met the demands on it, and expenditure therefrom since 1918 has been limited to £10,000 annually, the balance being used for redemption of debt.

The Government loan expenditure during the year 1931-32 on the construction of roads and bridges was £27,040, and expenditure from the Crown Lands Fund £1,722. In addition, the sum of £61,441 provided by the Commonwealth Government was expended on roads: the conditional expenditure by the State Government is included in the above figures. The amount of new-road mileage for the year was 43 miles cleared, 68 miles formed, 48 miles metalled, and 18 miles gravelled, including 21, 26, 27 and 1 miles respectively constructed out of Federal and State votes under the Federal Aid Roads and Federal Relief schemes.

(ii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads, other than "State highways," is undertaken by the municipalities out of their own revenues. All bridges which cost over £50 are maintained by the State Government. The maintenance of "State highways" is provided for by the *State Highways Act 1929*, which created the State Highways Trust Fund to which is to be paid from Consolidated Revenue and credited annually in each financial year for the purposes of the Act a sum equal to the amount of all motor taxes collected in the immediately preceding financial year and paid into the Treasury, less 2 per cent. The length of "State highways" is 1,101 miles and the expenditure thereon for 1931-32 was £49,519.

7. **Summary of Net Loan Expenditure on Roads and Bridges.**—Figures showing the total expenditure on roads and bridges in the States are not available. The subjoined statement, however, gives the amounts of net loan expenditure by the State Governments up to the 30th June, 1932.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—GOVERNMENT NET LOAN EXPENDITURE TO THE 30th JUNE, 1932.

Expenditure.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total to 30/6/32	16,203,359	11,727,876	3,811,662	3,149,536	1,975,797	5,015,444	41,883,674

The following table shows the annual net loan expenditure on roads and bridges by the central Governments in each State during the years 1927-28 to 1931-32:—

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—NET LOAN EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1928 ..	2,558,070	926,134	262,203	144,866	364,223	176,118	4,431,614
1929 ..	3,120,075	820,778	342,152	10,856	384,685	204,546	4,883,092
1930 ..	1,615,873	716,111	356,967	Cr. 31,419	315,325	168,531	3,141,388
1931 ..	1,593,202	216,784	181,758	Cr. 16,446	..	67,706	2,043,004
1932 ..	1,277,197	99,073	188,799	Cr. 36,472	..	27,040	1,555,637

(a) Represents expenditure from loan and on account of loan.

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

§ 3. Municipalities, Shires, Etc.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i) *General.* Practically the whole of the State, with the exception of the greater portion of the Western Division, has been divided into municipalities and shires, the total area incorporated at the end of 1931 being 184,008 square miles, of which 2,424 square miles are included in the former and 181,584 in the latter. The areas incorporated comprise the whole of the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State (with the exception of Lord Howe Island, the islands in Port Jackson and the quarantine station at Port Jackson) and a small portion of the Western Division consisting of the whole of six and part of two municipalities.

(ii) *Municipalities.*—(a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number, area and population of municipalities, together with the length of roads and the number of bridges and ferries therein for the year 1931 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No. of Municipalities.	Sydney and Suburbs.		Country.		Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
		Area.	Population.	Area.	Population.			
1931	181	Acres. 115,896	No. 1,161,020	Acres. 1,435,659	No. 637,700	Miles. 10,858(a)	No. 645(b)	No. 38(a)

(a) Year 1930.

(b) Year 1927—latest available.

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

(b) *Unimproved and Improved Values.* The table hereunder gives a comparison of the unimproved and improved values for the year 1931 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—CAPITAL VALUES.

Year.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Total Metropolis.	Country.	Grand Total.
UNIMPROVED VALUE.					
1931	£ 56,960,774(a)	£ 109,303,461	£ 166,264,235	£ 49,733,010	£ 215,997,245
IMPROVED VALUE.					
1931	192,194,440a	309,789,207	501,983,647	156,154,313	658,137,960

(a) Exclusive of Federal Government and other non-rateable properties for which valuation was not made.

(c) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Particulars of the revenue and expenditure of municipalities for the year ending 31st December, 1931, under various headings, are given below :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
REVENUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Rates and charges ..	(a)1,082,930	2,313,174	1,157,671	4,553,775
Public works	34,548	305,535	203,404	543,487
Health administration ..	43,517	159,423	278,313	481,253
Public services	137,587	33,512	31,298	202,397
Municipal property ..	24,873	26,662	57,819	109,354
Other	325,060	29,966	24,371	379,397
Total ordinary services ..	1,648,515	2,868,272	1,752,876	6,269,663
Trading accounts	(b)2,319,578	51,536	1,065,523	3,436,637
Water and sewerage accounts .. ..	..	..	401,042	401,042
Gross revenue	3,968,093	2,919,808	3,219,441	10,107,342
EXPENDITURE.				
Administration	71,535	156,366	163,069	390,970
Public works	161,661	1,347,399	697,311	2,206,371
Health administration ..	165,039	372,613	331,531	869,183
Public services	155,507	248,164	190,032	593,703
Municipal property ..	40,864	36,580	34,542	111,986
Interest	598,868	308,778	120,828	1,028,474
Other	341,949	32,502	33,506	407,957
Harbour Bridge and Main Roads Board Contributions	178,161	281,654	30,285	490,100
Total ordinary services ..	1,713,584	2,784,056	1,601,104	6,098,744
Trading accounts	2,523,897	44,473	951,278	3,519,648
Water and sewerage accounts .. ..	..	..	356,839	356,839
Gross expenditure	4,237,481	2,828,529	2,909,221	9,975,231

(a) Includes Harbour Bridge Rate, £118,888, and Main Roads Board Rate, £59,273. (b) Electricity works.

The above figures for revenue are exclusive of loan receipts, particulars of which are not available. Loans raised during the year, however, were as follow :—City of Sydney, £148,000; suburbs of Sydney, £118,000; country municipalities, £24,240; a total of £290,240. The figures for expenditure for the City of Sydney are exclusive of £679,127 expenditure from loans. The expenditure included for other municipalities relates to "revenue expenditure" and includes loan moneys expended on road construction and other works not resulting in realizable assets or assets to be used over a period of time in fulfilling ordinary services. The amount of "capital expenditure" from both revenue and loans is not available.

(d) *Assets and Liabilities.* The financial position of the municipalities as at the 31st December, 1931, is shown by the following statement of assets and liabilities.

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1931.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Extra Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
ASSETS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank balances and cash	29,731,548(a)	245,699	54,935	551,211	851,845 (b)
Outstanding rates		664,825	143,236	542,839	1,350,900 (b)
Sundry debtors		255,887	54,479	435,587	745,953 (b)
Stores and materials		42,424	7,457	126,515	176,396 (b)
Land, buildings, furniture, etc. .. .		1,899,004	235,053	8,369,470	10,503,527 (b)
Other		17,101	3,979	66,420	87,500 (b)
Total	29,731,548	3,124,940	499,139	10,092,042	43,447,669

(a) Comprises the following:—Land, buildings, machinery, plant and stores, £23,618,928; sundry debtors, £758,169; cash and bank balances, £1,322,148; investments, £4,032,303.
(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

LIABILITIES.

Loans, outstanding interest and sundry creditors	28,326,823(a)	5,726,855	505,047	3,060,505	9,292,407 (b)
Debts due to Government and interest thereon		181,770	31,178	4,071,139	4,284,087 (b)
Bank overdrafts		605,278	46,830	430,664	1,082,772 (b)
Other		32,704	9,504	80,230	122,438 (b)
Total		28,326,823	6,546,607	592,559	7,642,538	43,108,527

(a) Comprises the following:—Debentures, £24,793,179; sundry creditors, £2,014,212; bank overdrafts, £1,519,432.
(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

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

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No. of Shires.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
	No.	sq. miles.	No.	£	miles.	No.	No.
1931	138	181,584	705,840	162,739,570	101,737	3,943(a)	173(a)

(a) Year 1927—latest available.

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

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of shires for the year 1931 are shown in the following table. Included in the receipts are Government grants amounting to £679,295, which together with Government endowment, £149,533 make a total for Government assistance of £828,828.

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1931.

Particulars.	Revenue.	Particulars.	Expenditure.
	£		£
Rates (including interest) ..	1,399,548	Administrative expenses ..	225,624
Government endowment ..	149,533	Public works	1,604,560
Public works	725,990	Health administration ..	138,252
Health Administration ..	136,808	Public services	87,480
Public services	15,840	Shire property	15,025
Shire property	28,427	Interest	93,513
Miscellaneous	13,326	Contributions to Main Roads	
Trading accounts	240,491	Board and Harbour Bridge	40,726
Water accounts	22,991	Other	45,100
		Trading accounts	203,202
		Water accounts	21,057
Total revenue	2,732,954	Total expenditure	2,474,539

The figures for revenue in the above table are exclusive of loan receipts, particulars of which are not available. Loans raised during the year, however, amounted to £10,000. As in the case of municipalities the expenditure shown for shires relates to "revenue expenditure".

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The finances of the shires at the end of the year 1931 showed an excess of assets of £638,555. The following table gives particulars of assets and liabilities as at the 31st December, 1931:—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1931.

Assets.	Amount.	Liabilities.	Amount.
	£		£
Bank balances and cash ..	269,971	Loans outstanding, interest	
Outstanding rates and interest	652,969	and sundry creditors ..	1,626,833
Sundry debtors	178,713	Bank overdrafts	416,328
Stores and materials	58,086	Debts due to the Govern-	
Land, buildings, furniture,		ment and interest thereon	490,443
plant, machinery, etc. ..	2,038,740	Other	64,620
Other	38,300		
Total	3,236,779	Total	2,598,224

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

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

(ii) *Municipalities. (a) Summary.* The following table shows the number of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires, with estimated population, number of ratepayers and dwellings, and value of rateable property for the year 1931:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ending 30th September—	Number of Municipalities.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.	
					Total.	Annual.
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.						
1931	No. 56	No. 1,180,190	No. 339,842	No. 277,583	£ 351,642,387	£ 19,391,762
SHIRES.						
1931	140	654,790	264,723	162,146	278,253,957	13,971,878

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The table hereunder shows the revenue from various sources, and the expenditure under various heads, of municipalities during the year 1931:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1931.

Items.	Revenue.	Items.	Expenditure from Revenue.
	£		£
Taxation { Rates	3,578,517	Salaries, etc.	425,228
Licences	96,147	Sanitary work, street cleaning, etc.	432,325
Dog fees	26,303	Health	115,464
Government grants	202,630	Lighting	183,357
Licensing fund payments	61,272	Contributions to Fire Brigades	69,382
Contributions for streets, etc.	304,322	Public Works { Construction	272,718
Market and weighbridge dues	133,138	Maintenance	1,828,870
Sanitary charges	165,727	Formation of private streets, etc.	158,916
Rents	143,554	Electric light and gas works	858,338
Electric light and gas works	1,218,092	Redemption of loans	469,507
Other sources	533,106	Interest on loans	772,096
		Interest on bank overdrafts	73,674
		Charities	48,389
		Other expenditure	743,833
Total Revenue	6,462,808	Total from Revenue	6,452,097

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—LOANS—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1931.

Items.	Receipts.	Items.	Expenditure.
	£		£
Receipts from Loans ..	612,361	Roads and Bridges ..	238,595
		Water and Irrigation ..	15,106
		Sewerage and Drainage ..	34,353
		Electric Light and Gas ..	126,993
		Public Buildings ..	71,739
		Other purposes ..	315,589
Total Receipts ..	612,361	Total Expenditure ..	802,375

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The assets of municipalities may be classified under three heads (a) the municipal fund, (b) the loan fund and (c) property; the liabilities under two heads—(a) the municipal fund, and (b) the loan fund. The following table shows the amount of municipal assets and liabilities for the year 1931:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1931.

Items.	Assets.	Items.	Liabilities.
MUNICIPAL FUND—	£	MUNICIPAL FUND—	£
Uncollected rates ..	930,396	Due on current contracts	40,943
Streets formed, etc., payments outstanding ..	1,334,953	Arrears due sinking funds	264
Rents and interest outstanding ..	25,805	Overdue interest ..	18,901
Cash in hand or in bank ..	541,461	Bank overdrafts ..	1,111,189
Other assets ..	344,215	Other liabilities ..	1,040,833
LOAN FUND—		LOAN FUND—	
(a) Sinking funds—		Loans outstanding ..	13,639,135
Amount at credit ..	547,412	Due on loan contracts ..	39,995
Arrears due ..	264		
(b) Unexpended balances ..	361,825		
PROPERTY—			
Buildings, markets, tramways, etc. ..	5,381,110		
Waterworks ..	417,710		
Gasworks ..	255,740		
Electric light works ..	2,596,270		
Plant and machinery ..	667,540		
Other assets ..	200,670		
Total ..	13,605,371	Total ..	15,891,260

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

(ii) *Municipalities. (a) Summary.* The following table gives particulars of the area, population, number of inhabited dwellings, and assets and liabilities of cities and towns and of shires for the year 1931 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—SUMMARY.

Year.	No.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Number of Inhabited Dwellings.	Rateable Value.	Assets.	Liabilities.	
							Govern- ment Loans.	Total.
CITIES AND TOWNS.								
1931(a) ..	24	sq. miles. 794	No. (b)	No. 111,411	£ 30,889,058	£ 20,770,285	£ 6,505,575	£ 24,421,350
SHIRES.								
1931(a) ..	122	669,047	(b)	92,100	48,460,525	1,963,163	1,941,599	2,772,270

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

(b) Estimated population of Queensland, 963,711 persons.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure (including loan moneys) of cities and towns, and of shires for the year 1931 are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Govern- ment Loans and Subsidies. (a)	Total.	Public Works and Services. (b)	Govern- ment Loan Redemp- tion.	Office Expenses and Salaries.	Total.
CITIES AND TOWNS.							
1931 ..	£ 1,510,490	£ 337,279	£ 4,649,070	£ 2,393,449	£ 111,547	£ 227,497	£ 4,641,220
SHIRES.							
1931 ..	932,965	356,289	1,561,040	1,011,068	61,592	124,950	1,557,386

(a) Includes Main Road Receipts.

(b) Includes Expenditure on Main Roads.

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

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* The settled portion of South Australia is incorporated, being under municipal corporations in the larger cities and towns, and district councils in the agricultural areas. These bodies, with the exception of the Corporation of Adelaide, are allocated grants by the Commissioner of Highways for the maintenance and construction of main and other roads.

(ii) *Local Authorities. (a) Summary.* The number of corporations and district councils was reduced by amalgamations, etc., in 1932, to 172, of which 11 corporations and 10 district councils are in the metropolitan area, and 21 corporations and 130 district councils in outside areas. According to the latest available information there are about

1,060 miles of roads in use for general traffic under the control of corporations, and about 49,066 miles under the control of district councils, and of these totals, 19 miles are wood-blocked, 165 miles are bitumen and concrete and 14,241 miles are tar-paved, metalled or gravelled. The following table gives the area, population, number of occupied dwellings, capital and assessment values and outstanding loans for corporations and district councils separately for the year 1931 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year.	Area.	Estimated Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assessment Value.	Outstanding Loans.
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.						
1931	Acres. 66,063	No. 245,530	No. 56,031	£ 74,011,950	£ 3,719,433	£ 787,214

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

1931	..	33,595,527	323,841	76,109	113,810,127	5,635,976	(a) 416,417
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(a) Includes advances through District Councils to settlers for vermin-proof fencing, etc., amounting to £287,741.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of corporations and district councils for the year 1931, showing in separate columns the receipts and expenditure on main roads. The figures differ slightly from those shown in the Summary Table in § 4 hereinafter, which exclude transfers between the Government Grants and General Accounts. The financial year of municipal corporations ends on the 30th November and that of district councils on the 30th June.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Local Government (exclusive of Government Grants Account).						Government Grants Account (Main Roads).		
	Revenue (including Loans).			Expenditure.			Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	Rates.	Subsidies.	Total.	Roads.	Other Public Works and Services.	Total.			
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.									
1931	..	£ 455,008	£ 28,168	£ 657,075	£ 233,851	£ 234,090	£ 691,838	£ 6,764	£ 6,758
DISTRICT COUNCILS.									
1931	..	380,916	39,875	517,007	241,208	96,881	489,922	141,015	137,976

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

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

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives various particulars regarding municipalities for the year 1932 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 31st Oct.—	Municipalities.	Area.	Population. (a)	Dwelling Houses.	Valuation of Rateable Property.		Length of Roads and Streets.
					Capital Value.	Annual Value.	
1932 ..	No. 21	Acres. 59,517	No. 190,000	No. 39,683	£ 45,724,754	£ 2,359,480	Miles. (b) 780

(a) Approximate. (b) Exclusive of cleared roads.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Revenue and expenditure of municipalities during the year 1932 are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 31st October—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Rates.	From Govt. Grants.	From other Sources.	Total.	Works and Improvements.	Interest and other Charges on Loans.	Other Expenses.	Total.
1932 ..	£ 288,187	£ 76,441	£ 804,067	£ 1,168,695	£ 256,895	£ 287,340	£ 637,229	£ 1,181,464

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The table below shows the assets and liabilities of municipalities at the 31st October in the financial year 1932 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

31st October—	Assets.				Liabilities.	
	Balance in Hand.	Value of Property.	Accrued Sinking Funds.	Total.	Outstanding Debentures and Bonds.	Total.
1932	£ 112,231	£ 2,863,273	£ 513,449	£ 3,756,958	£ 2,589,012	£ 2,813,462

(iii) *District Road Boards.* (a) *Summary.* The method of valuation is not identical in the case of all District Road Boards, in some the assessment being based on the unimproved capital values and in others on the annual values. The unimproved capital value given in the following table is, therefore, only approximate. The population at the date of the census of 4th April, 1921, was 160,970, and the number of dwellings 41,662.

On the 30th June, 1932, the population was estimated at 233,000, and the number of dwelling-houses at 57,455.

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Road Districts.	Area.	Unimproved Capital Value (Approximate).	Length of Roads in Existence.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Out-standing Loans.
1932 ..	No. 126	sq. miles. 975,828	£ 23,282,422a	miles. 21,526b	£ 960,564	£ 844,646	£ 683,092

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

(b) Exclusive of

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of district road boards are shown in the following table for the year 1932:—

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

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Other.	Total.	Adminis-tration.	Works.	Other.	Total.
1932 ..	£ 236,345	£ 182,914	£ 257,908	£ 677,167	£ 59,827	£ 387,140	£ 204,297	£ 651,264

(iv) *Local Boards of Health.* (a) *General.* On the 31st October, 1932, there were 21 local boards of health within municipalities, and on the 30th June, 1932, 93 under control of road boards, and 12 extra-municipal boards. Of the extra-municipal boards 6 were inactive during the year.

(b) *Finances.* The appended table shows the number of boards, their revenue and expenditure, and the assets and liabilities of such as were active during 1932. The financial year of municipal boards ends on the 31st October, and that of other boards on the 30th June.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES.

Year.	Number.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		Assets.	Liabilities.
		Rates.	Sanitary Charges and Rubbish Fees.	Total.	Sanitary and Rubbish Service.	Total.		
1932 ..	126	£ 66,338	£ 64,853	£ 145,641	£ 87,328	£ 144,484	£ 128,074	£ 21,576

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

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number of municipalities, valuations, outstanding loans and length of roads for the year 1931–32. The latest available figure for inhabited dwellings is for the year 1932, when the number was 45,809.

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—SUMMARY.

Year.	Number of Municipalities.	Valuations.			Outstanding Loans.	Length of Roads.	
		Annual Value.	Unimproved Value.	Total Capital Value.			
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.							
1931-32	..	No. 2	£ 1,191,254	£ 7,051,452	£ 18,985,365	£ 2,650,074	Miles. 188
COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.							
1931-32	..	47	1,539,901	15,810,847	32,548,795	516,182	12,251

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the year 1931-32:—

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.				
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works and Services.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Total.	
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.								
1931-32	..	£ 276,935	£ 600	£ 585,726 ^a	£ 47,537	£ 339,081 ^a	£ 194,196	£ 581,246 ^a
COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.								
1931-32	..	171,219	7,678	264,915 ^a	36,012	172,357 ^a	39,561	267,213 ^a

(a) Excluding loans.

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

§ 4. Summary of Local Government Finance.

1. *General.*—In the preceding parts of this chapter certain particulars have been given regarding local authorities in each individual State. In this paragraph, comparative figures are given for each State regarding the financial operations of the local governing bodies referred to in § 3. The particulars in the next two tables refer to financial years as follows:—New South Wales: calendar year 1931. Victoria: 30th September, 1931, except Melbourne, 31st December, and Geelong, 31st August, 1931. Queensland: calendar year 1931. South Australia: Corporations, 30th November, and district councils, 30th June, 1931. Western Australia: Municipalities, 31st October, 1932, district road boards, 30th June, 1932. Tasmania: 30th June, 1932.

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

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (a) IN EACH STATE.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1931.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.(b)	Tasmania.	Total.
No. of local authorities(a)	319	196	146	196	147	49	1,053
RECEIPTS.							
Rates—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General ..	4,775,338	3,578,517	1,844,598 598,857	835,924	338,780 208,524	159,741 288,413	14,108,034
Other ..	1,479,342						
Government grants, etc. ..	1,180,608	202,630	490,554	198,671	272,331	8,278	2,353,072
Loans and other sources ..	(c) 5,405,008	3,294,022	3,276,101	271,229	1,164,546	561,324	(e)13,972,230
Total ..	(c) 12,840,296	7,075,169	6,210,110	1,305,824	1,984,181	1,017,756	(e)30,433,336
EXPENDITURE.							
Works, services, etc. ..	9,600,295	3,863,407	3,404,517	950,089	743,882	678,553	19,240,743
Interest on loans and overdrafts	999,777	845,770	1,164,026	69,327	200,294	233,757	4,779,689
Redemptions, sinking funds, etc. ..	122,210	469,507	450,980	59,068	164,973		
Administration	616,594	425,228	352,447	164,018	154,835			83,549	1,796,671
Other ..	1,110,894	1,650,560	826,636	94,198	713,199	19,715	4,415,202
Total ..	(d) 12,449,770	7,254,472	6,198,606	1,336,700	1,977,183	1,015,574	(e)30,232,305
VALUATIONS.							
Capital value of property ..	(f)378,736,815	629,896,344	179,349,583	187,822,077	(j)48,541,463	51,534,160	(h)
Annual value of property ..	(g) 44,220,398	33,363,640	(h)	9,355,409	(i) 2,580,690	2,731,155	(h)

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

(b) Exclusive of Local Boards of Health.

(c) Exclusive of loan receipts, particulars of which are not available. Loans raised during the year amounted to £290,240.

(d) Exclusive of the total loan expenditure of the City of Sydney. The expenditure included for other local authorities relates to "revenue expenditure" and includes loan moneys expended on road construction and other works not resulting in realizable assets or assets to be used over a period of time in fulfilling ordinary services. The amount of "capital expenditure" from both revenue and loans is not available. The addition of the following amount to the above total of £12,449,770 should, however, give a closer approximation of total expenditure comparable with the other States:—For City of Sydney, £679,127 (expenditure from loans), but for the other local authorities particulars are not available.

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

(f) Unimproved capital value. The improved value for shires is not available; for municipalities it is £658,137,960.

(g) Assessed annual value, excluding Shires.

(h) Not available.

(i) Rateable value.

(j) Municipalities only. District Road Boards are rated on unimproved capital value and/or annual value, the total of the unimproved capital value being £26,643,138: the total annual value is not available.

3. Local Government Loans, 1931.—The following table shows the amount of loans raised by local authorities during the year 1931, of loans current at the end of that year, the liability on account of interest and sinking fund, and the loans redeemed during 1931 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—LOANS, 1931.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loans from General Government—							
Raised during year ..	..	10,579	203,014	9,749	8,250	8,750	240,342
Current at end of year ..	..	853,534	8,447,174	378,190	327,725	455,023	10,461,646
Loans from other Sources—							
Raised during year ..	290,240	413,911	254,689	1,450	74,870	158,365	1,193,525
Current at end of year ..	34,843,661	12,785,601	14,974,779	825,441	3,035,817	2,711,233	69,176,532
Total—							
Raised during year ..	290,240	424,490	457,703	11,199	83,120	167,115	1,433,867
Current at end of year ..	34,843,661	13,639,135	23,421,953	1,203,031	3,303,542	3,166,256	79,638,178
Current Loans, exclusive of those obtained from General Government, raised within Australia ..	25,513,028	12,785,601	5,539,559	825,441	2,481,617	1,523,737	48,668,983
Annual Liability on account of Interest ..	1,742,308	772,096	1,222,118	67,288	194,434	169,876	4,168,120
Total Sinking Fund at end of year ..	3,196,208	547,676	1,585,838	38,882	565,662	481,349	6,415,615
Amount of Loans Redeemed during year ..	(a)	(a)	286,430	46,273	147,505	95,197	(a)

(a) Not available.

§ 5. Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.

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

(ii) *Metropolitan Waterworks*. (a) *General*. Financial conditions necessitated a stoppage of all loan works in March, 1931, but prior to that date good progress had been made on the construction of the two additional storage reservoirs on the Nepean and Woronora Rivers. During the year ended 30th June, 1932, practically no construction work was done, although £192,764 was expended on Unemployment Relief Works. The maximum day's consumption in the metropolitan area was 142,736,000 gallons. The length of mains in operation is now 4,196 miles.

(b) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses, the estimated population supplied, and other details for the year ended 30th June, 1932 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—WATER SUPPLIED.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1932 ..	311,246	1,556,230	87,962	32,194,000	282	56.53	9

(c) *Finances.* The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure on account of the services of waterworks, sewerage and drainage during the year 1931-32 :—
WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE, SYDNEY.

Item.	Revenue.	Working Expenses, Sinking Fund Contribution, Renewals, and Exchange. (a) (b)	Capital Indebtedness.	Percentage of Working Expenses and Sinking Fund Contribution, etc. on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest.	Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
Water ..	1,735,808	612,443	23,534,241	35.28	7.38	1,105,745	+ 17,620
Sewerage	1,000,444	358,059	14,613,152	35.79	6.85	669,338	- 26,953
Drainage	60,501	17,491	681,876	28.91	8.87	32,670	+ 10,340
Total	2,796,753	987,993	38,829,269	35.33	7.20	1,807,753	+ 1,007

(a) Includes payments to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of capital indebtedness as follows :— Water, £60,456; Sewerage, £40,905; and Drainage, £1,938.

(b) Includes exchange as follows :—Water, £151,825; Sewerage, £105,642; and Drainage, £5,026.

(iii) *Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Systems.* (a) *General.* In addition to the usual progress made in connecting additional houses, 12 miles of new sewers were laid, the total length at 30th June, 1932, being 1,883 miles. The quantity of sewage pumped was 5,440 million gallons.

(b) *Houses Drained, Population Served, Length of Sewers, etc.* Particulars as at 30th June, 1932, are given hereunder :—

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

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Drained.	Estimated Population Served.	Total Length of Sewers.	Total Length of Stormwater Drains.
	No.	No.	Miles.	Miles.
1932	207,590	1,037,950	1,883.05	75.90

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

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

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

The net addition to lengths of water-mains laid was 2 miles, bringing the total length of mains to 862 miles.

(b) *Particulars of Services.* The following table supplies details for the year ended 30th June, 1932 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Quantity Supplied for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 gallons.	1,000 gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1932 ..	42,778	213,890	7,823	2,863,463	183	36.57	2

(c) *Finances.* The next table gives the revenue, working expenses, capital debt, and net profit for the year ended 30th June, 1932 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Management, Working Expenses, and Sinking Fund.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Management, Working Expenses, and Sinking Fund on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest on Capital Debt.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1932 ..	220,017	78,318	2,862,557	35.60	7.69	(a) 163,048	21,349

(a) Includes exchange £25,916.

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

The amplification, extension, and improvement of such sewerage works was authorized by "The Newcastle and Suburbs Sewerage Amplification Act 1928" passed on the 21st May, 1928. The estimated cost of the work, which is still under construction, is £761,625. The Cessnock sewerage works authorized by the "Cessnock Sewerage Act 1931", at a revised estimate of cost of £201,845 are almost completed.

The Stockton sewerage work was authorized by the "Stockton Sewerage Act 1932" which was assented to on 21st December, 1932. The estimated cost of the scheme, which is now under construction, is £115,000. Schemes for the sewerage of West Maitland are being investigated.

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

(b) *Sewerage Connections and Length of Sewers.* During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the number of properties connected with sewers was 55, making a total of 21,526. New sewers of a length of 2 miles were constructed by the Board, bringing the total length of sewers under the Board's control to 202 miles.

(c) *Finances.* Particulars in regard to chief items for the year 1931-32 are given hereunder :—

NEWCASTLE SEWERAGE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Management, Working Expenses and Sinking Fund.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Management, Working Expenses and Sinking Fund on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest on Capital Debt.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1932 ..	86,607	41,414	(a) 2,233,177	47.82	3.88	(b) 33,304	11,889

(a) Includes £779,403 expenditure on stormwater drainage works not yet transferred to and vested in the Board.

(b) Includes exchange £246.

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

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

(b) *Waterworks, Sewerage, and Stormwater Drainage Works.* At the 30th June, 1932, public water supplies constructed at a capital cost of £4,183,923, were in operation in 87 towns outside the Metropolitan and Hunter River districts. Fourteen towns were seweraged and 16 towns had stormwater channels constructed by the Public Works Department. The capital cost of the sewerage schemes and stormwater channels was £1,210,569. The principal water supply works completed during the year were those at Werris Creek, Tenterfield and Grenfell.

Two water supply systems, viz., Broken Hill and Junee, are administered by the Public Works Department under special Acts. These services entailed capital expenditure amounting respectively, at 31st December, 1931, to £481,795 and £220,308.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *A. Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.* (a) *General.* All land within 13 miles of the Post Office at the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth-streets, Melbourne, together with the remaining areas of the City of Mordialloc and the Shire of Moorabbin and a further portion of the Shire of Dandenong, but excluding 11 square miles in the Shires of Keilor and Braybrook under the control of the Keilor and St. Albans Waterworks Trust, is included within the metropolitan area for water supply, sewerage, main drainage and river improvement purposes. This territory covers 434 square miles of land area, and in 1932 embraced 25 cities, 1 shire, and parts of 12 other shires, or a total of 38 municipalities or portions thereof. In addition, the Board supplies water to certain municipalities outside the metropolitan area.

The Board's liability on the 30th June, 1932, for loans raised was £24,944,984. The Board is still empowered to borrow £194,950 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The ordinary receipts and expenditure for the year 1931-32 were £1,773,067 and £1,826,216 respectively, and the loan receipts and expenditure, £2,608,112 and £1,890,777 (including Loan Redemption £1,554,396) respectively.

B. Melbourne Water Supply. (a) *Quantity of Water, Number of Houses, and Population Supplied.* The following table gives particulars of services for the year 1931-32. The rate levied was sixpence in the pound on the net annual value of the property served.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Consumption.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reticulation, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
1932 ..	No. 254,758	No. 1,128,578	1,000 Gallons. 62,919	1,000 Gallons. 23,028,254	Gallons. 246.97	Gallons. 55.75	Miles. 2,753

(b) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and surplus for the year ended 30th June, 1932, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £11,026,658.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (b)	Surplus.
1932	£ 133,798	£ 772,271	£ 120,462	% 15.59	£ 545,031	£ 106,778

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(b) Includes interest on renewals and sinking funds.

C. *Melbourne Sewerage.* (a) *Number of Houses Connected, etc.* Particulars of services for the year 1931-32 are given below. The rate levied was elevenpence in the pound on the net annual value of the property served.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses for which Sewers are Provided.	Estimated Population for which Sewers are Provided.	Average Daily Pumping.	Total Sewage Pumped for the Year.	Average Daily Pumping.		Length of Sewers, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1932 ..	236,640	1,048,315	43,245	15,827,650	182.7	41.2	2,414

(b) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and surplus for the year ended 30th June, 1932, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £12,731,484.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (b)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1932 ..	135,503	875,665	142,359	16.26	681,378	51,928

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(b) Includes interest on renewals and sinking funds.

(c) *Metropolitan Sewage Farm.* The total area of the farm at the 30th June, 1932, was 22,634 acres. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year 1931-32. The total capital cost to the 30th June, 1932, was £1,141,214.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Interest.	Net Cost of Sewage Purification.	Trading Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1932 ..	18,887	18,988	36,756	58,209	75,977	8,043

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(d) *Disposal of Night-soil from Unsewered Premises.* The total number of pans cleaned by the Board at its depots at Brooklyn, Campbellfield, and Moorabbin, where the night-soil was disposed of by burial, was 896,597, for the year 1931-32.

D. Melbourne Drainage and Rivers—Capital Cost; Revenue, Working Expenses Interest and Surplus. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year ended 30th June, 1932. The total capital cost to that date was £1,063,068.

DRAINAGE AND RIVERS, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses. (a)	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (b)	Surplus.
1932	£ 31,081	£ 86,016	£ 16,735	% 19.46	£ 59,545	£ 9,736

(a) Exclusive of renewals.

(b) Includes interest on renewals and sinking funds.

(ii) *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, constituted in 1908, consists of five commissioners. The amount of loan money which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installation to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 45,387.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,738,119,800 gallons. In addition, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission has made available a supplementary supply of a minimum quantity of 500 million gallons of water per annum from the upper reaches of the river Barwon. There are 274 miles of reticulation mains within the city of Geelong and its suburbs. The total expenditure on waterworks to the 30th June, 1932, was £702,619, and the revenue for the year 1931–32 was £54,751; the sinking fund for redemption of loans amounted to £50,697.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 140 miles of reticulation mains have already been laid. The drainage area is 9,489 acres, and the number of buildings within the drainage area is 11,400, and within the sewered areas 11,110, while 11,077 buildings have been connected with the sewers. The total expenditure to 30th June, 1932 on sewerage works was £641,921, and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £256,116, of which £37,528 is outstanding. The revenue amounted to £42,108. The sinking fund for redemption of loans amounted to £49,732.

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

(b) *Water Supply.* The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, containing a population of about 42,000. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,000 gallons.

The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £651,681. The liabilities are loans due to the Government amounting to £299,210 as at 31st December, 1932. The revenue for the year was £32,877.

(c) *Sewerage.* The scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons. The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1932, was £340,427. The method of sewage disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation, and sludge digestion. Fifty-eight sewered areas have been declared as at 1st January, 1933, comprising 7,263 tenements.

The scheme is being financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions, £384,090 having been provided up to 31st December, 1932, for constructional works, and £148,260 for house connexions.

(iv) *Bendigo Sewerage Authority.* The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute this Authority. The sewerage district comprises the populated area of the city of Bendigo. The works when completed are estimated to cost £450,000. Expenditure to end of December, 1932, was £326,262 for sewerage scheme and £175,234 for house connexions.

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

The following table gives particulars regarding waterworks under the control of trusts and municipal corporations for the year 1932 :—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, VICTORIA.—FINANCES.

Year.	Under Waterworks Trusts.				Under Municipal Corporations.			
	Number of Trusts.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.	Number of Corporations.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.
1932 ..	No. 105	£ 1,751,523	£ 1,361,128	£ 1,853	No. 28	£ 864,979	£ 569,148	£ 1,030

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

The available storage in the Brisbane River is 500 million gallons, the catchment area being approximately 4,000 square miles. In Lake Manchester the storage capacity is 7,000 million gallons, and the catchment area 28.5 square miles. The capacity of Enoggera and Gold Creek Reservoirs is 1,000 million gallons and 407 million gallons respectively, and the catchment area 12.8 and 3.8 square miles respectively.

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

(b) *Waterworks. Summary.* The following table gives a summary of operations for the year ended 30th June, 1932 :—

WATERWORKS, BRISBANE.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Reticulation Mains.	Number of Tenements Connected. (a)	Estimated Population Supplied.	Quantity Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Average Daily Supply per Head of Estimated Population.
	Miles.	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1932	809 $\frac{3}{4}$	64,008	330,281	4,836,807	12,828,270	40.18

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

The total length of the trunk mains is 203 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

(c) *Sewerage.* At the 30th June, 1932, 14,255 premises were connected to the Council's sewerage system, the estimated population served being 71,275 persons. The total length of sewers in operation is 368.1 miles, consisting of 215.1 miles of sewers within premises, and 153 miles of main and reticulation sewers.

(d) *Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the year ended 30th June, 1932.

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE.—FINANCE.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Net Revenue from Rates.	Management and Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, including Sinking Fund.
1932	£ 8,035,873	£ 629,565	£ 143,505	£ 22,521	£ (a) 447,645

(a) Exclusive of the sum of £68,080 paid as exchange.

(ii) *Country Towns Water Supply.* In addition to the city of Brisbane, there were at the end of the year 1931, forty-one country towns in Queensland provided with water supply systems constructed by municipalities chiefly from Government loans. The subjoined statement gives particulars of all water supply systems, exclusive of Brisbane, for the year 1931 :—

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS.—QUEENSLAND.

Cost of Construction to 31st December, 1931—£2,319,486.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>£</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>			<i>£</i>
Rates and sales of water ..		233,798		Office and salaries ..		17,818	
Government and other loans ..		35,520		Construction ..		60,574	
Other		23,107		Maintenance ..		103,162	
				Interest and redemption ..		105,429	
				Other expenses ..		14,967	
Total		292,425		Total		301,950	
Assets		1,875,879		Liabilities		1,598,453	

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

(ii) *Adelaide Waterworks.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars for the year 1931-32, the figures for consumption being recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and including evaporation and absorption. There are 52,607 meters in the Adelaide District.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Annual Value.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
1932	No. 130,323	£ 5,356,905	Acres. 115,939	Million Gallons. 7,774	Miles. 1,292	1,000 Gallons. 7,473,179

(b) *Finances.* Particulars for the year 1931-32 are given below :—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
1932 ..	£ 3,729,965	£ 376,314	£ 425,834	£ 78,188	£ 10,813	£ 89,001	% 9.03

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the year 1931-32 are given hereunder :—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con-nexions.	Capital Cost of Revenue-Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Mainten-ance, etc.	Total.	
1932 ..	Miles. 550	No. 56,401	£ 1,624,196	£ 187,573	£ 192,457	£ 24,510	£ 31,719	% 9.90

(iv) *Country Towns Water Supply.* (a) *Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the year 1931-32. There are 31,701 meters in country districts.

COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
1932 ..	No. 49,687	Acres. 11,837,241	Million Gallons. 9,110	Miles. 4,754	1,000 Gallons. 1,334,869

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the year 1931-32 :—

COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
1932 ..	£ 9,210,104	£ 186,893	£ 214,712	£ 98,697	£ 7,720	£ 106,418	% 1.18

(v) *Other Sewerage Systems.* Information in summarized form is given below regarding the two suburban sewerage systems, viz., the Glenelg system and the Port Adelaide and Semaphore system, for the year 1931-32 :—

SUBURBAN SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con- nections.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates.	Total.	Mainten- ance.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1932 ..	203	11,432	1,007,241	47,100	48,375	17,539	18,515	2.96

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

(ii) *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.* (a) *General.* The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the Victoria Reservoir, Mundaring Reservoir, Churchman Brook Reservoir, fourteen bores, and the Armadale, Canning River, and Wungong pipe head dams. The sewerage system consists of septic tanks and percolating filters for Perth, and septic tanks and ocean outfalls for Fremantle and Subiaco. At the 30th June, 1932, the number of premises connected with sewers was 23,416.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the year 1931-32 :—

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Estimated Population Supplied.	Number of Houses Supplied.	Water Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.		Number of Meters.	Length of Mains.
				Per Head.	Per House.		
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	No.	Miles.
1932 ..	229,000	51,649	4,130,583	49.41	219.10	36,675	851½

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives separate information for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches for the year 1931-32 :—

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

Year ended 30th June—	Water Supply.			Sewerage and Drainage.		
	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1932 ..	3,267,067	268,765	235,633	1,608,668	109,705	99,164

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

consumers—the railways, the mines, and “other,” and in 1931–32 the railways consumed 6 per cent., the mines 23 per cent., and “other” 71 per cent. of the supply. The following table gives details for the year 1931–32 :—

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Consumption.	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1932 ..	1,000 gallons. 1,221,000	No. 10,850	Miles. 1,529	£ 3,821,958	£ 178,697	£ 167,175

(iv) *Water Supply of Other Towns.* During the year 1931–32 water supplied to other towns and districts amounted to 244,137,000 gallons distributed as follows :— Railways, 26,739,000 gallons; mines, 32,461,000 gallons; and 184,937,000 gallons to domestic and other consumers.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1931–32, one well was sunk which yielded fresh water and one tank was excavated. During the twenty-two years from the 1st July, 1910, to the 30th June, 1932, 491 tanks were built, 368 wells sunk, and 3,452 bores put down to a total depth of 152,474 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 517 yielded fresh and 287 stock water.

(vi) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to the 30th June, 1932, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water was 248, including 49 sunk in the metropolitan area, ranging in depth from 30 to 4,006 feet.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to the 30th June, 1932, was £461,832, but a considerable amount of reticulation work has been done out of revenue and not charged to capital account. The outstanding loans at 30th June, 1932, amounted to £354,377. At the same date the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 10,658 and the length of reticulation mains 132½ miles. The revenue for the year 1931–32 was £40,432.

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £35,474. Up to that date 80¾ miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £214,957 and 8,447 tenements connected. Since the original city was sewered, the Municipalities of Queenborough and New Town have been included in the city, and are now being sewered. In Queenborough 27½ miles of sewers, connecting with 1,469 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £126,837. In New Town a total of 36¾ miles of sewers has been laid, and 1,465 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1932, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £112,165.

§ 6. Harbour Boards and Trusts.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *Sydney Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* The Sydney Harbour Trust, which consists of three Commissioners appointed by the Government, controls the whole of the wharves resumed by the Government in 1901. The Commissioners also provide and maintain the lighting and marking of the harbour, and carry out all necessary dredging. The whole of what might be termed city wharves is owned by the Commissioners and leased to various shipping companies, but the Trust directly operates and maintains a certain number of unleased wharves. Outside the city area the wharves are, to a large extent, privately controlled, but all structures beyond high-water mark are held under leases issued by the Trust. The extent of wharfage accommodation now available for use totals 76,993 lineal feet, inclusive of 9,498 lineal feet privately owned, 4,693 lineal feet of cross wharf and 3,427 lineal feet of ferry wharves.

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

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

During the year 1931-32, 482,075 tons of material were dredged at a cost of £13,417. In the process of towing such material, 20,617 miles were run at a cost of £9,922.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Trust for the year 1932 :—

SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June	Revenue.				Working Expenditure.	Total Capital Debt.	Interest.	Deficiency.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
1932 ..	£ 484,402	£ 36,432	£ 311,352	£ 832,186	£ 393,862	£ 11,611,905	£ 4595,699	£ 157,374

(a) Includes £41,002 sinking fund contributions.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *Melbourne Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* Information regarding the origin and constitution of this Trust will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, pp. 970 et seq. At the 31st December, 1932, the sheds available for wharfage accommodation had a length of 18,938 feet, covering an area of 1,247,713 square feet. The area of water in the bay and River Yarra under the control of the Trust is approximately 5,325 acres and the berthing space in the port is 63,419 feet in length with an area of over 62 acres of wharf space. During 1932 the quantity of material raised by dredging and excavation in the river and bay amounted to 1,258,007 barge yards at a cost of £49,093. The Trust has expended £342,160 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction by depositing 16,082,401 barge yards thereon.

(b) *Finances.* During the year ended 31st December, 1932, the revenue (excluding refunds) of the Trust amounted to £510,146, and expenditure to £456,436 (including the amount of £101,857 paid to Consolidated Revenue). There was a net surplus on revenue account of £3,663. Appropriation for sinking fund and charges for depreciation, renewals and insurance against revenue account for the year amounted to £50,047. The capital expenditure for the year was £136,101. Up to the 31st December, 1932, the total capital expenditure amounted to £8,816,399. The loan indebtedness at the 31st December, 1932, was £4,594,504.

(ii) *Geelong Harbour Trust.* The Geelong Harbour Trust was constituted in 1905, and is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. Ordinary revenue for the year 1932 was £56,196, and proceeds from loans £3,000. Expenditure from revenue was £57,519 and from loans £4,074, while loans outstanding at the end of that year amounted to £617,422.

(iii) *Harbour Boards.* The Harbour Boards Act of 1927 provides for the constitution of Harbour Boards for the following ports :—Gippsland Lakes; Welshpool; Warrnambool; Port Fairy; Portland. These ports have, hitherto, been under the control of the Department of Ports and Harbours of Victoria. The first board to be constituted under this Act is the Warrnambool Harbour Board. The total income of this Board for the year ended 30th September, 1932, was £2,130, and the total expenditure was £2,163. The loans outstanding on 30th September, 1932, amounted to £5,961.

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

(b) *Finances.* The capital expenditure for the year 1932 was £108, while for the same period the receipts were £10,447 and the expenditure £10,365.

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

(b) *Finances.* Receipts for the year 1932 amounted to £3,481 as compared with £6,319 in 1931, while expenditure for corresponding periods totalled £3,875 and £5,577 respectively, with interest and redemption on loans for the half-year ended 31st December, 1932 not yet paid.

(iii) *Cairns Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Cairns Harbour Board consists of twelve members, representing the city of Cairns and six adjoining shires. The wharves which are all under the control of this Board, consist of 1,900 lineal feet, all reinforced ferro-concrete structures, 1,500 feet of which form an unbroken quay line. Railway facilities are provided on the wharves together with cold stores and mechanical sugar handling equipment. The total tonnage of outward cargo from the port for 1932 was 221,505 tons, of which sugar comprised approximately 75 per cent.

(b) *Finances.* The gross revenue of the Board, derived from harbour, berthage, and miscellaneous dues, etc., for the year 1932, was £56,235.

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

(b) *Finances.* The total capital expenditure to the end of 1932 amounted to £91,708. The revenue for 1932 was £7,076 and the expenditure £6,794.

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

(b) *Finances.* Capital expenditure for the year 1932 was £2,915, and other expenditure £13,140; receipts totalled £13,579.

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

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1932 was £28,533; and the expenditure was £26,147, which included £91 interest on loans and overdraft.

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

(b) *Finances.* The total expenditure since the inception of the Board is £2,073,236, while the receipts for the year 1932 were £56,239 and the expenditure £54,807.

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

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial data for the year 1931-32 :—

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Gross Amount Paid to the Treasury.				
			Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Surplus Revenue.	Total.
1932	£ 379,043	£ 384,353	£ 113,870	£ 10,086	£ 2,000	£ 103,361	£ 229,317

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

(b) *Finances.* Details for the year 1932 are given hereunder. Surplus revenue is paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet interest and sinking fund :—

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund.
1932	£ 432,410	£ 19,736	£ (a)33,092	£ 6,600

(a) Includes Interest on Capital Account (£19,994) paid from Consolidated Revenue and not from earnings of the Board.

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

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the year ended 30th June, 1932 :—

MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Debt.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
		Harbour Improvements, Debentures, etc.	General.	Total.	Harbour Improvements.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	General.	Total.
1932	£ 12,648	£ ..	£ 38,403	£ 38,403	£ ..	£ 1,688	£ 31,837	£ 33,525

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

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the year ended 30th June, 1932 :—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON.—FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—				Total Capital Debt.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
				£	£	£
1932	..	..	..	310,492	51,543	55,138

(iii) *Marine Board of Burnie.* The length of the breakwater is 1,250 feet, with a depth up to 42 feet at low water, and a wharf alongside, 630 feet in length by 91 feet wide, with a depth at low water from 24 to 40 feet. There are two other timber wharves 600 feet and 400 feet long respectively. The receipts for the year ending 30th June, 1932, were £18,938, and the expenditure £21,381, including £16,665 interest on loans, etc.

§ 7. Fire Brigades.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *General.* Under the Fire Brigades Act of 1909-27, a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of eight members operates, and 108 fire districts have been constituted. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of quarter, quarter, and half, by the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies concerned, but the expenditure must be so regulated that the proportion payable by the councils in a fire district shall not exceed the amount obtainable from ½d. in the £ rate on the unimproved capital value of rateable land in the fire district: provided that the Board, with the consent of the Minister, and at the special request of the councils of the municipalities or shires constituting or forming part of a fire district or a majority in number of such councils may, as to that district, exceed the limit above provided.

(ii) *Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales.* At the 31st December, 1932, the Board had under its control 76 fire stations in the Sydney fire district and 136 fire stations in the country fire districts. The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, comprising a total area of 255 square miles. The revenue for the year 1932 was £395,130, made up as follows :—From the Government, £96,899, municipalities and shires, £96,899; fire insurance companies, £192,949; firms, £849; and from other sources, £7,534. The disbursements for the year were £394,775.

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

(ii) *Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board.* On the 30th June, 1932, the Board had under its control 42 stations. The total receipts for the year 1931-32 were £194,703, comprising contributions £156,484, receipts for services £24,132, and interest and sundries £14,087. The expenditure was £191,875, made up as follows :—Salaries (permanent staff) £98,961, interest and repayments of principal £19,031, and other expenditure £73,883. There was no loan expenditure during the year—the loan indebtedness at the end of the year being £220,322.

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board.* At 30th June, 1932, there were 120 municipal councils and 105 insurance companies included in the operations of the Act. The brigades are composed chiefly of volunteers, but in the large centres a few permanent station-keepers and partially-paid firemen are employed. Complete fire alarm systems are installed in 36 of the larger provincial cities and townships. There were 145 registered brigades at the end of June, 1932. For the year 1931-32 the revenue was £27,300 and the expenditure £27,612. The loan expenditure for the year amounted to £3,950, and at the close of the year the loan indebtedness was £33,810.

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

(ii) *Fire Brigades Boards.* At the end of the year 1931 there were fire brigades in 28 towns. The total revenue for the year 1931 was £56,303, received mainly from the following sources:—Government £12,171, local authorities £18,521, and insurance companies £23,276. The total expenditure for the year was £67,311, the chief items being salaries and wages £46,009, buildings, repairs, etc., £1,917, and plant, stores, etc., £2,802.

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

(ii) *Fire Brigades Board.* At the end of 1932 there were altogether 27 fire brigade stations. The total revenue for the year 1932 was £41,700.

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

(ii) *Western Australian Fire Brigades Board.* The whole of the brigades throughout the State are now controlled by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, and number 39. The revenue and expenditure for the year ended 30th September, 1932, were £49,337 and £48,368 respectively. The estimated value of land and buildings was £68,600 and of plant £38,500.

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

(ii) *Hobart Fire Brigade Board.* The revenue of the Board for the year 1932 amounted to £5,388.