

CHAPTER IV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction.

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

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

3. **Water Supply and Sewerage.**—In the cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane 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. Occasionally volunteer or country fire brigades are represented.

§ 2. Government Roads, Bridges, Etc.

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

(ii) *Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* At the 30th June, 1927, the "National" works consisted of 58 miles of roads, 288 bridges with a total length of 108,295 feet, and 19 ferries, while in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division there were 5,638 miles of roads (of which 177 miles were metalled or ballasted, 220 formed only, and 2,932 cleared only), 96 bridges of a total length of 13,495 feet, 489 culverts, and 6 hand punts under the control of the Public Works Department.

(iii) *Expenditure on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* The total Government expenditure on roads, bridges and ferries from 1857 to 1926-27 was £28,911,732. The following table shows the expenditure for each year from 1921-22 to 1926-27 :—

ROADS, ETC.—EXPENDITURE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure..	542,205	443,541	458,415	(a)635,976	1,067,442 (b)	1,323,975 (c)

(a) Includes £260,547, Sydney Harbour Bridge. (b) Includes £483,395, Sydney Harbour Bridge.
(c) Includes £910,077, Sydney Harbour 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 so expended during the year ending 30th June, 1926, being £960,452, and in 1926-27, £1,042,441. An annual payment of £50,000 is also made out of Consolidated Revenue to the Board for maintenance works.

(ii) *Direct Expenditure by Government.* The following table shows the amounts of money expended directly by the Government on roads and bridges during the years 1921-22 to 1926-27 :—

ROADS AND BRIDGES—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, VICTORIA,
1921-22 TO 1926-27.

Year.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Expenditure..	£ 23,622	£ 65,459	£ 46,761	£ 68,939	£ 81,205	£ 193,291

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

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.

All registration fees, licence fees and fines under the Motor Car Act, all licence fees for unused roads and water frontages, and all registration fees and fines for traction-engines are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund. The total loan expenditure for permanent works to the 30th June, 1926, was £3,464,603. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure on permanent and maintenance works for the five years 1921-22 to 1925-26 :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD, VICTORIA—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.				Expenditure.		
	Motor Regis- tration and Licence Fees.	Unused Roads etc., Licence Fees.	Contributions by Municipalities.		Total.	Permanent Works.	Main- tenance.
			Permanent Works.	Main- tenance.			
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1922 ..	118,672	21,487	61,024	104,026	429,308	288,937	267,969
1923 ..	158,249	19,933	68,608	123,819	514,469	266,046	288,129
1924 ..	222,251	20,110	76,355	134,349	585,742	201,615	343,233
1925 ..	402,971	19,801	82,931	154,557	660,260	228,872	468,182
1926 ..	632,087	19,958	88,148	178,902	918,285	302,844	788,332

(iv) *Developmental Roads.* 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, 1926 was £658,565, and the total expenditure to that date was £3,775,618.

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, by “The Main Roads Acts Amendment Act of 1925,” the Board was abolished, and its powers conferred upon a single commissioner. The duties of the Commissioner are to make the necessary surveys and investigations in order to determine what roads should be main roads, and, under certain circumstances, to undertake the construction and maintenance of such roads. Before any road can be proclaimed a main road, the shire councils through whose areas such road passes have the right to lodge objections thereto, and the Commissioner must consider such objections and may vary his decision. The whole of the money necessary for the construction and maintenance of main roads is provided from the Main Roads Fund at the Treasury, and the councils concerned must repay one-half the cost thereof over a period of 30 years, with interest. This fund is formed from (a) moneys appropriated by Parliament therefor, (b) fees on motor vehicles and traction engines, (c) fees and rents for unused roads, (d) moneys received from the sale of timber, sand, etc., on any main road, and (e) all other moneys received or recovered by the Commissioner. Wherever possible, the Commissioner arranges with local authorities to undertake the survey and construction of works, but in most cases, owing to the dearth of trained engineers in the employ of councils, the Commissioner has had to undertake most of the survey work and preparation of plans and a considerable portion of the construction. During the year ended 30th June, 1927, the receipts of the Commission amounted to £822,639, including £313,121 from the Treasury Loan Fund, £254,073 from motor fees, and £222,966 from the Commonwealth for schemes under the Main Roads Development Act (Commonwealth) and Federal Aid Scheme; and the disbursements to £795,602, including £122,101 expenditure on permanent works, £400,178 on schemes under the Commonwealth Main Roads Development Act, and £132,920 on maintenance of main roads. At that date, 4,894 miles of roads had been gazetted as main roads, and 238 miles had been surveyed during the year. In addition, 258 miles of roads had been gazetted as developmental roads up to 30th June, 1927, and 50 miles surveyed during the year.

The money made available to the State under the Commonwealth “Main Roads Development Act” is allocated and expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Main Roads.

The developmental roads sections of “The Main Roads Acts 1920 to 1925” provide that on such roads the Commissioner will be responsible for the total cost of construction, but that the local authorities concerned shall repay half the interest over a period of twenty years, and that the local authorities shall be responsible for maintenance.

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 1927; (b) licence fees under the Vehicles (Licensing) Act 1925; (c) motor vehicles tax under the Motor Vehicles Tax Acts 1915 to 1927; (d) fines, penalties, and forfeitures in respect of convictions for offences against the Motor Vehicles Acts, of the Motor Vehicles Tax Acts (exclusive of any sum received for costs), or the Width of Tires Acts; (e) fees for hawkers’ licences issued by the Treasurer; (f) contributions from Councils; (g) all sums appropriated by Parliament for main roads; (h) all loans raised and appropriated for main roads.

Moneys standing to the credit of the Fund are to be used by the Commissioner for (a) payment of the expenses incurred in connexion with carrying out the provisions of the Act; (b) defraying the cost of the operations undertaken by the Commissioner in connexion with main roads and works; (c) payment to each council of the amount of its annual grant

for main roads; (d) defraying the cost of any work required to be executed by the State pursuant to any agreement with the Commonwealth relating to the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads, etc.; (e) refunding to the Treasurer any moneys paid or set aside out of General Revenue pursuant to the Main Roads Fund Act 1922; or for the purpose of payment of the interest on any loan raised after the 1st July, 1926, and appropriated to main roads; and (f) paying during each financial year to the Public Debt Commissioners for the purposes of the reduction and redemption of any loan raised after the 1st July, 1926, and appropriated to main roads, in addition to any other sum required by law to be so paid for such purposes, at least such a sum as will amount to one and one-quarter per centum of the principal for the time being of such loan.

The Commissioner determines the amount of the Annual Main Road Grant to each Council for construction and maintenance of main roads and also the amount of money to be expended by each Council out of its revenue for the same purpose provided that such contribution shall not exceed one-half of the grant. In the case of main roads maintained departmentally the Commissioner may recover from the Council in respect of maintenance and interest charges, etc., one-third of the annual outlay or an amount calculated at £150 per mile per annum whichever amount is the smaller. The Commissioner also allocates to Councils funds voted by Parliament for roads in newly-settled areas and supervises the expenditure of funds provided under the Federal Aid Roads Scheme. The Commissioner has power to deal with cases in which any main road is being neglected by a Council or in which any work towards which a grant of assistance has been made is not being satisfactorily carried out.

The expenditure from the Main Roads Fund for year ended 30th June, 1927, was £569,904; grants in aid of rates collected paid to Councils amounted to £129,041. In the sparsely-settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department which expended during the same period £34,975.

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

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

Up to the 30th June, 1927, the loan expenditure on these works was £4,371,503 (roads, £3,608,312; tracks, £227,098; bridges, £536,093). In addition, half the proceeds of the sale of land has formed a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. Under this provision £671,164 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 following table gives particulars of the amount and cost of construction for the last five years:—

ROADS AND BRIDGES, TASMANIA—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION, 1922 TO 1927.

Period.	Expenditure.		New-road Mileage.		New Bridges.
	Loans.	Crown Lands Fund.	Cleared.	Metalled.	
	£	£	Miles.	Miles.	
1921-22	102,160	8,198	69	73	27
1922-23	71,676	6,412	47	57	13
1923-24	57,546	5,537	53	48	15
1924-25	130,871	5,341	139	119	16
1925-26	192,469	5,465	136	108	14
1926-27	144,327	4,888	81	81	29

In addition, in 1926-27, the sum of £45,654 provided by the Commonwealth Government was expended on roads; the conditional expenditure by the State Government is included in the above figures.

(ii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads and bridges is undertaken by the municipalities with some assistance from the State Government, chiefly by way of subsidy. Under the Aid to Road Rates Act, a sum of £11,000 is distributed annually among the municipalities, in proportion as the cost of maintenance falls on their resources. Under the Main Roads Maintenance Act 1918 a further sum of £5,000 was provided out of Consolidated Revenue, which, with the addition of the motor tax, less 5 per cent., and a contribution from municipalities, is expended on the upkeep of main roads. In 1925-26 the amount available for 1,100 miles of main road was £74,300. The work is carried out in most cases by municipalities, under the general direction of an Advisory Board, on which the Government, the municipalities, and the motorists are all represented. Further, the Repairs to Roads Act 1920 provides for loans for 15 years to municipalities for the purpose of re-making roads—half the loan is repaid in instalments by the local body and the remainder by the State Government. The Government also provides for the repair of the more important bridges, and for emergency work.

The above provision for maintenance has, however, in recent years been found insufficient to cope with the heavier motor traffic and to meet the demand for a better road surface further legislation is in contemplation.

7. *Summary of 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 loan expenditure by the State Governments up to the 30th June, 1927 :—

**ROADS AND BRIDGES.—GOVERNMENT LOAN EXPENDITURE TO THE
30th JUNE, 1927.**

Expenditure.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total to 30/6/27	6,045,735	8,946,492	1,839,584	3,078,150	911,563	4,371,503	25,193,027

The following table shows the annual expenditure from loans on roads and bridges by the central Governments in each State during the years 1922-23 to 1926-27 :—

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—LOAN EXPENDITURE BY STATES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land. (a)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923 ..	231,271	625,620	217,500	61,450	34,331	71,017	1,241,189
1924 ..	185,578	627,078	496,000	165,940	77,744	56,752	1,609,092
1925 ..	742,266	1,177,826	200,000	132,268	92,606	129,838	2,474,804
1926 ..	972,793	1,155,087	356,517	246,908	96,835	192,469	3,020,609
1927 ..	1,726,420	1,104,345	404,292	475,601	184,911	144,327	4,039,896

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

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

§ 3. Municipalities, Shires, Etc.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *General*. Practically the whole of the State, with the exception of the Western Division, has been divided into municipalities and shires, the total area incorporated at the end of 1926 being 184,110 square miles, of which 2,520 square miles are included in the former and 181,590 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.

(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 years 1922 to 1926 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	No. of Municipalities.	Sydney and Suburbs.		Country.		Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
		Area.	Population.	Area.	Population.			
		Acres.		Acres.				
1922	185	95,259	934,970	1,725,875	536,050	(a)	(a)	(a)
1923	184	95,259	959,772	1,720,275	545,850	(a)	(a)	(a)
1924	181	95,259	989,390	1,593,075	552,930	10,007	673	24
1925	180	96,010	1,015,870	1,516,883	564,430	(a)	(a)	(a)
1926	181	96,010	1,046,100	1,521,683	591,500	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available—collected triennially.

Of the 10,007 miles of roads, 4,772 were metalled, ballasted or gravelled, 1,787 formed only, and 1,859 cleared only, while 1,589 miles were natural surface.

(b) *Unimproved and Improved Values*. The table hereunder gives a comparison of the unimproved and improved values for the years 1922 to 1926 inclusive :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—CAPITAL VALUES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Total Metropolis.	Country.	Grand Total.
UNIMPROVED VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
1922	36,838,607	54,642,223	91,480,830	32,343,067	123,823,897
1923	36,918,354	60,984,924	97,903,278	34,238,069	132,141,347
1924	45,593,929	65,559,272	111,153,201	36,068,427	147,221,628
1925	45,656,053	70,391,344	116,047,397	37,931,396	153,978,793
1926	45,675,896	74,746,427	120,422,323	40,224,070	160,646,393
IMPROVED VALUE.					
1922	103,667,740	155,607,105	259,274,845	90,627,326	349,902,171
1923	107,239,980	174,364,307	281,604,287	99,739,138	381,343,425
1924	141,629,260	191,921,240	333,550,500	106,363,410	439,913,910
1925	151,367,380	207,833,392	359,205,772	112,733,389	471,939,161
1926	151,528,760	222,560,966	374,089,726	121,329,258	495,418,984

(c) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Particulars of the revenue and expenditure of municipalities for the year ending 31st December, 1926, under various headings, are given below :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1926.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
REVENUE.				
	£	£	£	£
General fund	} 3,460,970 (a)	{ 2,211,803	1,296,335	3,508,138 (b)
Trading accounts		{ 51,475	716,095	767,570 (b)
Special and local funds		{ 55,721	508,287	564,018 (b)
Gross revenue	3,460,970	2,319,009	2,520,717	8,300,696
EXPENDITURE.				
	£	£	£	£
General fund	} 3,587,126 (a)	{ 2,535,022	1,354,360	3,889,382 (b)
Trading accounts		{ 44,380	581,745	626,125 (b)
Special and local funds		{ 54,464	458,011	512,475 (b)
Gross expenditure	3,587,126	2,633,866	2,394,116	8,615,108

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

The next table shows the gross revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the five years 1922 to 1926 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Municipalities.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
GROSS REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	2,348,854	2,568,357	2,855,443	2,975,740	3,460,970
Suburban	1,561,760	1,709,262	1,869,399	2,197,524	2,319,009
Country	1,701,288	1,836,654	2,024,252	2,242,840	2,520,717
Total	5,611,902	6,114,273	6,749,094	7,416,104	8,300,696
GROSS EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	2,187,856	2,371,043	2,666,616	3,086,313	3,587,126
Suburban	1,618,413	1,790,120	2,064,142	2,331,723	2,633,866
Country	1,637,140	1,711,734	1,883,926	2,135,667	2,394,116
Total	5,443,409	5,872,897	6,614,684	7,553,703	8,615,108

(d) *Assets and Liabilities.* The financial position of the municipalities as at the 31st December, 1926, is shown by the following statement of assets and liabilities.

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1926.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
Bank balances and cash	22,428,281 (a)	414,804	553,627	968,431 (b)
Outstanding rates		120,074	197,559	317,633 (b)
Sundry debtors		182,047	300,480	482,527 (b)
Stores and materials		39,418	116,817	156,235 (b)
Land, buildings, furniture, etc. ..		1,153,751	5,478,886	6,632,637 (b)
Other		100,299	36,562	136,861 (b)
Total	22,428,281	2,010,393	6,683,931	31,122,605
LIABILITIES.				
Loans, outstanding interest and sundry creditors	21,746,233 (a)	2,794,217	2,273,115	5,067,332 (b)
Debts due to Government and interest thereon		76,945	2,404,038	2,480,983 (b)
Bank overdrafts		209,469	263,009	472,478 (b)
Other		58,979	83,059	142,038 (b)
Total		21,746,233	3,139,610	5,023,221	29,909,064

(a) Particulars for the city of Sydney cannot be allocated to the different headings shown for municipalities. (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, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	No. of Shires.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
	No.	sq. miles.	No.	£	miles.	No.	No.
1922	136	181,140	688,560	135,380,748	(a)	(a)	(a)
1923	136	181,140	691,000	140,392,104	(a)	(a)	(a)
1924	136	181,339	686,770	144,710,409	88,704	3,861	172
1925	136	181,590	692,280	148,251,227	(a)	(a)	(a)
1926	136	181,582	684,400	154,614,441	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available—collected triennially.

Of the 88,704 miles of roads, 18,369 were metalled or ballasted, 13,745 formed only, and 27,216 cleared only, the balance being natural surface.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of shires for the years 1922 to 1926 are shown in the following table. Included in the receipts for 1926 are Government grants amounting to £1,113,095:—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.					
<i>General Fund—</i>	£	£	£	£	£
General rates (including interest) ..	1,033,921	1,064,842	1,129,863	1,178,501	1,275,540
Government endowment ..	156,861	150,296	146,705	149,346	147,525
Public works ..	218,952	204,129	323,357	679,322	1,038,343
Health administration ..	88,165	93,532	103,500	106,125	118,188
Public services ..	16,052	15,712	15,885	19,106	17,651
Shire property ..	20,344	8,124	11,741	14,460	19,534
Miscellaneous ..	13,852	16,977	15,364	20,920	32,858
<i>Special and Local Funds</i> ..	99,960	157,547	190,271	249,746	293,155
Total revenue ..	1,648,107	1,716,159	1,936,686	2,417,524	2,942,794

EXPENDITURE.					
<i>General Fund—</i>					
Administrative expenses ..	168,802	158,362	159,719	181,713	185,986
Public works ..	1,245,857	1,268,550	1,467,867	1,948,301	2,437,726
Health administration ..	95,578	104,437	107,894	116,133	125,599
Public services ..	32,205	31,526	31,432	38,945	41,792
Shire property ..	18,518	7,041	8,524	10,438	15,224
Miscellaneous (a) ..	11,626	20,327	24,236	51,791	87,074
<i>Special, Local, and Loan Funds</i>	91,295	131,715	173,070	205,885	259,042
Total expenditure ..	1,663,881	1,721,958	1,972,742	2,553,206	3,152,443

(a) Includes interest on loans and overdraft—£7,597 in 1922, £13,185 in 1923, £19,934 in 1924, £29,083 in 1925, and £54,271 in 1926.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The finances of the shires at the end of the year 1926 showed an excess of assets of £45,157. The following table gives particulars of assets and liabilities as at the 31st December, 1926 :—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1926.

Assets.	Amount.	Liabilities.	Amount.
	£		£
Bank balances and cash ..	451,276	Loans outstanding, interest and sundry creditors ..	1,284,860
Outstanding rates ..	194,096	Bank overdrafts ..	392,110
Sundry debtors ..	119,388	Other ..	137,752
Stores and materials ..	54,383	Debts due to the Government and interest thereon ..	351,383
Land, buildings, furniture, plant, machinery, etc. ..	1,333,286		
Other ..	58,833		
Total ..	2,211,262	Total ..	2,166,105

2. Victoria.—(i) *General.* Local Government is established throughout the State (with the exception of French Island), 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.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000, the municipalities received from the Government during the financial year 1926–27 a sum of £62,300 out of the Licensing Fund as the equivalent for (a) fees for licences, (b) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants, and (c) fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under the Licensing Act 1915.

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 years 1923 to 1927 inclusive:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—SUMMARY, 1923 to 1927.

Year ending 30th September.	Number of Municipalities.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers (both sexes).	Estimated Number of Dwellings.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.	
					Total.	Annual.
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS.						
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£
1923.. ..	53	963,180	270,058	220,392	233,586,201	13,116,589
1924.. ..	53	998,950	279,292	229,066	264,693,364	14,964,345
1925.. ..	53	1,031,670	291,910	237,352	288,230,793	16,388,842
1926.. ..	55	1,072,510	314,386	247,756	314,333,446	17,778,661
1927.. ..	55	1,106,010	319,568	256,245	339,221,826	19,020,312
SHIRES.						
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£
1923.. ..	139	616,410	200,834	143,809	221,623,773	11,200,825
1924.. ..	139	627,420	213,317	147,830	235,274,597	11,816,074
1925.. ..	139	635,340	221,345	151,721	250,480,405	12,588,177
1926.. ..	139	632,550	246,161	151,353	257,350,043	12,933,459
1927.. ..	139	643,950	254,403	154,411	267,100,576	13,426,424

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The table hereunder shows the revenue from various sources, and the expenditure under various heads, exclusive of loan revenue and expenditure, of municipalities during the years 1922 to 1926:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Taxation { Rates	2,303,664	2,559,847	2,847,282	3,152,570	3,380,749
{ Licences	137,036	152,437	155,009	162,430	161,682
{ Dog fees	24,316	24,832	26,211	27,836	28,131
{ Market and weigh- bridge dues	99,485	99,337	97,794	111,548	114,773
Government endowments and grants	75,627	60,607	87,783	88,335	147,014
Contributions for streets, etc.	111,983	141,484	180,502	264,996	320,582
Sanitary charges	146,559	162,129	175,520	185,091	202,360
Rents	102,784	108,502	125,544	133,623	137,941
Electric light and gas works	722,088	794,544	913,471	986,101	1,057,596
Other sources	308,235	385,204	391,637	466,550	561,718
Total Revenue	4,031,777	4,488,923	5,000,753	5,579,080	6,112,546
Loans	706,677	885,303	1,281,423	1,535,960	1,404,566
Total Receipts	4,738,454	5,374,226	6,282,176	7,115,040	7,517,112

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MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926—*continued.*

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
EXPENDITURE FROM REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries, etc.	319,430	340,319	359,493	381,815	407,009
Sanitary work, street cleaning etc.	363,706	396,524	433,220	457,885	454,107
Lighting	130,722	131,342	134,025	144,064	153,292
Fire brigades' contributions	48,526	49,225	55,412	58,250	64,508
Public Works { Construction	271,007	294,711	404,661	479,690	454,247
Maintenance	1,324,845	1,366,202	1,345,278	2,104,402	2,195,045
Electric Light and Gas Works	540,704	582,380	680,568	715,498	757,456
Formation of private streets, etc.	147,612	163,600	343,978	456,689	446,961
Redemption of loans	136,090	165,675	180,987	211,152	229,913
Interest on loans	305,289	343,164	386,946	457,669	513,222
Charities	26,436	26,288	28,550	30,187	35,469
Other expenditure	332,067	356,199	393,545	433,154	581,493
Total from Revenue	3,946,434	4,215,689	5,246,663	5,900,455	6,292,722
EXPENDITURE FROM LOANS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Roads and Bridges	170,324	269,620	515,337	619,424	664,555
Water and Irrigation	1,351	3,225	5,216	1,855	335
Sewerage and Drainage	37,166	54,650	64,838	47,294	42,093
Electric Light and Gas	*	191,655	239,406	226,400	205,780
Public Buildings	18,762	53,995	119,277	114,472	101,271
Other purposes	479,074	312,158	337,349	526,515	304,153
Total from Loan	706,677	885,303	1,281,423	1,535,960	1,318,187
Grand Total	4,653,111	5,100,992	6,528,086	7,436,415	7,610,909

* Included with "Other Purposes."

(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 years 1922 to 1926 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1922 TO 1926.

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
ASSETS.					
MUNICIPAL FUND—	£	£	£	£	£
Uncollected rates	176,830	202,251	231,623	282,495	286,338
Other assets	636,509	730,603	1,098,843	1,390,966	1,049,190
LOAN FUND—					
(a) <i>Sinking funds—</i>					
Amount at credit	430,689	455,766	500,214	496,522	545,712
Arrears due	511	670	127	724	210
(b) <i>Unexpended balances</i>	442,360	526,622	501,858	495,980	587,609
PROPERTY—					
Buildings, markets, etc.	4,804,008	5,170,071	5,773,520	6,221,030	6,842,280
Waterworks	253,520	255,737	264,630	258,890	340,920
Gasworks	129,020	145,874	174,660	176,330	185,690
Total	6,873,447	7,487,504	8,545,475	9,322,937	9,837,949

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1922 TO 1926—*continued.*

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
LIABILITIES.					
MUNICIPAL FUND—					
Arrears due sinking funds	511	670	127	724	210
Overdue interest	6,026	8,054	7,445	8,440	9,475
Bank overdrafts	858,733	665,866	892,893	1,106,264	902,820
Other liabilities	389,340	440,031	767,691	990,177	819,356
LOAN FUND—					
Loans outstanding	5,714,570	6,601,731	7,574,523	8,146,750	9,076,787
Due on loan contracts	177,755	380,839	237,695	256,794	359,496
Due on current contracts	88,936	155,233	161,031	144,677	145,051
Total	7,235,871	8,252,424	9,641,405	10,653,826	11,313,195

3. Queensland.—(i) *General.* The whole of the State (except a few islands in Moreton Bay) 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 years 1922 to 1926 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	No.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Number of Inhabited Dwellings.	Rateable Value.	Assets.	Liabilities.	
							Government Loans.	Total.

CITIES AND TOWNS. (a)

		sq. miles.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	
1922	..	36	522	343,799	71,887	19,486,391	3,332,459	1,034,842	2,939,178
1923	..	36	537	354,187	73,874	20,606,516	3,809,427	1,187,596	3,427,871
1924	..	35	506	364,754	75,846	21,222,982	4,566,242	1,500,037	4,409,566
1925(a)	..	28	845	(b)	77,895	21,880,425	5,562,366	1,759,571	5,294,089
1926(c)	..	28	843	483,094	102,630	29,952,796	8,216,424	2,159,277	9,516,460

SHIRES. (a)

1922	..	134	669,372	427,739	96,840	50,284,568	1,427,832	835,847	1,122,690
1923	..	134	669,627	446,943	98,608	51,041,891	1,690,868	948,288	1,349,752
1924	..	135	669,388	460,240	101,494	51,858,728	1,835,457	1,091,384	1,529,015
1925(a)	..	124	669,049	(b)	103,984	52,059,980	2,119,994	1,310,755	1,837,306
1926(c)	..	124	669,051	396,325	86,659	48,473,508	1,558,397	1,219,713	1,727,255

(a) From 1st October, 1925, Greater Brisbane was constituted, absorbing the areas of 2 cities, 6 towns, 10 shires, and part of 2 other shires.

(b) Total population of cities, towns, and shires, 839,834.

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

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure (including loan moneys) of cities and towns, and of shires for each year from 1922 to 1926, are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Loans and Subsidies. (a)	Total.	Public Works and Services. (b)	Government Loan Redemption.	Office Expenses and Salaries.	Total.
CITIES AND TOWNS.							
1922	£ 872,905	£ 116,762	£ 1,411,713	£ 1,087,680	£ 46,175	£ 106,392	£ 1,569,525
1923	917,827	215,221	1,918,986	1,228,434	48,097	112,978	1,771,091
1924	950,890	296,384	2,265,220	1,841,001	46,514	123,574	2,453,753
1925	1,012,243	297,026	2,560,252	2,112,443	50,568	160,514	2,944,333
1926	1,361,278	113,974	4,297,760	3,036,262	49,735	199,259	4,793,973
SHIRES.							
1922	732,906	96,204	1,084,665	732,520	34,810	127,135	1,060,141
1923	749,474	328,462	1,317,104	980,630	36,747	146,887	1,314,514
1924	828,790	311,576	1,409,704	1,041,912	39,872	159,402	1,429,385
1925	941,742	407,688	1,659,136	1,246,692	42,407	147,597	1,876,824
1926	833,478	412,056	1,526,121	1,196,885	44,804	120,569	1,591,427

(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.

During the period covered by the table some changes have been made by the absorption of Shires into the Metropolitan Area (see note (a) previous table). Since 1st December, 1928, the Brisbane City Council has assumed control of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Works.

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

(ii) *Local Authorities. (a) Summary.* During the past five years the number of corporations and district councils has increased by 12, the total being 196, of which 11 corporations and 13 district councils are in the metropolitan area, and 28 corporations and 144 district councils in outside areas. According to the latest available information there are about 1,062 miles of roads in use for general traffic under the control of corporations and about 44,485 miles under the control of district councils, and of these totals, 14½ miles are wood-blocked, 65½ miles are bitumen and concrete, and 12,974 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 years 1922 to 1926:—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Area.	Estimated Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assessment Value.	Outstanding Loans.
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.						
	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	£
1922	59,279	220,555	48,120	51,100,946	2,544,974	439,319
1923	59,279	223,875	49,260	54,983,943	2,759,282	443,893
1924	62,699	232,044	51,441	60,792,222	3,095,439	481,060
1925	64,080	238,009	52,856	65,550,732	3,300,048	525,518
1926	64,560	245,389	54,697	73,228,273	3,550,895	508,604
DISTRICT COUNCILS.						
1922	30,196,509	272,104	59,737	68,293,518	3,429,776	135,424(a)
1923	30,177,455	282,266	62,223	74,949,756	3,747,623	157,546(a)
1924	30,535,351	285,759	63,572	81,665,583	4,083,357	175,061(a)
1925	31,023,175	294,749	66,585	85,608,532	4,280,375	188,145(a)
1926	33,390,987	307,998	70,096	94,432,691	4,668,397	221,831(a)

(a) Includes advances through District Councils to settlers for vermin-proof fencing, &c., amounting to £167,380 for 1926.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of corporations and district councils for the years 1922 to 1926, showing in separate columns the receipts and expenditure on main roads. 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, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Local Government (exclusive of Government Grants Account).						Government Grants Account (Main Roads).	
	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rates.	Subsidies.	Total.	Roads.	Other Public Works.	Total.		

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	315,772	29,328	470,183	185,758	188,756	500,421	33,222	35,364
1923 ..	346,844	34,576	511,078	248,270	204,314	584,005	25,637	22,541
1924 ..	382,008	38,538	567,344	240,902	201,698	609,446	28,010	27,486
1925 ..	412,933	38,258	713,764	278,236	211,322	727,834	23,111	23,886
1926 ..	450,996	48,601	755,472	347,691	226,389	744,556	38,873	41,590

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

1922 ..	242,591	50,101	356,359	213,557	53,323	361,290	171,756	185,091
1923 ..	277,563	56,281	407,980	222,574	59,380	403,194	217,267	213,612
1924 ..	317,583	64,966	464,414	262,124	54,289	445,463	241,544	235,245
1925 ..	335,690	74,797	506,889	308,068	66,215	511,725	273,065	278,086
1926 ..	369,133	81,259	561,063	321,717	91,931	547,633	344,768	338,865

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 two latter 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 years 1923 to 1927.

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 31st Oct.—	Municipalities.	Area.	Population.	Dwelling Houses.	Valuation of Rateable Property.		Length of Roads and Streets.
					Capital Value.	Annual Value.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	Miles.
1923 ..	21	58,981	172,881	35,498	31,054,031	1,810,173	993
1924 ..	21	58,981	172,427	35,498	32,881,961	1,910,798	994
1925 ..	21	58,981	172,866	35,550	35,315,316	1,982,967	997
1926 ..	21	58,981	177,591	35,832	36,882,613	2,099,513	1,003
1927 ..	21	58,981	182,417	36,598	39,111,843	2,173,203	a 717

a Exclusive of cleared roads, which are included in previous years.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Revenue and expenditure of municipalities during the years 1923 to 1927 are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923 TO 1927.

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.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923 ..	277,993	939	593,937	872,869	202,758	190,738	471,140	864,636
1924 ..	287,863	4,372	738,040	1,030,275	236,050	191,618	599,952	1,027,620
1925 ..	297,143	200	860,140	1,157,483	300,799	214,226	561,578	1,076,603
1926 ..	310,230	84	729,344	1,039,658	226,822	229,335	630,828	1,086,985
1927 ..	324,739	167	879,273	1,204,179	312,719	200,097	662,827	1,175,643

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.*—The table below shows the assets and liabilities of municipalities at the 31st October in each financial year 1923 to 1927 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 31st October—	Assets.				Liabilities.	
	Balance in Hand.	Value of Property.	Accrued Sinking Funds.	Total.	Outstanding Debentures and Bonds.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923 ..	48,580	1,574,805	477,016	2,212,099	1,802,782	1,894,126
1924 ..	51,460	1,570,010	449,007	2,193,487	1,864,993	1,961,763
1925 ..	136,917	1,580,435	487,670	2,329,990	2,135,132	2,253,841
1926 ..	92,088	1,625,556	503,428	2,361,770	2,183,885	2,323,370
1927 ..	114,934	1,706,737	550,192	2,608,814	2,329,191	2,465,136

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

On the 30th June, 1927, the population was estimated at 213,042, and the number of dwelling-houses at 51,075. Nine districts, however, only give figures at time of the 1921 census.

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Road Districts.	Area.	Unimproved Capital Value (Approximate).	Length of Roads in Existence.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Outstanding Loans.
	No.	sq. miles.	£	miles.	£	£	£
1923 ..	121	975,828	16,202,890 ^a	38,907	379,649	292,915	210,755
1924 ..	122	975,828	17,310,105 ^a	39,863	418,060	348,690	242,043
1925 ..	123	975,828	18,444,720 ^a	41,666	448,318	388,403	280,089
1926 ..	124	975,828	20,080,137 ^a	44,280 ^b	504,599	447,515	314,869
1927 ..	125	975,828	21,119,659 ^a	15,070	571,668	545,700	409,002

(a) Exclusive of one Board which rates under the annual value only.

(b) Exclusive of cleared roads which are included in previous years.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of district road boards are shown in the following table for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Other.	Total.	Administration.	Works.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923 ..	193,018	56,518	120,202	369,738	38,704	203,267	105,315	347,286
1924 ..	213,848	74,184	146,743	434,775	44,233	238,014	113,604	445,851
1925 ..	233,770	66,516	186,452	486,738	46,166	299,204	140,092	485,462
1926 ..	241,243	98,123	231,174	570,540	47,416	378,334	146,891	572,641
1927 ..	270,464	85,427	321,369	677,260	55,685	447,178	184,471	687,334

(iv) *Local Boards of Health.* (a) *General.* On the 31st October, 1927, there were 21 local boards of health within municipalities, and on the 30th June, 1927, 83 under control of road boards, and 23 extra-municipal boards. Of the extra-municipal boards 7 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 from 1923 to 1927. 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, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Number.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		Assets.	Liabilities.
		Rates.	Sanitary Charges and Rubbish Fees.	Total.	Sanitary and Rubbish Service.	Total.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
1923 ..	125	56,523	70,700	140,056	89,430	133,191	88,456	16,192
1924 ..	122	60,255	66,378	137,047	92,324	136,099	89,311	16,549
1925 ..	123	55,907	68,738	145,844	92,236	148,265	84,526	16,348
1926 ..	124	58,640	66,658	141,624	96,770	145,478	85,503	19,651
1927 ..	127	64,275	73,539	152,675	101,594	148,654	92,992	24,362

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 years 1922 to 1926. The latest available figure for inhabited dwellings is for the year 1921, when the number was 45,950.

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Number of Municipalities.	Valuations.			Outstanding Loans.	Length of Roads.
		Annual Value.	Unimproved Value.	Total Capital Value.		
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.						
	No.	£	£	£	£	Miles.
1922 ..	2	784,945	6,139,362	14,123,587	1,924,252	179
1923 ..	2	887,583	6,388,152	15,140,686	2,017,691	187
1924 ..	2	984,592	6,711,549	16,521,819	2,062,609	195
1925 ..	2	1,088,541	6,789,728	17,056,147	2,390,189	196
1926 ..	2	1,122,945	6,914,733	17,565,443	2,431,320	197

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1922 ..	47	1,396,941	14,735,436	29,034,047	407,719	11,557
1923 ..	47	1,423,174	15,168,896	30,318,877	417,535	11,725
1924 ..	47	1,472,749	15,535,414	31,180,993	464,286	11,692
1925 ..	47	1,533,372	15,944,225	32,244,369	536,339	11,871
1926 ..	47	1,544,598	15,867,915	32,130,186	561,089	12,014

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Total.	Administration.	Works and Services. (b)	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Total.
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.							
1922	£ 178,921	£ 2,056	£ 577,707	£ 29,491 ^a	£ 403,555	£ 110,716	£ 544,133
1923	234,313	1,263	641,070	28,361 ^a	336,961	125,297	613,380
1924	244,006	450	555,868 ^c	47,619	265,643	132,449	604,903
1925	257,328	885	1,021,275	48,020	564,214	145,407	758,274
1926	279,259	3,738	790,702	47,996	462,908	157,880	748,000

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1922	£ 156,408	£ 30,694	£ 269,388	£ 36,038	£ 193,188	£ 24,248	£ 270,386
1923	167,616	26,026	267,674	36,003	181,087	28,438	264,395
1924	179,297	31,745	284,769	37,697	201,181	28,421	299,253
1925	189,759	38,646	377,618	35,327	238,196	30,225	369,476
1926	200,014	47,984	368,302	36,106	250,097	37,675	348,521

(a) Hobart only (Launceston figures not available).

(b) Including expenditure from Loans.

(c) Excluding Loans.

7. *Northern Territory.*—(i) *Municipality of Darwin.* The following particulars relate to the year 1925–26 :—Area, 2,024 acres, population 924, number of occupied dwellings 231, of unoccupied dwellings 3, and of other buildings 132. Revenue from general rates £1,602, from Government grants £801, other sources £443, total £2,846; expenditure £3,332.

(ii) *Bagot Roads District.* During the year 1925–26 the receipts amounted to £141 and the expenditure to £4, leaving (with a balance of £185 brought forward from the previous year) a balance in hand of £322.

8. *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, but limitations of space preclude their repetition in the present issue.

§ 4. Summary of Municipal 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 1926. Victoria : 30th September, 1926, except Melbourne, 31st December, and Geelong, 31st August, 1927. Queensland : calendar year 1926. South Australia : Corporations, 30th November, and district councils, 30th June, 1926. Western Australia : Municipalities, 31st October, 1926, district road boards, 30th June, 1926. Tasmania : calendar year 1926.

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

MUNICIPALITIES IN EACH STATE.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
No. of local authorities ..	317	194	152	196	272(d)	49	1,160

RECEIPTS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates—							
General ..	11,243,490	3,380,749	1,672,950	820,129	610,113	179,660	29,195,485
Other ..		506,946	521,808				
Government grants, etc. ..		147,015	3,629,125	513,501	164,865	51,722	
Loans and other sources ..	3,482,402	366,546		976,844	628,009		
Total ..	11,243,490	7,517,112	5,823,881	1,700,176	1,751,822	1,159,004	29,195,485

EXPENDITURE.

Works, services, etc. ..	11,767,551	5,072,330	4,233,147	1,670,644	1,805,104	504,985	30,336,129
Interest on loans and overdrafts		513,222	483,653			151,225	
Redemptions, sinking funds, etc. ..		229,913	263,083			44,330	
Administration		407,009	319,828			84,102	
Other ..		1,388,435	1,085,689			311,879	
Total ..	11,767,551	7,610,909	6,385,400	1,670,644	1,805,104	1,096,521	30,336,129

VALUATIONS.

Capital value of property ..	a315,260,834	606,322,402	778,426,304	167,660,964	602,231,502	49,695,629	1,277,597,635
Annual value of property ..	(b)	32,440,736	(b)	8,219,292	(b)	2,667,543	(b)

(a) Unimproved capital value of all rateable property. (b) Not available. (c) The valuation of road districts is the unimproved capital value. (d) Including 127 Boards of Health, some of which are within municipalities and others within road districts. (e) Sanitary charges, licences, fees, etc. (f) Rateable value.

3. Local Government Loans, 1926.—The following table shows the amount of loans raised by local authorities during the year 1926, of loans current at the end of that year, and the liability on account of interest and sinking fund, and of loans redeemed during 1926 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—LOANS, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
Loans raised during year ..	£ 3,447,204	£ 1,219,461	£ 1,299,265	£ 60,321	£ 192,314	£ 229,843	£ 6,448,408
Loans current at end of year	20,577,403	9,076,787	9,322,439	730,435	2,498,754	3,042,409	45,248,227
Annual liability on account of interest ..	1,022,951	(a)	440,887	39,817	130,112	157,897	(a)
Total sinking fund at end of year ..	1,953,499	545,942	267,923	31,578	462,959	407,524	3,669,425
Amount of loans redeemed during year ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	46,288	108,801	110,762	(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*. During the year ended 30th June, 1927, progress was made with the pressure tunnel, 10 miles long and 10 feet in diameter, which is being constructed to convey water to the city. Service reservoirs of 36 million gallons and 19 million gallons respectively are being constructed at Killara and Waverley-Vaucluse and amplification of pumping plant and mains is proceeding. The maximum day's consumption in the metropolitan area was 108,720,000 gallons. The mileage of mains now totals 3,863 miles.

(b) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses and estimated population supplied, and other details for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—WATER SUPPLIED, 1923 TO 1927.

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.
1923 ..	239,528	1,197,640	56,595	20,657,319	236	47.26	126
1924 ..	250,804	1,254,020	58,628	21,458,036	234	46.78	126
1925 ..	259,799	1,298,995	57,355	20,934,784	221	44.15	150
1926 ..	268,558	1,342,790	67,142	24,506,739	250	50.00	175
1927 ..	280,157	1,400,785	70,344	25,675,530	251	50.22	211

(c) *Finances*.—The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure on account of the services of waterworks, sewerage and drainage during the year 1926–27, and is followed by a statement giving similar figures for the combined services for a period of five years.

WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE, SYDNEY, 1926-27.

Item.	Revenue.	Working Expenses, Sinking Fund Contribution, and Renewals.	Capital Indebtedness.	Percentage of Working Expenses and Sinking Fund Con- tribution on Revenue.	Percent- age of Revenue on Average Capital Cost.	Interest.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
Water ..	1,399,581	a 628,022	17,861,937	39.49	7.85	872,006	100,447
Sewerage	833,384	b 301,307	10,909,276	35.59	7.71	539,638	7,561
Drainage	33,944	c 17,176	442,200	47.14	7.64	21,895	5,127

(a) Includes payment of £89,657 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness, and £75,360 on Renewals.

(b) Includes payment of £41,817 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness, and £4,712 on Renewals.

(c) Includes payment of £1,693 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness, and £1,174 on Renewals.

WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost, exclusive of Items on which Interest is not charged.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest Payable on Capital Cost.	Profit after Payment of Working Expenses and Interest.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1923 ..	1,654,666	594,774	19,877,104	35.95	8.33	992,503	67,389
1924 ..	1,861,637	624,887	21,239,237	33.56	8.77	1,057,732	179,013
1925 ..	1,860,306	687,274	23,196,472	36.94	8.02	1,102,923	70,109
1926 ..	2,131,471	908,400	26,875,871	42.62	7.93	1,316,784	— 93,713
1927 ..	2,266,909	946,505	29,213,413	41.75	7.76	1,433,539	— 113,135

(iii) *Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Systems. (a) General.* In addition to the usual progress made in connecting additional houses, 74 miles of new sewers were laid, the total length now being 1,491 miles. The quantity of sewage pumped was 4,530 million gallons.

(b) *Houses Drained, Population Served, Length of Sewers, etc.* Particulars for the years 1923 to 1927 are given hereunder:—

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Drained.	Estimated Population Served.	Total Length of Sewers.	Total Length of Storm-water Drains.	Ventilating Shafts Erected.	Sewers Ventilated.
	No.	No.	Miles.	Miles.	Feet.	Miles.
1923 ..	159,390	796,950	1,273.71	65.70	532,470	1,162
1924 ..	165,215	826,075	1,313.90	65.96	543,306	1,208
1925 ..	170,774	853,870	1,358.19	66.37	556,032	1,246
1926 ..	176,388	881,940	1,415.57	67.17	568,506	1,283
1927 ..	179,580	897,900	1,491.37	74.67	578,932	1,312

(iv) *Newcastle Water Supply. (a) General.* The work of service reservoir construction, commenced during the preceding year, was continued, and reservoirs were constructed at Toronto (capacity 310,000 gallons), Adamstown (capacity 507,300 gallons), and St. James Road, New Lambton (capacity 505,600 gallons). Reservoirs were also in course of construction at Tenambit and Pelton at 30th June, 1927. The water supply to the Cockle Creek District and to the Cessnock Division was considerably improved during the year by the construction of additional pipe lines.

Eighty-two miles of water mains were laid, bringing the total up to 671 miles.

The amplification of the 36-in. Chichester trunk gravitation main is being investigated by an Engineering Committee appointed by the Minister for Public Works.

(b) *Particulars of Services.* The following table supplies details for the years 1923 to 1927:—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—SUMMARY, 1923 TO 1927.

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.
1923 ..	29,036	140,180	4,806	1,754,417	171	34.28	29
1924 ..	29,568	147,840	5,756	2,106,614	195	38.92	21
1925 ..	31,405	157,025	6,334	2,312,045	201	40.34	22
1926 ..	33,997	169,985	7,310	2,668,214	215	43.00	47
1927 ..	36,600	183,000	8,139	2,970,781	222	44.47	75

(c) *Finances.* The next table gives the revenue, working expenses, capital debt, and net profit for the years 1923 to 1927:—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses, Interest, and Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1923 ..	110,076	62,155	2,271,295	56.47	4.85	54,682	— 6,761
1924 ..	143,138	63,883	2,730,003	44.63	5.24	58,701	20,554
1925 ..	153,045	53,319	3,046,823	34.84	5.02	61,543	38,183
1926 ..	163,807	65,328	3,244,121	39.89	5.05	69,817	28,662
1927 ..	170,601	78,397	3,478,909	45.95	4.90	75,818	16,386

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) represents loss.

The capital debt in respect of water supply set down as £3,478,909, includes expenditure amounting to £2,075,089 on the Chichester Scheme, which was vested in the Board on 26th June, 1925. The capital expenditure in respect of transferred works is £1,403,820. The percentage of revenue on transferred (and, therefore, revenue-producing) works is 12.15 per cent. as against 4.90 per cent. on total debt.

(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 have been reported upon favourably by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, and the works will be put in hand in the near future.

An Engineering Experts Committee is inquiring into the question of the amplification, extension and improvement of the stormwater drainage works of the Newcastle district. The works comprised in the Cottage Creek stormwater area have been authorized and are under construction, and the Throsby Creek catchment area scheme is now being prepared.

(b) *Sewerage Connexions and Length of Sewers.* During the year ended 30th June, 1927, the number of properties connected with sewers was 1,148, making a total of 19,219. New sewers of a total length of 6 miles were constructed by the Board, bringing the total length of sewers under the Board's control to 182 miles.

(c) *Finances.* Particulars in regard to chief items for the years 1923 to 1927 are given hereunder:—

NEWCASTLE SEWERAGE.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses, Interest, and Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1923 ..	49,551	19,692	592,148	39.74	8.37	36,172	— 6,313
1924 ..	56,210	21,915	610,849	38.99	9.20	37,083	— 2,788
1925 ..	63,707	21,910	636,475	34.39	10.01	37,326	4,471
1926 ..	68,412	22,625	641,648	33.07	10.66	38,437	7,350
1927 ..	75,175	25,578	659,442	34.03	11.40	39,767	9,830

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) indicates loss.

(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.

(b) *Waterworks*. Up to the 30th June, 1927, waterworks in 68 towns had been completed and handed over to the respective local authorities. The capital cost of these works was £2,053,476; the outstanding capital indebtedness as at the date mentioned was £1,900,368, and the annual repayment instalments totalled £95,989. The Broken Hill and Junee water supplies are administered by the Public Works Department under special Acts; these services entailed capital expenditures of £481,220 and £104,633, respectively.

(c) *Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Works*. Up to the 30th June, 1927, sewerage works in eleven towns, and stormwater drainage works in sixteen towns had been completed. Capital expenditure thereon totalled £663,402, and the outstanding capital indebtedness £607,007. The repayment instalments total £29,692 per annum.

2. *Victoria*.—(i) A. *The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works*. (a) *General*. All land within 13 miles of the General Post Office is included within the metropolitan area for water supply and sewerage purposes. This area covers 434 square miles of land area, and in 1927 embraced 24 cities, and part of another city, together with parts of 13 shires, or a total of 38 municipalities or portions thereof. The whole of the city of Mordialloc and of the shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolitan for water supply purposes, and the Board is also empowered to supply water to certain municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the outfall-sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange for bulk supplies of water. The liability on the 30th June, 1927, for loans raised by the Board, was £17,837,090. The Board is still empowered to borrow £1,302,844 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure*. The following table shows the actual receipts and expenditure, and the loan receipts and expenditure of the Board from 1922-23 to 1926-27:—

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Particulars.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
ORDINARY RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply	500,671	545,835	587,765	656,116	710,273
Sewerage, etc.	542,698	472,074	521,205	577,186	620,154
Live stock—Metropolitan farm	42,045	85,059	77,763	109,474	82,410
Interest { Water supply	4,587	12,427	10,178	3,276	3,525
{ Sewerage	11,306	11,190	16,503	14,089	18,206
Superannuation Contributions .. .. .	..	..	..	3,215	9,268
Total	1,101,307	1,126,585	1,213,414	1,363,356	1,443,936

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

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE, 1922-23 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Particulars.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.					
General management	£ 64,027	£ 68,803	£ 73,739	£ 74,536	£ 77,150
Live stock, etc.—Metropolitan farm	46,632	101,311	86,546	103,485	89,702
Maintenance { Water supply	65,551	81,991	80,557	84,468	99,968
{ Sewerage	60,548	74,459	76,877	83,342	96,894
Interest { Water supply	203,569	238,572	283,145	305,182	340,663
{ Sewerage	430,418	441,567	475,680	506,985	549,190
Patriotic, Relief Funds, etc.	10	..	..	500	2,319
Superannuation, Pensions, and Compensation Allowances	5,756	5,562	9,061	6,113	12,546
Contribution Government Loan Redemption .. ..	..	..	..	761	179
River Snagging .. ..	..	..	..	5,422	5,428
Total	876,511	1,012,265	1,085,605	1,170,794	1,274,039
LOAN RECEIPTS.					
Water supply	£ 19,074	£ 18,588	£ 19,015	£ 21,327	£ 31,282
Sewerage	61,959	61,992	53,348	77,654	94,535
Proceeds of loans	749,410	1,260,716	1,783,293	1,775,000	800,000
Miscellaneous	25,978	21,875	28,557	65,974	31,744
Alterations to water mains .. ..	..	..	5,426	9,757	10,979
Alterations to sewers .. ..	..	..	3,785	1,758	606
Total	856,421	1,363,171	1,898,424	1,951,470	969,146
LOAN EXPENDITURE.					
Water supply construction	£ 297,365	£ 348,483	£ 540,938	£ 706,162	£ 660,387
Sewerage construction	351,006	425,653	546,356	823,163	643,449
Renewals, main outfall	2,280	1,654	874	..	..
Cleaning rising main .. ..	..	1,156	2,409	..	..
Alterations to water mains .. ..	..	..	11,341	12,361	20,774
Alterations to sewers .. ..	..	..	869	1,126	5,063
Expenses in floating and redemp- tion of loans	80,840	954,774	707,785	332,142	4,671
Miscellaneous	49,911	106,081	102,500	99,527	125,622
River improvements .. ..	..	..	..	..	4,249
Main drains .. ..	..	..	..	..	39,168
Total	781,402	1,837,801	1,913,072	1,974,481	1,508,383

B. Melbourne Water Supply. (a) Progress of Work. The principal works completed or in hand during the year ended 30th June, 1927, were:—Construction of Maroondah Dam (upper portion and outlet tower). Duplication of Maroondah Syphons, 40,553 lineal feet. Raising lining of Maroondah Aqueduct, 21,794 lineal feet. Construction of O'Shannassy Dam. Raising lining of O'Shannassy Aqueduct, 2,329 lineal feet. Diversion Syphon, O'Shannassy Weir, 852 lineal feet. Construction of outlet and diversion works, Silvan Reservoir. Construction of service reservoir at North Essendon. Construction of dividing wall and screening chamber, Caulfield Reservoir. During the year 1 mile 68½ chains of aqueducts were constructed, and (allowing for water mains lifted) there was a net increase in large mains laid of 19 miles 60½ chains, and of 75 miles 40½ chains in pipes under 12 inches diameter, in various parts of the metropolis.

The total length of aqueducts, mains, and reticulation amounted to 2,313 miles.

(b) *Quantity of Water, Number of Houses, and Population Supplied.* The following table gives various particulars for the years 1923 to 1927. The rate levied over the period has remained at sixpence in the pound.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Consumption.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reticulation, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1923 ..	195,763	867,230	51,206	18,690,114	269.3	60.8	1,931
1924 ..	207,333	918,485	47,642	17,436,949	236.4	53.4	2,011
1925 ..	215,476	954,558	52,563	19,185,605	248.6	56.1	2,102
1926 ..	223,603	990,561	54,696	19,964,016	249.1	56.2	2,216
1927 ..	232,276	1,028,983	57,023	20,813,537	250.2	56.5	2,313

(c) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Expenditure and Surplus.* The total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals and special war expenditure), interest and surplus for the five years ending 30th June, 1927, together with the total amounts to that date are given below :—

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1923 ..	285,352	507,475	a 85,407	16.83	b 217,723	204,345
1924 ..	314,521	524,165	a 86,853	16.57	b 247,883	189,429
1925 ..	513,523	579,502	a 97,992	16.91	b 294,845	186,665
1926 ..	680,889	664,926	a 105,597	15.88	b 326,476	232,853
1927 ..	614,223	720,124	a 113,706	15.79	b 367,363	239,055
Total to date ..	7,799,428	13,736,348	2,341,090	17.04	6,100,816	5,294,442

(a) Exclusive of Renewals.

(b) Includes Interest on Renewals and Sinking Funds.

C. Melbourne Sewerage. (a) Progress of Work. The Pumping Station at Spotswood has been completely converted to electric drive three-phase current, 440 volts 25 cycles and 415 volts 50 cycles being used. All the normal daily sewage is pumped by the electric pumps, whilst certain of the reciprocating steam pumps are held in readiness to deal with storm-water and emergencies. The total volume of sewage pumped during the year 1927 was 12,549,580,000 gallons, or 34,382,411 gallons per day.

Notwithstanding a decrease in pumping of 399,840,000 gallons of sewage as compared with the year 1925-26, the unit cost of raising 1,000 gallons 100 feet was reduced from .511d. to .477d. The station has now reached a stage at which any additional quantity of sewage and storm-water, if spread out fairly evenly over the year, can be handled very cheaply.

Venturi meters have been fitted to all the electric pumps, and the quantity of sewage dealt with can now be ascertained accurately. In the past it was only possible to estimate this.

Apart from the normal maintenance and repairs necessary to keep the plant efficient the principal work carried out was in connexion with the duplication of the Straining Wells. On account of the special conditions under which this work is being carried out, progress has not been as rapid as was anticipated, but it should be completed during the current year.

At the present time—in the northern and southern buildings at the Pumping Station, Spotswood—the two sewerage systems can still be handled wholly by electric energy or partly by steam, either separately or unitedly. The normal procedure, however, is to deal with everything by means of the electrical pumps in the southern building. The nominal capacity of the five electrical centrifugal pumping units amounts to 78 million gallons of sewage daily. In addition, the seven reciprocal steam-driven pumps of 300 horse-power have a combined daily capacity of 56 million gallons, making the total available capacity equal to 134 million gallons of sewage per day. The usual practice is to deal with the normal daily load of about 36 million gallons of sewage with two 50-cycle and one 25-cycle electric pumps, the remaining two being left in reserve, while the heavy peak loads which, through storm-water entering the sewers, are sometimes experienced, are handled either by the steam engines or the remaining electric pumps, according to circumstances.

Four branch sewers were completed; 49 reticulation areas and one minor reticulation extension were also completed. Three branch sewers and eleven reticulation areas were also in progress. By day labour, one main sewer was completed, and one reticulation area was also completed, one main and one branch sewer were in progress, also one reticulation area, 246 minor reticulation extensions, 2,497 branches and short pieces of reticulation, and two alterations were completed. At 30th June, 1927, there were 31 separate contracts and day labour jobs in progress, ranging in cost from £100 to £10,465.

(b) *Number of Houses Connected, etc.* Particulars of services for the years 1923 to 1927 are given below:—

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1923 TO 1927.

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.
1923 ..	175,379	776,929	36,335	13,262,326	212.3	47.9	1,812
1924 ..	182,987	810,632	35,750	13,084,370	199.5	45.0	1,861
1925 ..	191,318	847,538	36,847	13,449,080	196.9	44.4	1,925
1926 ..	199,918	885,637	35,478	12,949,420	181.4	40.9	2,001
1927 ..	208,003	921,453	34,382	12,549,580	168.6	38.1	2,091

(c) *Disposal of Night-soil from Unsewered Premises.* The agreements entered into with 29 councils for the collection and delivery by them of night-soil from unsewered premises within their respective municipal districts have continued in operation during the year. The total number of pans cleaned was 1,409,583, and the night-soil was disposed of by burial by the Board at its various depots at Brooklyn, Campbellfield, Janefield, Burwood, and Moorabbin, though operations at Janefield ceased on 23rd March, 1927.

In view of the difficulty of disposing of night-soil, the Sewerage Committee after inspecting the septic tank system in Adelaide, decided to recommend that legislative authority be procured to compel the installation of septic tanks or some other approved treatment.

(d) *Main Drains.* A number of necessary amendments to the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1923* was passed in December, 1926, and though all the amendments desired by the Board were not included, it was decided that construction work should be proceeded with immediately.

Early in 1927 a list of works was approved, and before the end of the year contracts amounting in all to £115,535 were let.

Most of the principal drainage areas in Melbourne and suburbs have been defined, and preliminary schemes have been prepared for dealing with the storm waters from a number of these areas.

(e) *Finances.* The capital cost, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and deficiency for the years 1923 to 1927 are given below :—

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1923	263,050	552,643	a 116,804	21.14	b 438,577	2,738
1924	337,740	480,748	a 119,571	24.87	b 451,168	89,991
1925	441,275	537,657	a 129,050	24.00	b 485,027	76,420
1926	665,133	600,445	a 133,988	22.31	b 520,508	54,051
1927	463,363	633,165	a 148,814	23.50	b 560,539	76,188
Total to date	10,493,351	9,165,009	2,147,803	23.43	9,470,097	2,452,891

(a) Exclusive of Renewals. (b) Includes interest on Renewals and Sinking Funds.

(f) *Metropolitan Sewage Farm.* On 30th June, 1927, the total area of the farm was 21,312 acres. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Interest.	Net Cost of Sewage Purification.	Trading Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	28,654	20,282	a26,441	29,744	35,903	11,285
1924	36,081	28,903	a26,786	31,995	29,878	19,968
1925	19,136	30,298	a26,413	34,471	30,586	21,688
1926	220,847	42,391	a25,703	41,578	24,890	33,945
1927	27,566	35,097	331,376	48,650	44,929	24,505
Total to date ..	944,140	635,794	373,452	689,576	393,320	373,378

(a) Exclusive of Renewals.

(ii) *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, constituted in 1908, consists of five commissioners, two of whom represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio and South Barwon jointly. The amount of loan money which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £220,000 for sewerage installation to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 44,000.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The works comprise the Korweinguboorra Reservoir and the Bolwarra Weir on Eastern Moorabool River, together with the necessary channels, mains and reservoirs. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,738,119,808 gallons, and there are 231 miles of reticulation mains within the city of Geelong and its suburbs. The total expenditure on waterworks to the 30th June, 1927, was £619,753, and the revenue for the year 1926-27 was £53,340.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 121 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 10,722, and within the sewerage areas 10,200, while 10,044 buildings have been connected with the sewers. Up to 30th June, 1927, the total expenditure on sewerage works was £556,142 and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £215,619, of which £65,727 is outstanding. The revenue amounted to £41,690 18s. 11d.

(iii) *Bendigo Sewerage Authority.* The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute this Authority. The sewerage district comprises the whole area of the city of Bendigo. The works when completed are estimated to cost £400,000, and comprise treatment works consisting of (a) non-septic liquefying tanks and oxidizing chambers without filters, but with land disposal of effluent for irrigating grass and crops; (b) main outfall sewer, main, sub-main, branch, and reticulation sewers, of which over 49 miles had been constructed by the end of February, 1928, at which date 3,012 premises had been connected to sewers. An unique feature of the scheme is the entire omission of the "boundary trap" from house sewers with resulting omission of "induct vent" to house sewers and the omission of all ventilation on street sewers, the main and reticulation sewers all being amply ventilated by the house sewer ventilation, while the consequent all round saving both of first cost and maintenance is considerable. Results are still completely satisfactory after five years in operation without boundary traps. Expenditure to end of March, 1928, was £324,079.

(iv) *Water Supply in Country Towns and Districts.* Most of the country waterworks are controlled by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, but a number of other waterworks is controlled by Waterworks Trusts or by municipal corporations.

The following table gives particulars regarding waterworks under the control of trusts and municipal corporations for the years 1923 to 1927:—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, VICTORIA.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Under Waterworks Trusts.				Under Municipal Corporations.			
	Number of Trusts.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.	Number of Corporations.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
1923 ..	98	1,278,847	949,610	15,178	29	785,602	506,475	3,152
1924 ..	99	1,322,315	983,663	13,712	29	785,602	503,890	9,811
1925 ..	102	1,383,538	1,036,616	14,545	29	785,798	500,695	3,329
1926 ..	105	1,457,155	1,098,512	17,787	29	786,388	498,195	3,656
1927 ..	102	1,541,086	1,176,434	14,150	29	807,433	515,631	2,141

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *The Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Brisbane.*
 (a) *General.* The whole of the water supply in the metropolitan area, including bulk supply to the city of Ipswich, is filtered. The principal filtration works are situated at Holt's Hill, Mount Crosby, and consist of eleven slow sand type of filters, capable of treating 16,500,000 gallons of water per 24 hours; the supply from Enoggera Reservoir is also filtered. The total capacity of the service reservoirs, on Bartley's Hill, Highgate Hill, Wickham Terrace, and Tarragindi Hill, is about 21,000,000 gallons.

The 42-in. and 36-in. trunk mains laid from Mount Crosby in 1925 have been in constant use since that date. Three new units of pumping plant have been installed at Mount Crosby Pumping Station, the third unit of which was put under steam in December, 1926. A new weir and overbridge over the Brisbane River at Mount Crosby was completed in 1926.

To provide for drought periods an electrical pumping station for supplying Lake Manchester with water was completed in November, 1927. A pipe line and tunnel between Gold Creek Reservoir and Enoggera Reservoir was practically completed at the end of 1927. The object of this is to make more use of Gold Creek water, and to supply districts in the Breakfast Creek area. To benefit certain districts, a new 24-in. trunk main has been laid from River-road to Eildon Hill, with the object of strengthening all districts beyond Eildon Hill, and as far as Sandgate. A reinforced concrete elevated water tower at Paddington Heights, holding 100,000 gallons of water, serves inhabitants on the higher points. The construction of a reservoir on Roles' Hill, Manly, was commenced during 1927.

During the year 1927 nearly 80 miles of mains were laid and new services installed numbered about 4,000.

(b) *Brisbane Waterworks. Summary.* The following table gives a summary of operations for the last five years:—

WATERWORKS, BRISBANE.—SUMMARY, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Length of Reticulation Mains.	Number of Tenements Connected.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Quantity Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Average Daily Supply per Head of Estimated Population.
	Miles.	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons	Gallons.	Gallons.
1923	620½	48,368 ^a	235,980	4,292,246	11,759,579	46.76
1924	645¾	50,152 ^a	246,300	4,378,486	11,963,078	44.68
1925	675	53,119 ^a	258,175	4,703,044	12,885,052	45.80
1926	714	56,887 ^a	275,015	5,392,671	14,774,442	48.88
1927	744¾	57,485 ^a	288,494	4,642,277	12,718,570	44.10

(a) Metropolitan area.

The total length of the trunk mains is 185½ miles.

(c) *Brisbane Sewerage Scheme.* Reticulation work in Brisbane and South Brisbane is being proceeded with and premises within the reticulated areas are being connected to the sewers. Twenty-two and a half miles of main sewers and 95½ miles of reticulation sewers and house connexion branches have been constructed and 9,450 premises have been connected.

(d) *Brisbane Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the years 1923 to 1927:—

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Capital Cost.	Net Revenue from Rates.	Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, Including Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	£	£
1923	5,106,768	339,915	119,299	746,723	224,232
1924	5,872,547	402,272	157,370	785,068	294,420
1925	6,364,380	481,571	187,420	491,833	368,295
1926	6,776,465	516,351	198,143	412,085	373,053
1927	7,266,706	642,328	222,450	490,241	378,137

(a) In addition to interest on loans, the following payments have been made for interest on overdraft:—Year 1926, 296 11s. 6d.; year 1927, £17,007 14s. 4d. These amounts have not been included in the figures quoted in the table.

(ii) *Country Towns Water Supply.* In addition to the City of Brisbane, there were at the end of the year 1926 thirty-two 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 1926 :—

QUEENSLAND.—PARTICULARS OF COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, 1926.

Cost of Construction to 31st December, 1926—£1,748,678.

Receipts.		£	Expenditure.		£
Rates and sales of water	..	202,972	Office and salaries	..	19,249
Government and other loans	..	69,102	Construction	..	92,585
Other	..	42,639	Maintenance	..	62,216
			Interest and redemption	..	77,197
			Other expenses	..	66,418
Total	..	314,713	Total	..	317,665
Assets	..	1,494,505	Liabilities	..	1,185,452

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 years 1922–23 to 1926–27, the figures for consumption being recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and including evaporation and absorption. There are 54,270 meters in the Adelaide district.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—SUMMARY, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments	Annual Value.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	£	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.
1923	91,903	3,337,345	111,295	7,753	1,034	6,599,000
1924	100,002	3,794,755	111,295	7,753	1,076	6,720,000
1925	104,301	4,202,080	111,872	7,753	1,108	6,836,000
1926	115,237	4,712,962	111,872	7,753	1,146	7,517,000
1927	119,058	4,996,390	114,452	7,753	1,193	7,150,000

(b) *Finances.* Particulars for the years 1922–23 to 1926–27 are given below :—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—FINANCES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

* Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1923	2,924,702	167,465	232,478	47,532	9,737	57,269	5.99
1924	3,100,856	194,158	268,574	53,673	10,972	64,645	6.58
1925	3,166,088	220,151	280,327	59,020	11,193	70,213	6.64
1926	3,241,024	240,538	312,728	62,147	12,201	74,348	7.35
1927	3,281,781	276,621	351,163	62,710	11,332	74,042	8.44

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the years 1922-23 to 1926-27 are given hereunder :—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.—SUMMARY, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Connections.	Capital Cost of Revenue-Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Maintenance, etc.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1923 ..	390	42,879	997,604	83,266	98,657	17,356	29,514	6.93
1924 ..	406	45,415	1,095,683	87,066	100,707	19,428	29,646	6.49
1925 ..	424	47,413	1,166,066	95,464	105,188	19,616	28,826	6.55
1926 ..	437	49,380	1,160,394	106,148	114,933	24,924	32,704	7.09
1927 ..	448	51,296	1,326,638	131,780	139,732	20,887	28,075	8.42

(iv) *Country Towns Water Supply.* (a) *Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the years 1922-23 to 1926-27.

COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
1923 ..	60,552	4,933,732	6,350	3,257	1,071,094
1924 ..	60,200	11,252,740	8,679	3,415	984,714
1925 ..	60,684	11,565,800	8,679	3,600	1,181,706
1926 ..	45,346 ^a	11,721,033	9,031	3,754	1,374,555
1927 ..	43,113 ^a	11,731,961	9,031	3,920	1,386,655

(a) Assessments have been regrouped.

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the years 1922-23 to 1926-27 :—

COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1923 ..	4,562,092	78,649	105,865	56,039	8,034	64,073	0.90
1924 ..	5,200,184	84,241	120,599	66,007	8,303	74,310	0.89
1925 ..	6,754,682	93,124	126,032	58,840	8,077	66,917	0.87
1926 ..	7,189,448	98,573	140,318	62,442	7,040	69,482	0.98
1927 ..	7,945,357	126,222	173,707	81,728	7,200	88,928	1.07

(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 years 1922-23 to 1926-27 :—

**SUBURBAN SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY,
1922-23 TO 1926-27.**

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.	Main- tenance.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1923 ..	67	6,576	423,620	13,055	14,449	12,693	13,307	0.27
1924 ..	72	7,208	451,709	17,538	18,855	14,595	15,165	0.81
1925 ..	78	7,756	475,340	19,552	20,884	9,118	9,755	2.34
1926 ..	84	8,390	509,483	21,240	22,422	10,745	11,405	2.16
1927 ..	88	8,934	543,026	23,998	24,961	10,714	11,623	2.46

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. The consumption of water by the railways is not included in figures for water supplied given hereunder

(ii) *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.* (a) *General.* The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the Victoria Reservoir, Bickley Brook, Mundaring Reservoir, thirteen bores, and the Armadale, Churchman Brook, Canning River, and Wungong pipe head dams. The sewerage system consists of septic tanks and percolating filters for Perth, and septic tanks and ocean outfall for Fremantle and Subiaco. At the 30th June, 1927, the number of houses connected with sewers was 16,622.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1923 TO 1927.

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.
1923 ..	171,560	38,002	2,714,791	43.35	195.72	21,732	677
1924 ..	174,580	39,386	3,089,825	48.36	214.93	22,114	700
1925 ..	178,600	40,741	2,909,095	44.62	195.63	23,416	713
1926 ..	184,000	42,302	3,131,144	46.63	202.79	24,750	760
1927 ..	192,000	44,235	2,777,186	39.63	175.85	27,572	782

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives separate information for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—
FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Water Supply.			Sewerage and Drainage.		
	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	1,410,442	126,028	134,316	1,015,930	74,771	74,777
1924	1,722,594	135,250	152,824	1,055,612	83,388	76,532
1925	2,162,771	140,811	169,011	1,150,261	91,073	78,830
1926	2,553,179	149,176	188,235	1,243,217	96,600	80,165
1927	2,762,036	198,951	198,340	1,341,722	85,970	84,020

(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 1926–27 the railways consumed 8 per cent., the mines 19 per cent., and “other” 73 per cent. of the supply. The following table gives details for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Consumption.	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	1,000 gallons.	No.	Miles.	£	£	£
1923	1,169,000	10,899	1,234	3,445,059	178,495	217,680
1924	1,159,000	10,628	1,303	3,487,887	167,597	212,713
1925	1,139,000	10,706	1,371	3,544,274	178,495	215,517
1926	1,161,000	10,676	1,454	3,642,059	179,402	218,956
1927	1,106,000	10,594	1,483	3,656,147	168,183	207,583

(iv) *Water Supply of Other Towns.* During the year 1926–27 there were 28 towns provided with water supplies, of which 16 are controlled by Water Boards and 12 by the Public Works Department. The total supplies to the latter towns for the year ending 30th June, 1927, were as follows :—Domestic, 85,000,000 gallons, and Railways, 22,000,000 gallons. The estimated population was 20,000, and the average daily domestic consumption was 12 gallons per head.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1926–27, 23 tanks were excavated, and 5 wells sunk, of which 3 yielded fresh water. During the 17 years from the 1st July, 1910, to the 30th June, 1927, 425 tanks were built, 322 wells sunk, and 2,700 bores put down to a total depth of 133,078 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 459 yielded fresh, and 245 stock-water.

(vi) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to the 30th June, 1927, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water was 231, including 49 sunk in the metropolitan area, ranging in depth from 32 to 4,006 feet.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to the 30th June, 1927, was £425,449, 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, 1927, amounted to £358,380. At the same date the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 10,283 and the length of reticulation mains 117½ miles. The revenue for the years 1923 to 1927 was as follows :—

HOBART WATERWORKS.—REVENUE, 1923 TO 1927.

Heading.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	35,494	34,965	34,935	39,527	37,153

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1927, was £38,353. Up to that date 80½ miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £212,632, and 8,062 tenements connected. Since the original city was sewerred, the Municipalities of Queenborough and New Town have been included in the city, and are now being sewerred. In Queenborough 25½ miles of sewers, connecting with 1,357 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £118,911. In New Town a total of 30½ miles of sewers has been laid, and 1,240 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1927, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £109,688.

§ 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 open 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 65,243 lineal feet, inclusive of 9,804 lineal feet privately owned.

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 spent £7,504,243 on the reconstruction and extension of the wharfage and improvements to the port and vested area. Over 13,027 lineal feet of old and obsolete wharfage have been demolished, and 32,515 lineal feet of new berths have been constructed. Other improvements include 2,910,000 square feet of floor area of new sheds and nearly 4 miles of new roadways.

During the year 1927, 1,741,395 tons of material were dredged at a cost of £97,510. In the process of towing such material, 44,944 miles were run at a cost of £36,601.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Trust for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.				Expenditure.	Total Capital Debt.	Interest.	Balance.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923 ..	517,740	39,570	294,931	852,241	253,614	10,129,113	514,756	83,871
1924 ..	553,295	44,879	299,183	897,357	276,883	10,417,859	528,743	91,731
1925 ..	587,157	58,735	324,510	970,402	283,040	10,644,468	526,944	160,418
1926 ..	618,075	53,143	344,660	1,015,878	298,101	10,956,555	554,446	163,330
1927 ..	674,311	54,935	354,610	1,083,856	320,033	11,299,989	569,884	193,939

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.* In 1927, the length of sheds in the port was 19,168 feet, covering an area of 1,108,824 square feet. The quantity of material raised by the dredging and excavation done in the improvement of the river and bay amounts to 86,079,287 cubic yards. The Trust has expended £339,596 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure of the Trust from 1923 to 1927 inclusive. Up to 31st December, 1927, the total capital expenditure amounted to £7,063,345.

MELBOURNE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Rates, rents, etc.	681,958	711,558	712,733	739,460	799,075
Interest	328	669	285	79	43
Other receipts	9,850	17,095	23,213	20,394	20,549
Total	692,136	729,322	736,231	759,933	819,667
EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Management and general expenses	60,997	74,086	85,655	98,717	97,289
Interest	124,109	131,674	151,891	159,353	161,197
Total	185,106	205,760	237,546	258,070	258,486
Less standing charges added to works	37,272	43,749	48,128	49,309	55,688
Total	147,834	162,011	189,418	208,761	202,898
Wharfage and other refunds	5,728	4,879	3,761	3,683	2,623
Consolidated revenue of Victoria	135,520	140,382	136,494	143,002	148,282
Flotation of loans expenses	750	5	10	15	8
Maintenance	85,458	130,234	166,610	142,917	148,680
Total expenditure	375,290	437,511	496,293	498,378	502,491
Surplus on revenue account	316,846	291,811	239,938	261,555	317,176
Less depreciation and renewals account and sinking fund	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000
Net surplus on revenue account	103,846	78,811	26,938	48,555	104,176
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and property	32,892	548	37,699	30,962	20,144
Deepening waterways	150,885	137,488	145,808	169,053	204,536
Wharves construction	67,360	194,318	285,072	129,382	246,587
Approaches construction	7,519	25,483	46,130	15,412	35,619
Other harbour improvements	8,719	23,826	18,631	40,416	15,735
Floating plant	632	3,192	97,354	9,221	125,690
General plant	2,025	3,440	2,718	4,891	5,045
Total	270,032	388,295	633,412	399,337	653,356

(ii) *Geelong Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Harbour Trust was constituted in 1905, and is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. The Commissioners have vested in them the Port of Geelong, which includes that portion of Port Phillip east of a line from the right bank of Little River at its mouth south-easterly to a point in line with the east side of Mercer-street, Portarlington. This area comprises Corio Bay, Portarlington, and some miles of Bay frontage. In addition, certain lands abutting upon the River Barwon and Barwon River Heads are vested in the Commissioners and form part of the Port. The Commissioners have established facilities for the export of grain, frozen meat, and other produce, and have also constructed extensive abattoirs and freezing works. A large amount of money has been expended in the reclamation of waste lands, and on part of such lands a dairy farm with a complete system of drainage and irrigation has been established.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial details for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

GEELONG HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Loans.	Sinking Fund.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1923	591,000	33,045	58,680	56,065
1924	591,000	36,912	61,356	52,315
1925	591,000	41,167	70,730	57,027
1926	591,000	45,746	67,073	66,230
1927	599,716	47,658	65,631	99 948

(iii) *Harbour Boards.* The Harbor 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. (See *Victoria Gazette*, 6th June, 1928, page 1595.)

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 Proserpine and Wangaratta, and division I. of the Shire of Ayr.

(b) *Finances.* The capital expenditure to the 31st December, 1927, was £20,782, while for the year 1927 the receipts were £11,551 and the expenditure £20,785.

(ii) *Bundaberg Harbour Board.* (See Official Year Book No. 20, page 140.)

(iii) *Cairns Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Cairns Harbour Board consists of twelve members, representing the city of Cairns and eight adjoining shires. The wharves at Cairns, which are all under the control of this Board, are of reinforced ferro-concrete, and are 1,500 feet in length, while an additional 400 feet are under construction. Mechanical sugar-handling conveyors have been installed at a cost of over £38,465. The wharves are electrically lighted and furnished with railways and crane services, including one 8-ton electric portal crane costing over £5,000 especially installed for handling sinker logs. There is a special railway wharf with facilities for handling floater logs. A cold storage plant has been built at a cost of £9,000.

(b) *Finances.* During the year 1927, the gross revenue of the Board was £57,677 11s. 8d., derived from harbour, berthage and miscellaneous dues, etc.

(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. The works under the control of the Board are (i) Auckland Point Jetty and Wharf, constructed of reinforced concrete and wood, together within a two-way traffic approach and jetty for the handling of local cargo, the berth being 775 feet long, with an average depth alongside of 26 feet ; (ii) the municipal wharf in Auckland-street ; (iii) wool dumping plant on Auckland Point jetty, consisting of two hydraulic dumps, capable of doing either single or double dumping ; (iv) three large cargo sheds, each 140 feet by 30 feet ; (v) 15-ton electric crane for coal and timber.

(b) *Finances.* The total capital expenditure to the end of 1927 amounted to £91,420. The revenue for 1927 was £4,228, and the expenditure £4,668.

(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. During the year 1927, the following works were carried out:—The director wall improvements in the Pioneer River were completed, i.e., the wall was raised from a half tide wall to above high water level. The north wall was repaired and extended to its original position. Plans and estimates for an outer harbour at Flat Top Island were prepared and submitted to the Treasurer. This matter is still under consideration.

(b) *Finances.* Capital expenditure for the year 1927 was £2,458 19s. 2d.; receipts for the year 1927 was £13,966 13s.; total expenditure amounted to £20,258 10s. 8d.

(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, the town of Mount Morgan and the shires of Fitzroy and Livingstone. The remaining four are elected by the councillors of groups of inland shires.

In the port of Rockhampton, which comprises the tidal area of the Fitzroy River as far as the entrance to Keppel Bay, there are three principal places where steamers may lie and discharge cargo, viz., (i) Rockhampton itself, (ii) Port Alma, where the oversea steamers berth, and (iii) Broadmount, originally built for the oversea trade some years ago. The wharves at these three places are connected by rail with Rockhampton and with the main central line. The Board undertakes the work of improving the navigable channels throughout the estuary and river, and of maintaining the wharves at Port Alma and Rockhampton.

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1927 was £33,067, of which £3,957 represented loans; and the expenditure was £35,705, which included £3,329 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 £1,768,571, while the receipts for the year 1927 were £58,296 and the expenditure £65,295.

5. 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 years 1923 to 1927:—

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Gross Amount Paid to the Treasury.				
			Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Surplus Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	282,015	120,086	83,386	20,764	2,000	47,272	153,422
1924	357,450	146,177	85,703	21,185	2,000	96,612	205,500
1925	421,255	171,391	87,783	21,564	2,000	130,776	242,123
1926	443,395	185,137	90,013	21,879	2,000	113,290	227,182
1927	499,936	223,441	94,094	22,545	2,000	142,245	260,884

(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. Vessels can load alongside to depths ranging from 16 to 27½ feet. Five electric cranes and one steam gantry crane, each of 3 tons lifting capacity, are available.

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

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund.
	£	£	£	£
1923	448,377	25,746	8,749	16,997
1924	450,000	33,836	10,707	23,129
1925	450,000	37,625	17,001	22,000
1926	450,000	36,229	27,364	20,100
1927	450,000	35,973	32,907	20,150

6. *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. The Board has jurisdiction over all ports, harbours and waters within the limits of the coast line from South-West Cape round the southern and eastern coasts to Cape Portland, and within all islands adjacent to such coast line. The duties of the Board are to maintain all wharves within its jurisdiction which are not vested in another authority or belonging to any private person, to construct new wharves where necessary, and to improve the navigation where desirable.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 30th JUNE, 1927.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Debt.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
		Harbour Improvements, Debentures, etc.	General.	Total.	Harbour Improvements.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	90,350	..	32,620	32,620	373	6,511	25,670	32,554
1924	86,806	2,456	37,465	39,921	15,787	6,180	20,304	42,271
1925	86,302	300	38,764	39,064	4,192	6,220	25,644	36,056
1926	78,526	..	39,223	39,223	625	6,208	27,211	a 41,150
1927	66,820	..	40,830	40,830	1,407	5,566	23,012	b 40,985

(a) Including £7,106 from revenue in reduction of loans.

(b) Including £11,000 from revenue in reduction of loans.

(ii) *Marine Board of Launceston. (a) General.* The Marine Board of Launceston consists of five wardens, three elected by the ratepayers of the city of Launceston and two by ratepayers of the municipalities within the Tamar District. The jurisdiction of the Board extends from Cape Portland along the north coast of Tasmania to Badger Head. The chief work carried out has been to deepen the channel of the River Tamar to 16 feet and to maintain the wharves. An important work completed in 1923 was the removal to a depth of 30 feet of Porpoise Rock, situated 4 miles from the entrance of the port. A deepwater port has been provided at Bell Bay with a depth of 40 to 45 feet alongside. The wharfage accommodation at Launceston exceeds 2,000 feet.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1923 to 1927:—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Total Capital Debt.	Capital Debt, Tamar Improvement.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1923	318,361	282,710	49,928	47,588
1924	330,713	283,475	53,672	46,044
1925	329,733	302,494	48,345	47,304
1926	343,851	321,612	57,320	53,397
1927	362,163	334,924	56,163	56,245

(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, 1927, were £20,323, and the expenditure £19,772, including £11,000 interest on loans.

§ 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 was formed, and fire districts constituted. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of quarter, quarter, and half by the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies concerned, but the expenditure must be so regulated that the proportion payable by the councils in a fire district shall not exceed the amount obtainable from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ rate on the unimproved capital value of the district.

(ii) *Sydney Fire District.* (a) *Plant, etc.* The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, comprising a total area of 246 square miles. On the 31st December, 1927, the Board had under its control in this district 76 stations, 503 permanent men, 258 partially-paid firemen, 2 steam and 74 motor fire engines, 160,000 feet of hose, and 639 telephone fire alarms. The length of wire used for telephone lines was 1,876 miles. There are in operation 285 sprinkler installations, 4 watchman's clock systems, and 229 private fire alarms.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Board for the past five years in respect of the Sydney Fire District:—

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Receipts.						Disbursements.
	From Government.	From Municipalities.	From Fire Insurance Companies.	From Firms.	From other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	58,153	58,153	57,551	602	5,954	180,413	178,585
1924	60,768	60,768	60,183	584	5,401	187,704	186,159
1925	60,768	60,768	60,093	675	5,154	187,458	196,672
1926	72,676	72,676	71,807	869	6,293	224,321	223,568
1927	59,193	59,193	116,226	2,160	7,311	244,083	240,072

2. Victoria.—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1915 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. (a) Plant, etc.* On the 30th June, 1927, the Board had under its control 40 stations, 281 permanent men, 165 partially-paid firemen, 75 special service firemen, 1 motor-drawn steam fire engine, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 27 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 petrol motor combination appliances, 2 petrol motor salvage vans, 3 special service vans, 4 motor cycles, 21 petrol motor hose waggons, 1 petrol delivery waggon, 3 motor lorries, 1 chief officer's car, 1 deputy chief officer's car, 9 inspection and instructional cars, 16 hand hose reels, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 4 Pompier ladders, 43 hand pumps, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, 104,000 feet of hose.

The electrical equipment of the brigade now consists of 1,437 fire alarm call boxes, of which 358 are directly connected to public and other buildings, together with 1,203 auxiliary fire alarms, and the remaining 1,079 are street alarms. The number of street fire alarm circuits is 247. In addition there are 245 sprinkler alarm installations connected by 132 circuits directly to the Brigade, and 31 buildings are protected by automatic fire alarm circuits. The total number of watchman's recording and detector clocks installed in Melbourne is now 107.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives particulars for each year from 1922-23 to 1926-27 inclusive:—

**METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, VICTORIA.—FINANCES,
1923 TO 1927.**

Particulars.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions	122,700	131,739	151,322	157,872	170,127
Receipts for services	14,028	16,486	20,138	21,180	24,224
Interest and Sundries	6,898	9,811	11,642	16,575	15,276
Total	143,626	158,036	183,102	195,627	209,627
EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	93,033	85,477	100,651	104,215	108,787
Interest and sinking fund	10,219	10,821	11,682	12,982	15,210
Other expenditure	43,515	59,172	68,880	80,277	60,643
Total	146,767	155,470	181,213	197,474	184,640

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board. (a) Plant, etc.* At 30th June, 1927, there were 116 municipal councils and 99 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 27 of the larger provincial cities and townships. There were 144 registered brigades and 2,528 registered firemen at 30th June, 1927. The equipment included 23 motor pumps, 27 motor tenders, 2 steam fire engines, and numerous manual engines and hose reels.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Revenue and expenditure for the years 1923 to 1927 (30th June) are given below :—

COUNTRY FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	1923.	1924 (Six Months to 30th June).	Year ended 30th June, 1925.	Year ended 30th June, 1926.	Year ended 30th June, 1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	22,088	16,907	25,133	30,154	31,139
Expenditure	22,813	16,432	23,684	31,113	29,948

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 must be registered.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Boards.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of the year 1926 there were fire brigades in 30 towns, with a total strength of 141 permanent men, 264 partly paid, and 113 volunteers. The plant included 44 motor, 3 steam, and 7 manual fire engines, 57 hose reels, consisting of 22 motor, 3 horse, and 32 hand reels, and 106,855 feet of hose. The total number of call points was 616. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade protects an area of 32 square miles and has a staff of 149 men. There are 94 fire alarm circuits, 310 street fire alarms, 18 private coded alarms not available to public, 52 automatic thermostats, 51 sprinkler installations, 13 push button alarms, and 6 direct telephone alarms.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table gives details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

FIRE BRIGADE BOARDS, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Government.	From Local Authorities.	From Insurance Companies.	Total.	Salaries and Wages.	Buildings, Repairs, etc.	Plant, Stores, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	14,711	14,996	22,976	53,647	34,340	3,687	8,444	56,071
1923 ..	16,054	15,094	22,455	64,190	35,803	12,336	10,166	64,597
1924 ..	17,140	16,347	24,489	61,212	40,032	3,344	10,081	65,183
1925 ..	18,485	18,597	27,928	73,295	41,280	3,970	11,461	71,330
1926 ..	19,454	19,196	30,289	93,657	47,283	25,828	11,047	97,032

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1913 and amendments provides for a Board of five members, and the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed as to two-ninths by the Treasury, five-ninths by insurance companies, and two-ninths by the municipalities concerned.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Board. (a) Plant, etc.* At the end of 1927 there were altogether 24 fire brigade stations. The strength of the brigades consists of 107 permanent firemen and 87 auxiliary firemen. The plant consists of 1 steam fire engine, 11 motor engines, 17 motor hose carriages, 55,150 feet of hose, one 90-ft. turntable escape ladder, 2 telescopic currier ladders, 2 fire escapes and petrol-driven fire float. There are 331 fire alarm circuits, 15 automatic systems, and 36 sprinkler installations.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue of the Board for the years 1923 to 1927, the expenditure in each year being the same :—

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1923 TO 1927.

Heading.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	35,071	38,173	47,103	52,276	50,309

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. (a) Plant, etc.* The whole of the brigades throughout the State are now controlled by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, and number 40. The staff at the 30th September, 1927, included a chief officer, deputy chief officer, third officer, district officer, motor engineer, electrical engineer, 12 other officers, 102 permanent, 16 partially-paid, and 504 volunteer firemen. The plant comprised 5 steam, 12 motor and 4 manual engines, 19 motor hose carriages, 37 reels, and 75,200 feet of hose. There are 355 private fire alarm circuits, 539 street fire alarms, 4 automatic systems, and 29 sprinkler installations.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1923 to 1927 :—

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.—FINANCES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year ended 31st December—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Estimated Value.	
			Land and Buildings.	Plant.
	£	£	£	£
1923	35,553	35,463	46,000	28,000
1924	38,720	38,621	48,650	28,000
1925	50,341	46,539	60,440	29,590
1926	(a)36,314	(a)37,990	65,700	32,200
1926-27 (b)	50,468	50,997	66,000	33,000

(a) Nine months only.

(b) 1st October, 1926, to 30th September, 1927.

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. (a) Plant, etc.* At the end of 1927 the staff consisted of 13 permanent and 15 partially-paid firemen. There were at that date also 2 motor pumps, 1 extension and 1 currie ladder, two motor hose carriages, 3 horse and 4 hand reels, 2 Pompier ladders, and 10,750 feet of hose. There are 24 fire alarm circuits, 60 street alarms, 15 auxiliary boxes, 3 automatic systems, and 3 sprinkler installations.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue for the years 1926 and 1927 amounted to £6,401 and £6,440 respectively, expenditure being the same.