

## CHAPTER XXII.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

#### § 1. Introduction.

1. **General.**—The following statistics relating to Local Government are somewhat incomplete and otherwise unsatisfactory, but efforts are being made to obtain fuller and more reliable information. Many of the defects in the statistics of Local Government Authorities have been eliminated, and the returns are now prepared on more uniform lines and in greater detail than formerly.

2. **Roads, Bridges, etc.**—The construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries are generally part of the functions of local authorities, but in New South Wales and South Australia, more especially in the large unincorporated areas, these duties are undertaken directly by the Government. In some States, moreover, a certain proportion of the roads and bridges is constructed and maintained by the Government, which, in addition, advances money for main roads to be expended by municipalities under the supervision of special Boards. Although roads, bridges and ferries constructed and maintained directly by the Government do not properly come under the heading of "Local Government," they have been included in this chapter for the sake of convenience. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining complete particulars of receipts and expenditure by the various local governing bodies on roads under their control, the details of receipts and expenditure given in the following section are those of the Government only, relating either to the supervisory board or commission in the State or to direct activities of a department.

3. **Local Government Authorities.**—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 this Bureau in a separate work entitled *Local Government in Australia*.

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

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

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

## § 2. Roads, Bridges, Etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All work in the Western Division is carried out directly by the central road authority (7,767 miles) while in the Eastern Division the work is carried out by the Councils except for approximately 2,000 miles, mostly on State Highways.

(ii) *Length of Roads—*

*Eastern Division—*

Proclaimed Roads (30th June, 1939)—	Miles.
State Highways .. ..	5,183
Trunk Roads .. ..	2,371
Ordinary Main Roads .. ..	9,039
Secondary Roads .. ..	93
Developmental Roads .. ..	2,469
Minor Roads (30th June, 1939) .. ..	99,137
<i>Western Division (30th June, 1938) .. ..</i>	<i>7,767</i>
	126,059

Of these roads, 31 miles were of wood block, 326 miles cement concrete, 234 miles asphaltic concrete, 3,300 miles tar or bituminous macadam (premixed or penetrated), 2,577 surfaced water bound macadam or gravel, 3,685 water bound macadam, 27,049 gravel or crushed rock, and 88,857 miles were formed only, cleared only, or of natural surface.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.*—The revenue and expenditure of the central road authority for the year ended 30th June, 1939, were as follows:—

<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£		£
Motor Taxation .. ..	2,018,556	Maintenance .. ..	1,519,929
Petrol Taxation .. ..	1,176,039	Construction .. ..	1,736,898
Councils' direct contributions ..	250,679	Interest and other loan charges	353,060
Loans from State Government	302,643	Other .. ..	101,497
Other .. ..	68,331		
Total .. ..	3,816,248	Total .. ..	3,711,384

The total expenditure, as nearly as can be ascertained, on all roads in the State by all authorities during 1937-38 was £8,396,175.

(iv) *Sydney Harbour Bridge.* The Government expenditure in connexion with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which amounted to £9,872,465 to 30th June, 1939, is not included in the figures above. Of this amount £8,196,352 was provided by General Loan Account, £1,665,444 from proceeds of municipal and shire rates, £10,664 from the Unemployed Relief Fund and £5 from the Public Works Fund. Interest and exchange

accounted for £1,494,688 and resumptions for £1,145,538. A reduction in the total cost of the bridge will be effected by the sale of surplus resumed lands estimated at from £200,000 to £300,000.

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

(ii) *Length of Roads and Streets*. At the end of 1938 there were 104,004 miles of roads and streets in Victoria, comprising 98 miles of wood or stone, 108 portland cement concrete, 307 asphaltic concrete and sheet asphalt, 7,830 tar or bitumen surface, 23,730 waterbound macadam, gravel, sand, and hard loam pavements, 25,161 formed only, and 46,770 surveyed only but used for general traffic. Of the total length, only 2,569 miles or 2 per cent. were State highways.

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

(a) *Country Roads Board Fund*. All fees (other than fees for licences to drive motor cars) and fines under the Motor Car Act, and all registration fees and fines for traction engines, less cost of collection of such fees and fines, are credited to this fund. The total receipts for the year 1938-39 were £2,414,008 made up as follows:—Motor registration fees, £1,690,962; contributions by municipalities for permanent works (now subject to relief), £146,899, and for maintenance works, £171,979; sale of stores and material and hire of plant, £286,828; and other sources, £117,340. The expenditure for the year was £2,413,140, comprising maintenance and reconditioning of main roads and State highways, £1,201,002; plant, stores, administration, etc., £544,524; and interest, sinking funds, etc., £667,614. The expenditure shown for interest, sinking funds, etc., comprises the following items:—Interest and sinking fund payments on account of loan moneys, £309,277; repayments by municipalities for interest and sinking fund, £118,166; and relief to municipalities from liability in respect of interest and sinking fund, £240,171.

(b) *Country Roads Board Loan Account*. Loans to the amount of £5,322,000 have been authorized from time to time for permanent works on main roads and State highways under the Country Roads Acts. During the year ended 30th June, 1939, the amounts paid into this Account were £58,025 from the State Loans Repayment Fund, while expenditure for the year on permanent works was £57,865, and the total to the end of the year, £5,044,316.

(c) *Developmental Roads Loan Account*. For the purpose of constructing and maintaining subsidiary or developmental roads, the Government was authorized to borrow sums aggregating £6,475,000. These loan moneys were exhausted at 30th June, 1937, the total expenditure at that date being £6,425,757. The difference between the two amounts represents discount and expenses in connexion with the loan.

(d) *Total Expenditure*. In addition to expenditure from the abovementioned Funds, the following amounts were expended under special appropriations on road construction and maintenance:—Unemployment relief, £54,661, contributions by the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Federal Aid Roads Act, £725,399, and special Commonwealth grant towards flood repairs, £98.

The total expenditure by the Board on road construction and maintenance during the year ended 30th June, 1939, amounting to £2,098,784, may be summarized as follows:—State Highways, £453,708; main roads, £1,027,211; developmental roads, £468,122; unemployment relief (on main and developmental roads, etc.), £54,661; tourist roads, £77,694; Murray River bridges and punts, £4,067; and roads adjoining Commonwealth properties, £13,321.

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

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

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

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

At 30th June, 1939, there were under various local authorities 123,832 miles of roads in Queensland, of which 6,045 were natural or artificial sand-clay loam, 5,736 waterbound pavement, 1,291 waterbound pavement with bitumen surface, 848 bituminous penetration macadam, 61 concrete, 27,092 formed only and 82,759 unconstructed but used for general traffic. These totals include the roads under the control of the Main Roads Commission, which at 30th June, 1939, totalled 14,863 miles comprising 9,655 miles of main roads, 4,181 of State highways and 1,027 of developmental, tourist, etc., roads.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, the receipts of the Commission amounted to £2,865,364, including £392,225 from the Treasury Loan Fund, £819,267 from motor fees, £806,218 from the Commonwealth for works under the Federal Aid Roads Scheme and £579,775 from the Special Employment Works Fund. Disbursements amounted to £2,850,077, including £1,872,298 on permanent works, and £405,367 on maintenance.

4. **South Australia.**—The Highways Act 1926–1938 created a Commissioner of Highways and provided for a Highways Fund. The Commissioner is virtually empowered to determine upon which main roads he will spend the moneys available; in doing which he has to take into account (a) the moneys voted, or likely to be voted, by Parliament for main roads; (b) whether the road is or will be the main trunk route (i) connecting any large producing area, or any area capable of becoming in the near future a large producing area, with its market or nearest port or railway station; (ii) connecting two or more large producing areas, or areas capable of becoming in the near future large producing areas, or between two or more large centres of population; (iii) between the capital and any large producing area or any large centre of population; (iv) between the capitals of this State and any other State; and (c) whether the area through which the road passes is, or in the near future will be, sufficiently served by a railway or railways.

After providing for certain fixed charges the Highways Fund is to be credited with the balance received from (a) licence-fees and registration fees under the Road Traffic Act 1934–1939; (b) fees for hawkers' licences; (c) contributions from Councils; and (d) all loans raised and appropriated for roads. All moneys received by the State from the Commonwealth under the Federal Aid Roads Scheme are also expended by the Commissioner of Highways under the general provisions of the Highways Act.

The total length of roads in use for general traffic within local governing areas at 30th June, 1938, was 52,929 miles, of which 10 miles were paved with wood or stone; 242 were bituminous concrete; 1,484 bitumen penetration; 14,207 tar-paved, metalled or gravelled; 7,905 formed only; and 29,081 unformed.

The expenditure from the Highways Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1939, was £877,437, including £141,990 for interest on loans. The amount received from the Commonwealth Government for expenditure on Federal Aid Roads was £472,310, the amount allocated from the Highways Fund for roads in newly-settled areas, etc., was £117,331, and grants in aid of rates collected paid to Councils amounted to £22,090. In sparsely-settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained chiefly by the Engineering and Water Supply Department under arrangement with the Commissioner of Highways. The amount so expended during the same period was £16,034. At the close of the period under review the Commissioner was maintaining departmentally about 1,690 miles of improved main roads.

**5. Western Australia.**—In Western Australia the construction, maintenance and management of roads, streets and bridges are the functions of Municipalities and Road Boards.

Certain principal highways and developmental roads are proclaimed main roads under the control of the Commissioner of Main Roads, who is appointed under the Main Roads Act 1930. At 30th June, 1939, the length of "Declared Main Roads" totalled 3,062 miles.

**6. Tasmania.**—(i) *Length and Description of Roads.* At 30th June, 1939, there were 9,350 miles of roads in Tasmania, comprising 572 of bitumen or oil-sprayed; 5,144 metalled and gravelled; 2,272 formed; and 1,362 grubbed and cleared. Of the total length, 1,339 miles were State highways.

(ii) *Construction.* In Tasmania the cost of construction of roads and bridges is borne almost entirely by the State Government. Half the proceeds of the sale of land has been applied to form a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. This fund has in recent years more than met the demands on it, and expenditure therefrom since 1918 has been limited to £10,000 annually, the balance being used for redemption of debt.

Loan money expended by the Public Works Department during the year 1938-39 on the construction of roads and bridges amounted to £140,770, and expenditure from the Crown Lands Fund to £1,242. In addition, the sum of £208,932 provided by the Commonwealth Government was expended on roads. New-road mileage completed during the year was 69 miles metalled and gravelled and 73 miles formed under State votes, and 8 miles of new construction and 54 miles of reconstruction under Federal Aid Roads Scheme.

(iii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads, other than State highways, is undertaken by the municipalities out of their own revenues. All bridges costing over £50 are maintained by the State Government. The maintenance of State highways is provided for by the State Highways Act 1929, which created the State Highways Trust Fund to which is paid from Consolidated Revenue a sum equal to the amount of all motor taxes collected in the immediately preceding financial year and paid into the Treasury, less 2 per cent. The expenditure on State highways for 1938-39 was £93,450.

**7. Summary of Net Loan Expenditure on Roads and Bridges.**—Figures showing the total expenditure on roads and bridges in the States are not available. The following table shows the annual net loan expenditure on roads and bridges by the central Government in each State during the years 1934-35 to 1938-39, together with the aggregate amounts of expenditure up to 30th June, 1939. The net loan expenditure by the Government is not available for Tasmania and the figures given in the following table represent the actual amounts expended by the Department of Public Works, including sums for unemployment relief.

## ROADS AND BRIDGES: NET LOAN EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Victoria.(a)	Q'land.(b)	S. Aust.(c)	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1935 ..	262,436	95,360	807,597	..	110,508	65,960	1,341,861
1936 ..	92,682	77,040	426,266	..	132,783	82,773	811,544
1937 ..	69,704	41,807	325,804	196,000	123,659	96,787	1,453,761
1938 ..	716,051	Cr. 50,200	342,665	152,500	154,713	62,634	1,378,363
1939 ..	1,850,480	Cr. 22,502	357,252	199,900	144,860	140,770	2,670,760
Total to 30/6/39	19,805,962	12,431,083	5,050,642	3,768,145	2,934,893	5,578,944	49,569,669

(a) Represents expenditure from loan and on account of loan. (b) Amounts include relative expenditure by the Public Estate Improvement Branch. (c) Adjusted figures, excluding credits due to purchase of securities.

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

## § 3. Local Government Authorities.

1. Area, Population and Value of Ratable Property.—(i) *New South Wales.* Practically the whole of the State, with the exception of the greater portion of the Western Division, has been divided into municipalities and shires, the total area incorporated at the end of 1938 being 184,010 square miles. The areas incorporated comprise the whole of the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State (with the exception of Lord Howe Island, the islands in Port Jackson and the quarantine station at Port Jackson) and a small portion of the Western Division consisting of the whole of six and part of two municipalities.

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

The area, population and value of ratable property in the incorporated areas at 31st December, 1938, are given below. The valuations relate to ratable property only and exclude Government and other non-ratable property, the value of which is not inconsiderable in the aggregate.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES: AREA, POPULATION AND VALUE OF RATABLE PROPERTY, 1938.

Local Bodies.	Number.	Area.	Population.	Value of Ratable Property.		
				Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Annual Value.
		Acres.		£	£	£
Metropolitan—						
Capital City ..	1	3,220	88,870	47,819,002	155,913,500	7,016,108
Other ..	48	152,087	1,190,800	95,055,890	288,322,904	21,661,859
Total ..	49	155,307	1,279,670	142,874,892	444,236,404	28,677,967
Outside Metropolitan Area ..	250	117,610,773	1,431,410	176,205,179	(a)	(a)
Grand Total ..	299	117,766,080	2,711,080	319,080,071	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available.

(ii) *Victoria*. Local Government is established throughout the State, the various divisions being termed cities, towns, boroughs, or shires. The only unincorporated area is French Island in Western Port Bay. Melbourne and Geelong were incorporated under special statutes prior to the establishment of a general system of local government, but are now subject to several provisions of the Local Government Act.

The financial years of the cities of Melbourne and Geelong end on 31st December and 31st August respectively, and those of all other municipalities on 30th September. The area, population and value of ratable property in the incorporated areas are given below :—

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, VICTORIA : AREA, POPULATION AND VALUE OF RATABLE PROPERTY, 1938.**

Local Bodies.	Number.	Area.	Population.	Value of Ratable Property.	
				Improved Capital Value.	Annual Value.
		Acres.		£	£
Metropolitan— Capital City .. .. .	1	7,740	92,900	93,093,580	4,654,679
Other(a) .. .. .	28	160,906	946,270	260,933,330	14,374,301
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>29</b>	<b>168,646</b>	<b>1,039,170</b>	<b>354,026,910</b>	<b>19,028,980</b>
Outside Metropolitan Area .. .. .	167	56,074,895	832,840	293,906,590	14,712,202
<b>Grand Total</b> .. .. .	<b>196</b>	<b>56,243,541</b>	<b>1,872,010</b>	<b>647,933,500</b>	<b>33,741,182</b>

(a) Including the whole of the Shire of Braybrook and the whole of the City of Heidelberg.

(iii) *Queensland*. The whole of the State (except certain islands along the coast, the Dawson Valley Irrigation area and the Somerset Dam area) is incorporated into cities, towns and shires under the Local Authorities Act 1902 and its amendments. The following table gives particulars of the area, population, and value of ratable property in the incorporated areas for the year 1937, except for the City of Brisbane for which financial particulars relate throughout to the year ended 30th June, 1938 :—

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, QUEENSLAND : AREA, POPULATION AND VALUE OF RATABLE PROPERTY, 1937-38.**

Local Bodies.	Number.	Area.	Population. (a)	Unimproved Capital Value.
		Sq. miles.		£
Capital City .. .. .	1	385	325,890	21,079,584
Outside Metropolitan Area .. .. .	143	669,448	667,571	51,295,586
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>144</b>	<b>669,833</b>	<b>993,461</b>	<b>72,375,170</b>

(a) At 31st December, 1937.

(iv) *South Australia*. The settled portion of South Australia is incorporated, being mostly under municipal corporations in the larger cities and towns, and district councils in the agricultural areas. With the exception of the Corporation of Adelaide, grants are allocated to these bodies by the Commissioner of Highways for the maintenance and construction of main and other roads

The following table gives the area, population and value of ratable property in incorporated areas for the year ended 30th June, 1938.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA : AREA, POPULATION AND VALUE OF RATABLE PROPERTY, 1938.**

Local Bodies.	Number.	Area.	Population.	Value of Ratable Property.		
				Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Annual Value.
		Acres.		£	£	£
Metropolitan— Capital City .. ..	1	3,772	31,390	11,800,000	27,000,000	1,270,000
Other .. ..	20	99,215	288,985	(a)	70,000,000	3,462,000
Total .. ..	21	102,987	320,375	(a)	97,000,000	4,732,000
Outside Metropolitan Area .. ..	121	34,400,079	261,454	(a)	78,000,000	4,012,000
Grand Total .. ..	142	34,503,066	581,829	(a)	175,000,000	8,744,000

(a) Not available.

(v) *Western Australia.* In this State Local Government is carried on by means of (a) municipalities, and (b) district road boards. Certain functions are delegated to health boards, the personnel of which, in most cases, coincides with those of the municipalities and district road boards. The following table gives particulars of the area, population and value of ratable property in incorporated areas for the year ended October, 1933 for Municipalities, and the year ended June, 1938 for District Road Boards

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA : AREA, POPULATION AND VALUE OF RATABLE PROPERTY, 1938.**

Local Bodies.	Number.	Area.	Population.	Value of Ratable Property.		
				Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Annual Value.
		Acres.		£	£	£
Municipalities— Metropolitan— Capital City .. ..	1	15,479	86,762	(a)	30,000,000	1,512,534
Other .. ..	8	11,374	67,031	(a)	11,917,965	621,866
Outside Metropolitan Area .. ..	12	32,686	48,725	(a)	6,517,478	490,698
Total .. ..	21	59,539	202,518	(a)	48,435,443	2,625,098
District Road Boards— Other Metropolitan ..	11	(b) 322,560	79,768	3,615,100	(a)	975
Outside Metropolitan Area .. ..	116	624,207,360	198,815	18,103,004	(a)	518,386
Total .. ..	127	624,529,920	278,583	21,718,104	(a)	519,361
Grand Totals .. ..	148	624,589,459	481,101	(a)	(a)	3,144,459

(a) Not available.

(b) Only 95,387 acres are in the Metropolitan Area.

The method of valuation is not identical in the case of all District Road Boards, as in some the assessment is based on the unimproved capital value and in others partly on the unimproved capital value and partly on the annual value. The amounts given are the totals for the areas rated on each valuation, and are not a function of each other.

(vi) *Tasmania.* The whole State is divided into municipal districts, Hobart and Launceston being incorporated under separate Acts. The following table gives particulars of the area, population and value of ratable property in incorporated areas for the year ended June, 1938.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, TASMANIA : AREA, POPULATION AND VALUE OF RATABLE PROPERTY, 1938.

Local Bodies.	Number.	Area.	Population.	Value of Ratable Property.		
				Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Annual Value.
Metropolitan—		Acres.		£	£	£
Capital City .. ..	1	17,760	51,200	4,874,743	13,502,987	833,376
Other(a) .. ..	2	99,000	14,000	1,136,178	2,953,725	167,969
Total .. ..	3	116,760	65,200	6,010,921	16,456,712	1,001,345
Outside Metropolitan Area .. ..	46	16,661,240	171,726	16,860,544	37,323,067	1,917,834
Grand Total .. ..	49	16,778,000	236,926	22,871,465	53,779,779	2,919,179

(a) Including the whole of the Municipality of Clarence.

2. Revenue and Expenditure.—As the result of resolutions adopted at a Conference of Statisticians in 1936 the financial statistics of Local Government Authorities are now compiled in the various States on a more comparable basis than formerly.

In the returns of revenue and expenditure in the following tables for the year 1938 the proceeds from loans and expenditure thereof have been excluded, as have the operations of business undertakings controlled by the various Local Government Authorities. The profits resulting from the working of these undertakings have been taken into receipts and shown separately.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : REVENUE, 1938.

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.					
Taxation—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£					
Rates (net) .. ..	5,304,475	3,705,651	} 2,265,748	871,444	{ 672,574	333,237	} 13,294,620					
Penalties .. ..	106,19c	32,833										
Licences .. ..	72,528	87,949						32,614	29,972	19,764	10,022	252,849
Other .. ..	44,957	..						..	..	..	..	44,957
Total .. ..	5,528,150	3,826,433	2,298,362	901,416	693,161	344,904	13,592,426					
Public Works and Services—												
Sanitary and garbage services .. ..	455,871	155,054	382,447	13,341	71,423	11,425	1,089,561					
Council properties .. ..	567,206	538,250	287,852	83,907	91,318	53,466	1,622,089					
Street construction .. ..	339,927	162,631	17,800	66,491	8,071	809	595,909					
Other .. ..	157,731	49,142	18,504	16,851	3,633	7,706	253,567					
Total .. ..	1,520,735	905,077	706,693	180,680	174,445	73,496	3,561,126					
Government Grants—												
Unemployment relief .. ..	b 1,834,242	789,184	728,682	12,601	} 127,166	{ 25,523	} 5,691,747					
Roads .. ..	1,380,348	83,573	385,405	(c) 311,800								
Other .. ..	297,718	139,426	214,235	30,466				2,391	13,133	687,740		
Total .. ..	3,512,308	1,012,183	1,328,322	354,957	129,557	42,160	6,379,487					
Profits from Business Undertakings—												
Fees and fines .. ..		264,576	4,60c	1,296	48,204	32,319	350,995					
All other .. ..	} 06,216	{ 10,440	} 180,128	{ 23,518	{ 2,963	12,504	} 838,773					
		{ 52,096						{ 47,841	(d) 396,997	16,070		
Total .. ..	10,657,409	6,070,805	4,518,105	1,500,708	1,445,327	521,453	24,722,867					

(a) Figures relating to New South Wales are on an income and expenditure basis as distinct from those of other States which are on a cash basis. (b) Includes grants for specific work mainly to relieve unemployment, £1,589,001. (c) Includes £50,000 reimbursements from Highways Department. (d) Includes £332,395 collections in connexion with vehicles registration.

In the next table the expenditure for the year 1938 is shown. The figures are exclusive of expenditure in connexion with the debt services of business undertakings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : EXPENDITURE. 1938.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Administration	678,151	614,001	293,447	137,288	125,497	57,954	1,906,338
Debt Services (excluding business undertakings)—							
Interest ..	846,634	496,016	545,353	47,005	97,171	36,728	2,068,907
Redemption ..	1,117,954	409,987	355,148	78,758	139,256	22,499	2,116,602
Exchange ..	30,742	..	40,367	..	2,327	3,795	77,231
Other ..	3,913	7,817	1,481	..	430	..	13,641
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,999,243</b>	<b>913,825</b>	<b>942,349</b>	<b>118,763</b>	<b>239,184</b>	<b>63,022</b>	<b>4,276,381</b>
Public Works and Services—							
Roads, streets and bridges ..	5,498,924	1,956,104	1,764,371	869,643	577,499	221,956	10,888,497
Health administration ..	133,108	184,126	92,065	91,280	37,425	31,119	569,123
Sanitary and garbage services ..	629,627	261,308	349,170	55,716	91,879	21,238	1,408,947
Street lighting ..	340,503	174,966	67,999	54,855	43,131	24,296	705,750
Council properties ..	1,091,592	793,443	250,794	122,303	237,119	58,024	2,553,275
Other ..	212,790	73,129	(a)418,625	69,168	12,969	16,485	813,166
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>7,906,544</b>	<b>3,443,076</b>	<b>2,943,033</b>	<b>1,262,965</b>	<b>1,000,022</b>	<b>373,118</b>	<b>16,928,758</b>
Grants—							
Fire brigades ..	130,570	72,502	24,153	(b)	23,844	4,176	225,245
Hospitals and ambulances ..	21,666	38,880	214,836	(b)	19,933	968	302,372
Other charities ..	..	..	500	2,831	1,391	1,367	..
Other ..	(c)199,315	(d)217,650	16,650	832	2,133	1,320	437,940
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>321,551</b>	<b>329,072</b>	<b>256,139</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>47,301</b>	<b>7,831</b>	<b>965,557</b>
All Other ..	e—115,216	(f)842,299	90,396	882	40,555	25,791	884,707
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>10,790,273</b>	<b>6,142,268</b>	<b>4,525,364</b>	<b>1,523,561</b>	<b>1,452,559</b>	<b>527,716</b>	<b>24,961,741</b>

(a) Includes £215,071 for Sewerage and Drainage. (b) Compulsory contributions included under Public Works and Services. (c) Main Roads Department and Ha. Lur. Bridge Fund. (d) Includes £164,836 to Country Roads Board. (e) Includes deductions to offset duplications in the figures above caused by expenditure on the purchase of assets and depreciation of same, etc. (f) Includes £811,546, sustenance, etc.

3. **New Money Loan Raisings, Debt and Interest Payable.**—Particulars are given in the following table of new money loan raisings during the year 1938-39 and the amount of debt at 30th June, 1939, together with the interest payable annually thereon. In addition to those Local Government Authorities referred to above, the table includes details for those boards or statutory authorities administering works or services such as water supply, sewerage, electricity, roads, tramways, harbours, fire brigades, trading activities, marketing agencies, etc.

**LOCAL AND SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES: NEW MONEY LOAN RAISINGS, DEBT AND INTEREST PAYABLE, 1938-39.**

Particulars.	N.S.W. £'000.	Victoria. £'000.	Q'land. £'000.	S. Aust. £'000.	W. Aust. £'000.	Tasmania. £'000.	Total. £'000.
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.</b>							
New Money Loan Raisings(a)	3,943	809	2,225	53	167	223	7,420
Funds Provided for Redemption—							
Repayments by Installments .. .. .	2,800	626	534	65	139	60	4,224
Amounts Credited to Sinking Fund .. .. .	390	86	298	1	77	61	913
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>5,137</b>
Debt—							
Due to Government .. .. .	1,923	604	10,203	117	7	353	13,207
Due to Banks (Net Overdraft) .. .. .	260	412	796	43	29	4	1,544
Due to Public Creditor .. .. .	37,342	12,341	19,904	818	3,170	2,985	76,560
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>39,525</b>	<b>13,357</b>	<b>30,903</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>91,311</b>
Maturing Overseas .. .. .	7,371	16	9,019	..	552	935	17,893
Interest Payable .. .. .	1,757	591	1,432	44	141	148	4,113

**SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.**

New Money Loan Raisings(a)	4,580	1,885	1,737	501	12	23	8,738
Funds Provided for Redemption—							
Repayments by Installments .. .. .	487	417	224	154	18	20	1,330
Amounts Credited to Sinking Fund .. .. .	193	253	20	46	2	1	515
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,845</b>
Debt—							
Due to Government .. .. .	24,859	3,286	8,767	7,424	292	365	44,993
Due to Banks (Net Overdraft) .. .. .	370	76	1,520	33	7	..	2,006
Due to Public Creditor .. .. .	52,512	61,109	3,514	769	107	495	118,506
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>77,741</b>	<b>64,471</b>	<b>13,801</b>	<b>8,226</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>165,505</b>
Maturing Overseas .. .. .	5,429	6,659	..	..	..	..	12,088
Interest Payable .. .. .	2,832	2,614	532	322	18	37	6,355

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

**§ 4. 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 Board. The Metropolitan Board's services extend to the South Coast and embrace Wollongong and

Port Kembla. In country districts, both waterworks and sewerage works were formerly constructed by the Public Works Department, and, when completed, handed over to the local government authority affected, by which the cost was to be repaid. Under an Act passed in 1935, the raising of loans by councils until 30th June, 1940 to meet the capital cost of works was facilitated, and councils are now required to undertake the work of construction. In certain cases the Government contributes towards the cost.

(ii) *Waterworks.* (a) *Metropolitan.* The catchment area of the metropolitan water system, covering an area of 376 square miles, is drained by the Nepean, Cataract and Cordeaux Rivers. At 30th June, 1939, there were in the system 8 storage reservoirs with a capacity of 110,246,000,000 gallons and 87 service reservoirs with a capacity of 525,055,000 gallons. Storage facilities are provided chiefly by four reservoirs, namely, Avon, 47,153,000,000 gallons; Cataract, 20,743,000,000 gallons; Cordeaux, 20,597,000,000 gallons; and Nepean, 17,898,000,000 gallons. The total length of mains is 4,539 miles. The average daily consumption during 1938-39 was 106,274,000 gallons.

(b) *Newcastle.* The supply is drawn from the Chichester Reservoir, and is piped about 50 miles to Newcastle. The storage reservoir capacity is 5,000 million gallons. In addition to supplying Newcastle, water is reticulated in Maitland, 20 miles distant from Newcastle, and in the Cessnock coal-mining field, as well as in areas adjoining these centres. The supply also extends to the farming areas of Miller's Forest and the lakeside resorts of Belmont, Swansea and Toronto. Water can also be supplied from the Hunter River at Maitland if required. Service reservoirs distributed throughout the Water Supply District number 36, with a total storage capacity of 60,480,510 gallons. The total length of mains was 936 miles at 30th June, 1939.

(c) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses, the estimated population supplied, and other details for the year ended 30th June, 1939 :—

**WATERWORKS, SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE : WATER SUPPLIED, 1938-39.**

System.	Number of Premises Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.	
					Per Property.	Per Head of Estimated Population.
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Sydney ..	350,161	1,466,000	106,274	38,790,000	304	72.50
Newcastle ..	48,370	241,850	11,865	4,330,760	245	49.05

(iii) *Sewerage and Drainage.* (a) *Metropolitan.* The Sydney sewerage system consists of three main outfalls, discharging into the Pacific Ocean. During 1938-39, new sewers laid measured 84 miles and 1.2 miles of stormwater drains were constructed.

(b) *Newcastle Sewerage Works.* The sewerage works for Newcastle and suburbs as originally designed were completed by the Department of Public Works and vested in the Board. The system has its outfall at Merewether Gulf, south from Newcastle. The length of new sewers laid was 87 miles in 1938-39, and properties connected increased by 1,325.

The stormwater drainage of Newcastle and adjoining areas is divided into two catchment areas, namely, the works in the Cottage Creek Stormwater Area and the works in the Throsby Creek Stormwater Area. A drainage rate of 3d. in the £ on assessed annual value of ratable property was levied in 1938-39.

(c) *Particulars of Services.* The following table supplies details of sewerage services and stormwater drains as at 30th June, 1939.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE : SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE, 1938-39.

System.	Premises Drained.	Population Served.	Length of Sewers.	Length of Stormwater Drains.
	No.	No.	Miles.	Miles.
Sydney .. .. .	254,632	1,066,000	2,560.9	86.8
Newcastle .. .. .	28,257	137,300	387.1	37.0

(d) *Finances.* The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure on account of the services of waterworks, sewerage and drainage during the year 1937-38 for Sydney and 1938-39 for Newcastle :—

WATERWORKS—SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE : SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Item.	Capital Debt.	Revenue.	Expenditure.				Surplus or Deficit.
			Working Expenses, including Renewals Reserve.	Interest.	Exchange on Interest.	Sinking Fund.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney 1937-38—							
Water ..	25,508,562	1,741,809	600,609	942,294	68,394	98,543	+ 31,969
Sewerage ..	15,185,638	999,989	311,960	557,837	39,202	61,814	+ 29,176
Drainage ..	1,005,709	41,526	16,560	40,017	1,857	4,129	- 21,037
Total ..	41,789,909	2,783,324	929,129	1,540,148	109,453	164,486	+ 40,108
Newcastle 1938-39—							
Water ..	2,969,381	246,845	104,084	105,201	13,275	13,407	+ 10,878
Sewerage ..	1,181,185	123,544	56,070	54,943	6,620	6,522	- 611
Drainage ..	123,814	15,343	7,466	7,207	939	957	- 1,226
Total ..	4,574,880	385,732	167,620	167,351	20,834	20,886	+ 9,041

(iv) *Waterworks, Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Works in Country Towns.\** The capital indebtedness of the water and sewerage schemes in country towns controlled by local councils was £5,904,847 at 31st December, 1938, namely, £3,677,829 for water and £2,227,018 for sewerage. Of the foregoing amounts, £1,356,900 for water and £290,052 for sewerage are owing to the State Government. At 31st December, 1938, country waterworks were in operation or under construction in 82 municipalities and 37 shires, and country sewerage services in 48 municipalities and eight shires.

Two country water storage systems—South-west Tablelands and Junee—are administered by the Department of Works and Local Government. These deliver water into service reservoirs for reticulation by Councils; only a small quantity is sold directly to private consumers. The capital indebtedness of these systems was £1,048,774 at 31st December, 1938.

\* Excluding the area of operation of the Hunter District Water Board (Newcastle).

A water supply system at Broken Hill was transferred from the control of the Department of Works and Local Government to a special Board in terms of an Act passed in 1938. At 31st December, 1938, the capital indebtedness of the waterworks to the State was £85,318. This amount was written off, and the Board has commenced the construction of exhaustive amplification works and sewerage services.

2. Victoria.—(i) A. *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.* (a) *General.* All land within 13 miles of the Post Office at the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth streets, Melbourne, together with the remaining areas of the Cities of Mordialloc and Moorabbin and further portions of Shires of Dandenong and Blackburn and Mitcham, is included within the metropolitan area for water supply, sewerage, main drainage and river improvement purposes. This territory covers 447 square miles of land area, and in 1939 embraced 26 cities, and parts of one other city and of 11 shires, or a total of 38 municipalities or portions thereof. In addition, the Board supplies water to certain municipalities outside the metropolitan area.

The Board's liability on 30th June, 1939, for loans raised was £25,707,470. The Board was then still empowered to borrow £1,432,464 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Receipts and Expenditure.* The ordinary receipts and expenditure for the year 1938-39 were £2,356,979 and £1,660,442 respectively, and the loan receipts and expenditure, £1,407,520 and £1,951,029 (including loan redemption £1,152,460) respectively.

In the following tables showing the finances of the various services, charges against General Revenue Account amounting to £487,543 have not been included.

B. *Melbourne Water Supply.* (a) *Number of Houses, Population, and Quantity of Water Supplied.* The following table gives particulars of services for the year 1938-39. The rate levied was 7d. in the £ on the net annual value of the property served.

#### WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE : PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Consumption.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reti-culation, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1939 ..	285,408	1,133,070	66,870	24,407,663	234,430	59.02	3,234

(b) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The cost of construction and the financial operations for the year ended 30th June, 1939, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £12,201,092.

#### WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE : FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (a)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1939 ..	320,918	1,007,300	163,837	16.26	539,581	303,882

(a) Includes interest on renewals and payments to sinking fund<sup>s</sup>.

C. Melbourne Sewerage. (a) Number of Houses Connected, etc. Particulars of services for the year 1938-39 are given below. The rate levied was 1s. 2d. in the £ on the net annual value of the property served.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE : PARTICULARS OF SERVICES.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses for which Sewers are Provided.	Estimated Population for which Sewers are Provided.	Average Daily Pumping.	Total Sewage Pumped for the Year.	Average Daily Pumping.		Length of Sewers, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1939 ..	269,411	1,069,562	48,222	17,600,980	179.0	45.1	2,586

(b) Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus. The cost of construction and the financial operations for the year ended 30th June, 1939, are given below. The total capital cost to that date was £14,045,705.

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE : FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (a)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1939 ..	266,988	1,120,483	172,221	15.37	672,026	276,236

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

(c) Metropolitan Sewage Farm. The total area of the farm at 30th June, 1939, was 22,634 acres. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year ended 30th June, 1939. The total capital cost to that date was £1,259,959.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM : FINANCES.

(Included in Sewerage Finances.)

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Cost of Sewage Disposal.	Interest.	Trading Profit.	Net Cost of Sewage Purification.
	£	£	£	£	£
1939 ..	33,473	31,951	55,486	12,950	74,487

(d) Disposal of Night-soil from Unsewered Premises. The total number of pans cleaned by the Board at its depots at Brooklyn, Campbellfield and Moorabbin, where the night-soil was disposed of by burial, was 604,170 for the year 1938-39.

*D. Melbourne Drainage and Rivers—Capital Cost, Revenue, Working Expenses, Interest and Surplus.* The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the year ended 30th June, 1939. The total capital cost to that date was £1,237,931.

**DRAINAGE AND RIVERS, MELBOURNE : FINANCES.**

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost for Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest. (a)	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1939 .. ..	32,921	86,512	21,506	24.86	57,944	7,062

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

(ii) *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, constituted in 1908, consists of five commissioners. The amount of loan money which may be raised is limited to £900,000 for water supply undertaking, £760,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installation to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 49,075.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,738,119,800 gallons. In addition, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission has made available a supplementary supply of a minimum quantity of 545 million gallons of water per annum from the upper reaches of the river Barwon. There are 315 miles of mains within the water supply area. The total expenditure on waterworks to 30th June, 1939, was £736,033, and the revenue for the year 1938-39 was £58,421; the sinking fund appropriations at June, 1939, amounted to £74,617, of which £74,150 has been expended in the redemption of loans. There is a water rate of 1s. in the £ (with minima of five shillings for unbuilt on land and one pound for tenements) on the net annual value of ratable properties. The Replacement and Contingencies Reserve (Water) amounts to £27,500.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 13½ miles of main sewers and 143½ miles of reticulation mains have been constructed. The drainage area is 9,571 acres, and the number of buildings within the drainage area is 12,134, and within the sewered areas 11,919, while 11,902 buildings have been connected with the sewers. The total expenditure to 30th June, 1939, on sewerage works was £645,427, and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £257,403, of which £2,073 is outstanding. The revenue in 1938-39 amounted to £42,737 and the sinking fund appropriations at June, 1939, were £70,723, of which £69,502 has been expended in the redemption of loans. A general rate of 1s. 3d. in the £ is levied on the net annual value of ratable properties. Replacement and Contingencies Reserves (Sewerage) amount to £20,600.

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

(b) *Water Supply.* The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, containing a population of about 43,000. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,000 gallons.

The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £678,233. The liabilities are loans due to the Government amounting to £284,398 as at 31st December, 1939. The revenue for the year 1939 was £37,793.

(c) *Sewerage.* The scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons. The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1939, was £449,877. The method of sewerage disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation and sludge digestion. Ninety-seven sewered areas have been declared as at 1st January, 1940, comprising 9,508 tenements.

The scheme is financed by debenture-issue loans from various financial institutions, £496,530 having been provided up to 31st December, 1939, of which £59,287 has been redeemed, leaving a loan liability of £437,243 for constructional works. An expenditure of £183,612 was incurred for house connexions, of which £163,172 has been redeemed, the balance outstanding being £20,440.

(iv) *Bendigo Sewerage Authority.* The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute this Authority. The sewerage district comprises the populated area of the city of Bendigo. The works are completed and the expenditure to 30th September, 1939, was £339,262 for sewerage scheme and £185,791 for house connexions, excluding those tenements connected privately. The number of tenements connected to sewers is 6,396.

(v) *Sewerage in other Country Districts.* At the end of 1939 sewerage authorities had been constituted also in the following districts:—Ararat, Bairnsdale, Beechworth, Benalla, Castlemaine, Colac, Dandenong, Dimboola, Echuca, Euroa, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyabram, Kyneton, Leongatha, Lorne, Maffra, Mildura, Mornington, Morwell, Murtoa, Nhill, Portland, Sale, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warracknabeal, Warragul, Warrnambool, Werribee, Wodonga, Yarram and Yarrawonga.

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

The following table gives particulars regarding waterworks under the control of trusts and municipal corporations for the year 1939:—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, VICTORIA : FINANCES.

Year.	Under Waterworks Trusts.				Under Municipal Corporations.			
	Number of Trusts.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.	Number of Corporations.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
1939 ..	111	2,062,192	1,459,340	1,193	17	901,344	570,796	95

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

The available storage in the Brisbane River is 543 million gallons, the catchment area being approximately 4,000 square miles. In Lake Manchester the storage capacity is 5,700 million gallons, and the catchment area 28.5 square miles. The capacities of Enoggera and Gold Creek reservoirs are 1,000 million gallons and 407 million gallons respectively, and the catchment areas 12.8 and 3.8 square miles respectively.

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

(b) *Waterworks. Summary.* The following table gives a summary of operations for the year ended 30th June, 1939 :—

**WATERWORKS, BRISBANE : SUMMARY.**

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Reticulation Mains.	Number of Tenements Connected. (a)	Estimated Population Supplied.	Quantity Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Average Daily Supply per Head of Estimated Population.
	Miles.	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1939 .. ..	962	75,333	320,165	5,383,550	14,749,452	46.70

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

The total length of the trunk mains is 207 miles.

(c) *Sewerage.* At 30th June, 1939, 33,248 premises were connected to the Council's sewerage system, the estimated population served being 149,616 persons. The total length of sewers in operation is 1,026 miles, consisting of 542 miles of sewers within premises, and 484 miles of main and reticulation sewers.

(d) *Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the year ended 30th June, 1939 :—

**WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE : FINANCES.**

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Net Revenue from Rates.	Management and Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, including Sinking Fund and Overdraft.
	£	£	£	£	£
1939 .. ..	10,842,668	784,475	182,977	401,465	(a) 627,950

(a) Exclusive of the sum of £56,263 paid as exchange, registry fees, etc.

(ii) *Country Towns.*—(a) *Water Supply.* In addition to the city of Brisbane, there were at 30th June, 1939, seventy-five country towns in Queensland provided with water supply systems (including seven in the course of construction) constructed by municipalities chiefly from Government loans. The subjoined statement gives particulars of all water supply systems, exclusive of Brisbane, for the year 1938-39 :—

**COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS : QUEENSLAND.**

<i>Cost of Construction to 30th June, 1939—£3,643,588.</i>					
<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£			£	
Rates and sales of water ..	309,940		Office and salaries ..	25,236	
Government and other loans ..	178,897		Construction ..	301,774	
Government subsidy of loans ..	92,119		Maintenance ..	130,173	
Other .. ..	14,410		Interest and redemption ..	136,048	
			Other expenses ..	6,322	
Total .. ..	595,366		Total .. ..	599,553	
Assets .. ..			Liabilities .. ..		
	2,573,314			2,082,278	

(b) *Sewerage Systems.* At 30th June, 1939, there were eight cities outside the Metropolitan area—Bundaberg, Ipswich, Mackay, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville and Warwick—with sewerage works. Sewerage works are also in the towns of Charleville and Goondiwindi and in the shires of Paroo (Cunnamulla) and Quilpie. The works at Mackay, Maryborough, Toowoomba and Cunnamulla are in operation, whilst those for the other cities were in course of construction at the end of the year.

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

(ii) *Adelaide Waterworks.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars for the year 1938-39, the figures for consumption being recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and including evaporation and absorption. There are 62,118 meters in the Adelaide District.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS : SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Annual Value.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	£	Acres.	Mill n Gallons.	Miles.	Million Gallons.
1939 .. ..	135,255	5,520,921	138,074	14,436	1,386	9,279

(b) *Finances.* Particulars for the year 1938-39 are given below :—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS : FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.				Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Adminis-tration.	Mainten-ance.	Other.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1939 ..	4,676,110	367,684	446,273	24,027	68,844	18,290	111,161	7.17

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the year 1938-39 are given hereunder :—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE : SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con-nexions.	Capital Cost of Revenue-Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Adminis-tration, Mainte-nance, etc.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1939 ..	536	55,382	1,645,830	184,313	191,885	32,119	37,194	9.40

(iv) *Country Water Supply. (a) Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the year 1938-39. There are 34,956 meters in country districts.

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA : SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	Million Gallons.
1939 .. ..	50,370	11,719,894	9,378	4,998	5,400

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the year 1938-39 :—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA : FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.				Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Administration.	Maintenance.	Other.	Total.	
1939 ..	£ 9,972,942	£ 161,838	£ 207,570	£ 21,402	£ 75,877	£ 33,126	£ 130,405	% 0.77

(v) *Other Sewerage Systems.* Information in summarized form is given below regarding the two suburban sewerage systems, namely, the Glenelg system and the Port Adelaide and Semaphore system, for the year 1938-39 :—

SUBURBAN SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA : SUMMARY.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Connections.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates.	Total.	Administration and Maintenance.	Total.	
1939 ..	Miles. 387	No. 25,363	£ 1,715,204	£ 75,054	£ 76,995	£ 36,287	£ 39,829	% 2.17

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

(ii) *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage. (a) General.* The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the Victoria Reservoir, Mundaring Reservoir, Churchman Brook Reservoir, Canning Dam, certain bores and the Armadale and Wungong pipe head dams. During the year 1938-39 the construction of the Canning Dam was continued and at 30th June, 1939, there were 3,795 million gallons impounded.

The sewerage treatment works of Perth and suburbs consist of primary sedimentation with separate sludge digestion and discharge of effluent to the ocean. Fremantle treatment works consist of septic tanks with ocean outfall for effluent. Further extensive reticulation works were carried out during the year. At 30th June, 1939, the number of premises connected with sewers was 36,652.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the year 1938-39 :—

**METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA : SUMMARY.**

Year ended 30th June—	Estimated Population Supplied.	Number of Services.	Water Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.		Number of Meters.	Length of Mains.
				Per Head.	Per Service.		
	No	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	No.	Miles.
1939 ..	248,248	61,467	5,147,207	56.81	229.42	40,014	953

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives separate information for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches for the year 1938-39 :—

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

Year ended 30th June—	Water Supply.			Sewerage and Drainage.		
	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1939 ..	4,898,167	285,313	279,502	3,497,938	174,950	180,344

(iii) *Goldfields Water Supply.* The source of supply for the Coolgardie and adjacent goldfields, as well as for towns and districts on or near the pipe-line, is the Mundaring Reservoir, which has a capacity of 4,650 million gallons. There are several classes of consumers—the railways, the mines, domestic and other—and in 1938-39 the railways consumed 6 per cent., the mines 35 per cent., and domestic, etc., 59 per cent. of the supply. The following table gives details for the year 1938-39 :—

**GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA : SUMMARY.**

Year ended 30th June—	Total Con- sumption.(a)	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	1,000 gallons.	No.	Miles.	£	£	£
1939 ..	1,735,000	13,670	1,720	5,527,890	331,457	298,531

(a) Includes 137,724,000 gallons supplied to the Metropolitan Water Supply Department.

(iv) *Water Supply of Other Towns.* During the year 1938-39 water supplied to other towns and districts amounted to 270,541,575 gallons, distributed as follows :— Railways, 24,385,600 gallons ; mines, 24,380,000 gallons ; and 221,775,975 gallons to domestic and other consumers.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1938–39, two wells were sunk and seven tanks excavated. During the twenty-nine years from 1st July, 1910, to 30th June, 1939, 535 tanks were built, 379 wells sunk, and 3,598 bores put down to a total depth of 177,057 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 552 yielded fresh and 311 stock water.

(vi) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to 30th June, 1939, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water and in which water was struck was 281, ranging in depth from 30 to 4,006 feet. These figures include 51 bores sunk in the metropolitan area.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to 30th June, 1939, was £733,051, 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, 1939, amounted to £566,042. At the same date the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 14,289 and the length of reticulation mains was 143 miles. The revenue for the year 1938–39 was £50,036.

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1939, was £38,190. Up to that date 83.2 miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £219,889 and 8,769 tenements connected. Since the original city was sewered, the municipalities of Queenborough and New Town have been included in the city, and are now being sewered. In Queenborough 29.7 miles of sewers, connecting with 1,808 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £132,553. In New Town a total of 39.8 miles of sewers has been laid, and 1,891 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1939, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £116,391.

## § 5. Harbour Boards and Trusts.

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

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

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

Exclusive of ferry wharves, and jetties used for private purposes, there are 64,600 feet of wharfage controlled by the Maritime Services Board, and 10,000 feet of commercial wharfage privately owned. There is ample shed accommodation, and the port is well equipped with railway wharfage for the handling of traffic which is required to pass direct from ship to rail and vice versa. For the wheat export trade, in both bulk and bags, ample wharfage accommodation and handling equipment of the most modern character are available. Facilities in all directions can be very considerably extended when required. Approximately two-thirds of the shipping wharves controlled by the Board are leased to shipping companies, the remainder, which are unleased, are directly maintained by the Commissioners.

The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Board for the year 1938-39, in respect of the functions of the former Sydney Harbour Trust at the Port of Sydney :—

**MARITIME SERVICES BOARD : FINANCES OF THE PORT OF SYDNEY.**

Year ended 30th June	Revenue.				Working Expenditure.	Interest.	Surplus.	Total Capital Debt.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1939 ..	773,501	38,180	343,946	1,155,627	4435,350	6481,551	238,726	111,276,399

(a) Includes £55,230 exchange. (b) Includes £58,210 sinking fund contributions. (c) After allowing for balance in liquidation of Capital Debt Account.

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

(d) *Port Kembla.* Port Kembla, which is sharing to an increasing extent in the shipping trade of the State, has an area of 330 acres, with depths ranging from 20 to 50 feet, and wharfage accommodation has been provided for large ocean-going vessels. Being adjacent to the southern coalfields and a rapidly developing industrial centre, its trade is growing and a great future for the port is predicted.

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

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

**PORT CHARGES : AUSTRALIA AND UNITED KINGDOM.**

Port.	Net Tonnage of Vessels Entered.	Charges on Shipping (excluding Pilots' fee).	Average Rate per Ton of Shipping.
		£	d.
<b>Australia—</b>			
Sydney (1938-39) .. ..	11,650,317	234,094	4.8
Melbourne (1938) .. ..	8,578,270	210,432	5.9
<b>United Kingdom—</b>			
London (1938-39) .. ..	31,041,920	1,418,494	10.9
Liverpool (1938-39) .. ..	21,724,050	1,594,036	17.6

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *Melbourne Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* Information regarding the origin and constitution of this trust appears in Official Year Book No. 12, p. 970 *et seq.* At the 31st December, 1939, the sheds available for wharfage accommodation had a length of 18,278 feet, covering an area of 1,207,684 square feet. The area of water in the bay and River Yarra under the control of the Trust is approximately 5,321 acres and the total length of wharves, piers and jetties in the port is 61,850 feet, giving an area of over 57 acres of wharfage, of which 50,699 feet is effective berthing space. During 1939 the quantity of material raised by dredging and excavation in the river and bay amounted to 3,130,345 barge yards at a cost of £112,052. The Trust has expended £363,204 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction by depositing 17,022,275 barge yards of material thereon.

(b) *Finances.* During the year ended 31st December, 1939, the revenue (excluding refunds) of the Trust amounted to £843,899, and expenditure to £837,577 (including the amount of £155,234 paid to Consolidated Revenue and Geelong Harbour Trust). There was a net surplus on revenue account of £6,322. Appropriation for sinking fund and charges for depreciation, renewals and insurance against revenue account for the year amounted to £196,009. The capital expenditure for the year was £128,567. Up to 31st December, 1939, the total capital expenditure amounted to £9,161,942, the loan indebtedness at that date being £4,018,527.

(ii) *Geelong Harbour Trust.* The Geelong Harbour Trust was reconstituted in 1934 under the provisions of the Melbourne and Geelong Harbour Trusts Act 1934. The Trust is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. Revenue for the year 1939 was £93,514. Revenue expenditure was £98,485 and capital expenditure £58,326, while loans outstanding at the end of that year amounted to £520,360.

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

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Bowen Harbour Board.* The Bowen Harbour Board consists of seven members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council and the remainder elected by the electors of the town of Bowen and adjacent shires. The district under its jurisdiction comprises the area within the boundaries of the town of Bowen, the shires of Proserpine and Wangaratta, and Division I. of the shire of Ayr. The capital expenditure for the year 1939 was £307, while for the same period the revenue was £14,622 and the expenditure £15,370, all of which was from revenue.

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

The capital expenditure for the year 1939 was £952, while for the same period the revenue was £11,062 and expenditure £6,187.

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

area of 14,400 square feet, brilliantly lighted by the Barron Falls Hydro-Electricity Scheme. A most comprehensive electrical equipment is erected at the wharves for handling sugar from shed direct into vessels' holds and a special sugar storage shed, fitted with this equipment, can accommodate 7,500 tons. The Board's suction dredger maintains a minimum depth of 22 feet of water in the entrance channel. Ships drawing over 27 feet of water can berth at wharves. Railway facilities are provided in front of and at rear of the wharves. The revenue of the Board, derived from harbour, berthage and miscellaneous dues, etc., for the year 1939, was £61,428, and expenditure £72,241. In addition £7,953 was spent from loan during the year on the reclamation of foreshores.

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

The capital expenditure for the year 1939 was £14,014 and the total to the end of 1939 amounted to £132,334. The revenue for 1939 was £23,499, and the expenditure £25,799.

(v) *Mackay Harbour Board.* The Mackay Harbour Board consists of nine members elected by the electors of the city of Mackay and the shires of Pioneer, Sarina, Mirani and Nebo. The harbour is in course of construction.

Expenditure for the year 1939 totalled £438,315 of which £401,955 was spent on construction. Receipts totalled £392,569, harbour dues amounting to £57,440, Government Loan to £13,732, and Government subsidy of Loan to £107,867.

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

The revenue for the year 1939 was £41,012 and the expenditure £38,906. The capital expenditure for the year 1939 was £5,211, and the total to the end of 1939 was £810,431.

(vii) *Townsville Harbour Board.* The Townsville Harbour Board is composed of nine members of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council and the remaining seven are elected by the electors of Townsville and adjacent towns and shires. All harbour works and conveniences for the use of shipping are under the control of the Board. The capital expenditure for the year 1939 was £5,245; the receipts for the year 1939 were £76,095, and the expenditure £71,659.

HARBOUR BOARDS, QUEENSLAND : FINANCES.

Year ended 31st December	Revenue.			Expenditure.				Assets.	Liabilities.
	Wharfrage and Harbour Dues.	Total.	Interest on Loans.	Redemption of Loans.	Construction and Maintenance.	Other.	Total.		
1939 ..	249,510	629,262	62,262	29,661	556,818	27,689	676,430	2,580,445	2,559,489

4. Western Australia.—(i) *Fremantle Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* Fremantle Harbour is controlled by a Board of five Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. A description of the works is given in a previous issue of the Official Year Book (see No. 12, p. 973). Since that account was written, bulk-handling facilities have been provided and the inner harbour, entrance channel and berthing accommodation have been dredged to a depth of 36 feet below the lowest known low water. The length of berthage accommodation at all the quays is now 10,177 feet.

(b) *Finance.* The following table gives financial data for the year 1938-39 :—

**FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST : FINANCES.**

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.						Total
		Working Expenses.	Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Capital Expenditure.	Surplus Revenue. (a)	
1939 ..	£ 512,414	£ 247,243	£ 143,538	£ 18,901	£ 2,000	£ 5,251	£ 99,098	£ 516,031

(a) Paid to Consolidated Revenue.

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

(b) *Finances.* Details for the year 1938-39 are given hereunder. Surplus revenue is paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet interest and sinking fund :—

**BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD : FINANCES.**

Year ended 30th June—		Capital Account.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1939 ..	.. .. .	£ 680,247	£ 32,035	£ (a) 52,435

(a) Includes £33,488, Interest on Capital Account, of which £2,974 was contributed from the earnings of the Board.

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

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the year ended 30th June, 1939 :—

**MARINE BOARD OF HOBART : FINANCES.**

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Debt.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		
		Taxes, Dues, etc.	Total.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Works, Services, etc.	Total.
1939 ..	£ 24,494	£ 51,394	£ 55,085	£ 8,164	£ 38,989	£ 50,882

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

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the year ended 30th June, 1939 :—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON : FINANCES.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Debt.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		
		Taxes, Dues, etc.	Total.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Works, Services, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1939.. ..	235,747	57,985	63,356	15,620	15,169	63,356

(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, 736 feet in length by 91 feet wide, with a depth at low water from 30 to 40 feet. There are two other timber wharves 700 feet and 520 feet long respectively. The receipts for the year ending 30th June, 1939, were £33,776, and the expenditure £24,336, including £15,943 interest on loans, etc.

## § 6. Fire Brigades.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *General.* Under the Fire Brigades Act, 1909-1927, a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of eight members operates, and 127 fire districts have been constituted. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of quarter, quarter, and half by the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies concerned, but the expenditure must be so regulated that the proportion payable by the councils in a fire district shall not exceed the amount obtainable from ½d. in the £ rate on the unimproved capital value of ratable land in the fire district: provided that the Board, with the consent of the Minister, and at the special request of the councils of the municipalities or shires constituting or forming part of a fire district or a majority in number of such councils may, as to that district, exceed the limit above provided.

(ii) *Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales.* At 31st December, 1939, the Board had under its control 79 fire stations in the Sydney fire district and 154 fire stations in the country fire districts. The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, and comprises a total area of 293 square miles. The revenue for the year 1939 was £483,131, made up as follows :—From the Government, £118,677; municipalities and shires, £118,677; fire insurance companies and firms, £237,354; and from other sources, £8,423. The disbursements for the year were £478,089.

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

(ii) *Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board.* On 30th June, 1939, the Board had under its control 43 stations. The total receipts for the year 1938-39 were £231,353, comprising contributions £182,406, receipts for services £28,905 and interest and sundries £20,042. The expenditure was £228,560, made up as follows :—Salaries (permanent staff) £127,149, interest and repayments of principal £19,418, and other expenditure, £81,993. The loan expenditure during the year was £27,238, and the loan indebtedness at the end of the year, £207,336.

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board.* At 30th June, 1939, there were 126 municipal councils and 110 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 42 of the larger provincial cities and townships. There were 154 registered brigades at the end of June, 1939. For the year 1938-39 the revenue was £35,026 and the expenditure £35,439. Loan expenditure during the year amounted to £18,104, and at the close of the year the loan indebtedness was £59,862.

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *General.* The Acts of 1920-1931 made provision for the retention of existing fire districts, and for the constitution of new districts. For each district there must be a Fire Brigades Board consisting of seven members, and the cost of maintenance of each brigade is proportioned as follows :—The Treasury two-sevenths, insurance companies three-sevenths, and local authorities two-sevenths. All volunteer fire brigades in a district must be registered.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Boards.* At 30th June, 1939, there were fire brigades in 35 towns. The total revenue for the year 1938-39 was £108,742, received mainly from the following sources :—Government £24,770, local authorities £24,462, insurance companies £37,187, and loans (Government and other), £18,732. The total expenditure for the year was £115,251, the chief items being salaries and wages £59,523, and interest and redemption of loans, £12,170.

4. *South Australia.* The Fire Brigades Act 1936, provides for a Board of five members, and the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed as to two-ninths by the Treasury, five-ninths by insurance companies, and two-ninths by the municipalities concerned. The contribution of the Treasury, however, is limited to £10,000 and if two-ninths of the expenses and maintenance exceeds this amount five-sevenths of the excess is contributed by the insurance companies and two-sevenths by the municipalities. At the end of 1938 there were altogether 28 fire brigade stations the total revenue for the year 1938 was £62,485.

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* Under the 1916 Act certain Municipal and Road Board Districts are constituted fire districts under the control of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board. The income of the Board is derived as to two-eighths from Government, three-eighths from municipalities, and three-eighths from insurance companies.

(ii) *Western Australian Fire Brigades Board.* The whole of the brigades throughout the State are now controlled by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, and number 42. The revenue and expenditure for the year ended 30th September, 1939, were £66,976 and £63,924 respectively. The estimated value of land and buildings was £96,000 and of plant £41,000.

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 Treasury, the municipality concerned, and insurance companies insuring property within the district.

(ii) *Hobart Fire Brigade Board.* The revenue of the Board for the year 1939 amounted to £7,236.