

Part 5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Administration

Local Government Department

General Description

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

Local Government Act

Acts relating to local government in the Cities of Melbourne
and Geelong

Town and Country Planning Act

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act

Local Authorities Superannuation Act

Petrol Pumps Act

Drainage Areas Act

Pounds Act

Dog Act.

In addition, the Minister is responsible for the *Valuation of Land Act* 1960. This Act was amended by the *Valuation of Land (Amendment) Act* 1961.

Constituting and Altering the Constitution of Municipalities

The *Local Government Act* 1958 provides machinery for the creation of new municipalities and for alterations to the boundaries of existing ones. The power to make Orders on this subject is conferred on the Governor in Council, who acts on the recommendation of the Minister for Local Government. All such Orders are published in the *Government Gazette*. The powers conferred on the Governor in Council include authority to do the following :—

1. To constitute new shires. Practically the whole of Victoria is included in municipal districts, and therefore any new municipalities will almost inevitably be created from the territories of existing ones. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property of a net annual value of at least £60,000 may be constituted a shire.

2. To constitute new boroughs. Any portion of Victoria may be constituted a borough provided that it—
 - (a) does not exceed nine square miles in area. (Special Acts of Parliament have been passed to permit larger areas to become boroughs, towns, or cities, and any existing city, town, or borough may annex additional territory even though its area is, as a result, increased beyond nine square miles. Eighteen cities, four towns, and two boroughs do exceed nine square miles) ;
 - (b) has no point within its area distant more than six miles from any other point ;
 - (c) contains a population of at least 500 inhabitant householders ;
 - (d) contains rateable property of a net annual value of at least £40,000 ; and
 - (e) does not comprise portions of different boroughs.
3. To sever parts of one municipality and annex such parts to another.
4. To subdivide or re-subdivide any municipality. (The subdivisions of a city, town, or borough are called *wards* and those of a shire *ridings*. The maximum number of subdivisions permitted in any municipality, except the City of Melbourne, is eight. Melbourne has eleven wards. Twenty-eight municipalities, including seven shires, are not subdivided.)
5. To declare boroughs, cities, or towns. If its revenue from general and extra rates in the preceding year is not less than £15,000, a borough may be declared a town. If the revenue is not less than £30,000 it may be declared a city.

Action on these matters can be initiated locally, in some instances, by a request addressed to the Governor in Council and signed by a prescribed number of persons enrolled on the municipal voters' roll. The proposal set out in the request must be submitted to a poll held in conjunction with the next annual election of councillors. In other instances, a petition under the seal of the council suffices. There is an Advisory Board of three persons, constituted under the Local Government Act, which investigates these matters and advises the Minister on them.

During the period 1st July, 1962, to 30th June, 1963, no new municipalities were created, but the Borough of Moe was declared a city on 6th March, 1963.

Valuer-General and Valuers' Qualification Board

The purpose of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* (as amended by the *Valuation of Land (Amendment) Act 1961*) is the co-ordination of rating valuations for municipalities and other rating authorities, and

the improvement of the standard of such valuations. Valuations will still be carried out at municipal level (and in some cases where appropriate, by other rating authorities), but an organization has been established to guide and assist valuers, councils, and other rating authorities in valuation matters.

The legislation provides for appointment of a Valuer-General, a Deputy Valuer-General, and other necessary officers who are to be members of the Public Service within the Local Government Department. The Valuers' Qualification Board, under powers vested in it by the legislation, may either conduct examinations of persons desiring to qualify themselves as valuers under the Act, or prescribe examinations or qualifications which it is prepared to accept for this purpose. It is also empowered to issue certificates of qualification, at its complete discretion, to certain persons practising as valuers when the legislation was enacted. The Board is also empowered to grant certificates of qualification covering the whole of Victoria or for any part or parts of the State, according to the scope of the applicant's experience.

Inspection of Scaffolding

Since 1922, councils have been responsible for supervision of scaffolding erected to support workmen engaged in the construction of buildings or carrying out other works. Councils were required to administer the regulations made under legislation enacted in that year. This legislation was incorporated in the Local Government Act in 1928. In 1960, the provisions of the Local Government Act relating to scaffolding inspection were re-enacted in amended form. This new legislation came into operation on 1st October, 1962. Provision was made for a Supervisor of Scaffolding Inspection and Assistants to supervise the administration of the Scaffolding Regulations by municipalities, and also for a Scaffolding Regulations Committee to prepare draft Scaffolding Regulations for consideration by the Minister. The Committee includes representatives from Government Departments, the Municipal Association, the Master Builders' Association, and the Trades Hall Council. The Chairman is the Supervisor of Scaffolding Inspection.

Municipalities

General Description

At 30th June, 1963, Victoria was divided, for local government purposes, into 208 municipal districts and the Yallourn Works Area. This latter was severed from the municipal districts of which it then formed part by the *State Electricity Commission (Yallourn Area)*

Act 1947. For certain purposes, it is deemed to be a borough, and municipal administration is the responsibility of the Commission, assisted by an Advisory Council. The 208 municipalities comprised :—

Cities	..	..	..	52
Towns	..	..	..	5
Boroughs	..	..	..	13
Shires	..	..	..	138
				<hr/>
				208
				<hr/>

The only unincorporated areas of the State are French Island (65 square miles) in Westernport Bay, Lady Julia Percy Island (1·02 square miles) off Port Fairy, Bass Strait Islands (1·51 square miles), Gippsland Lakes (Part) (128 square miles), and Tower Hill Lake Reserve (2·28 square miles) adjacent to the Borough of Koroit.

Municipal Councils

The powers vested in municipal corporations are exercised by councils elected by persons who are enrolled on the municipal voters' rolls. The number of councillors for each municipality must be some multiple of three, not less than six, nor more than 24 (except the City of Melbourne, which has 33 councillors). Subdivided municipalities have three councillors for each subdivision.

Any person who is the owner or occupier of property of a rateable value of at least £20, is eligible to stand for election as a councillor of the municipality in which the property is situated. Councillors serve in an honorary capacity. They must elect one of their number to be chairman. In a city, town, or borough the chairman is called the Mayor (the Lord Mayor in the case of the City of Melbourne) and in a shire, the President. Councillors hold office for three years, and each year one-third of the total number allotted to each municipality retire in rotation.

Generally speaking, a councillor, at a council meeting, may not discuss or vote on any matter in which he has a pecuniary interest, and he may become incapable of being or continuing as a councillor if he is in any way concerned in a contract with the municipality. A councillor who acts while incapacitated may be subjected to heavy penalties. Councillors are also liable for heavy penalties if moneys are wrongfully borrowed or expended, and may have to repay the money so borrowed or expended.

Elections

Municipal elections are held annually in August. Extraordinary elections may be held to fill vacancies occurring between annual elections. To be enrolled on the voters' roll for any municipality, a person must have reached the age of 21, be a natural born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty, and be liable to be rated on rateable property in the municipality. No person is entitled to be enrolled for property which has an annual value of less than £5, unless

there is a house on such property and the person resides there. An occupier of rateable property is entitled to be enrolled instead of the owner. In the City of Melbourne both owners and occupiers are entitled to be enrolled. Plural voting is provided for, up to a maximum of three votes per person, according to the value of the rateable property for which the enrolment is made.

Voting is compulsory in 55 municipalities.

Officers

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

Powers and Duties of Municipalities

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

By-laws

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

Roads and Bridges

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

Private Streets

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

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

Sewers, Drains, and Watercourses

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

Water Supply and Sewerage

In the Melbourne Metropolitan Area, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is responsible for water supply and sewerage (see page 438). The members of the Board are municipal councillors nominated by the councils in the Metropolitan Area. Outside the Metropolitan Area, the special water and sewerage needs of the Geelong district and the Latrobe Valley are served by the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board respectively. Elsewhere in the Extra-Metropolitan Area of the State, the Governor in Council may constitute Waterworks Trusts and Sewerage Authorities, under the provisions of the Water Act and the Sewerage Districts Act, respectively (see pages 448 to 454). Members of a municipal council may, together with Government nominees, be the members of the Sewerage Authority or Waterworks Trust. Alternatively, some members of these bodies may be elected by councillors or ratepayers. In many instances, municipal officers

also carry out duties for Waterworks Trusts and Sewerage Authorities. The Water and Sewerage Districts Acts are administered by the Minister of Water Supply. Seventeen councils operate waterworks under powers provided in the Local Government Act and, in addition, thirteen municipalities have been constituted local governing bodies, under the provisions of the *Water Act* 1958, with defined water supply districts.

Building Control

Since 1945, building in most municipalities in Victoria has been subject to a building code, known as the Uniform Building Regulations, which is administered by municipal councils. These regulations apply in cities and towns and may be applied in the whole or any part of any borough or shire, if the council concerned so desires. At 30th June, 1963, only two boroughs and seventeen shires had not adopted the regulations.

Municipalities have power to make by-laws regulating buildings, but the Uniform Building Regulations, in the municipalities where they apply, would over-ride any provisions of such by-laws. The regulations leave certain matters to be determined by councils which are empowered to make by-laws for the purpose. These by-laws are subject to approval by the Governor in Council.

Town and Country Planning

Councils have power under the Local Government Act to make by-laws prescribing areas as residential or business areas, and, by this means, may achieve a degree of town planning. Since 1944, however, councils have had power to prepare planning schemes to regulate the use of land in the whole or any part of their municipal districts and may join with other councils to prepare a joint planning scheme. When a council has commenced preparation of a planning scheme, it may make an Interim Development Order to control use of land in the planning area, until a scheme is in force. Both the Interim Development Order and the planning scheme are subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. The Town and Country Planning Board, constituted under the Town and Country Planning Act, makes reports and recommendations to the Minister on planning schemes and town planning matters generally. The Board may itself prepare a planning scheme for a particular area at the direction of the Minister. By legislation enacted in 1949, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works was charged with the duty of preparing a planning scheme for the Melbourne Metropolitan Area. This does not debar metropolitan councils from preparing individual schemes, and some municipal councils in this area already have planning schemes in force or are preparing schemes.

These will be absorbed, eventually, as part of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works scheme for, on approval being given to the Board's scheme by the Minister, it will control all development within the Metropolitan Area. The Town and Country Planning Act was amended and consolidated in 1961. The new legislation came into force in February, 1962.

Other Powers and Duties

Although for many years councils have been empowered to deal with slum reclamation and to provide dwellings for persons of small means, it has been only in the past few years that some councils have entered into this field. The City of Prahran has recently completed a housing scheme and the City of Melbourne has given land to the Housing Commission upon which now stand blocks of flats, some reserved for elderly people. The Housing Commission has invited assistance from councils for slum reclamation and housing redevelopment and the City of Melbourne has responded with an agreement to provide to the Commission £300,000 over a period of three years which will be applied towards an expenditure by the Commission of some £4,288,000 in flat development within the City of Melbourne area. The council actively assisted in the provision of 96 "Darby and Joan" flats in North Carlton by donating land, finance, and architectural services.

Some of the powers available to municipal councils have rarely been used or are now falling into disuse. They may operate gasworks or generate electricity, but there are now no municipal gasworks and the number of municipalities generating electricity (at present six) is steadily dwindling. However, a number still purchase electricity in bulk and retail it. Some of the other more usual functions of municipalities are :—

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

Revenue

The works and services provided by Victorian municipalities are financed largely from local taxes (rates) which are levied on the owners or occupiers of rateable property in each municipal district.

Other sources of revenue include income from public works and services, Government grants, licence fees, and miscellaneous income.

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

Some municipalities also operate business undertakings, such as electric supply, abattoirs, pipe works, quarries, and waterworks, and, for the 1961 municipal year, the combined turnover of these undertakings was approximately £17 mill.

Rating of Land and Property

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

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

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

The *Valuation of Land (Amendment) Act* 1961 contains particular provisions covering the Metropolitan Area of Melbourne and, at the discretion of the Minister, other areas of the State. These provisions are aimed at ensuring a uniformity of municipal valuations used by large rating authorities covering more than one municipality. Metropolitan municipalities are those which have at least one whole subdivision subject to any rate payable to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. These municipalities will, in future, be required to make valuations at four instead of six year intervals and, with some exceptions, are required to arrange for a valuation to be returned between the 1st January, 1962, and the 30th September, 1964, to be assessed at the level of general value current at the 31st December, 1961.

In Victoria, a municipality is required to rate on the net annual value of rateable property unless, at the instance of the council, or as the result of a poll of its ratepayers, it has adopted the provisions of Part XI. of the Local Government Act for the purpose of rating on unimproved capital valuations.

The net annual value of a property is the rental it might be expected to earn from year to year if let, after deducting expenses such as rates, taxes, and insurances, but shall not be less than 5 per cent. of the capital value.

The unimproved capital value, however, is the amount a property might be expected to realize if sold in an unimproved state. It is the amount a purchaser might reasonably expect to pay for land, assuming that no improvements had been effected to it.

Of the 208 municipalities in Victoria at 30th September, 1962, 161 were rating on net annual values and 47 on unimproved capital values. The principal rate levied by a municipality is the general rate. This

is made for the purpose of defraying the ordinary expenditure of the council, and is paid into the general fund of the municipality known as the Municipal Fund.

The general rate must be made at least once in each municipal year, and in any one year is limited to 4s. in the £1 of the net annual value of the rateable property. For certain special purposes, however, a municipality may raise its general rate above the limitation imposed by the Local Government Act.

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

Except for the special purposes mentioned above, the aggregate amount of general and extra rates levied in any subdivision is not to exceed 4s. in the £1 of the net annual value of the rateable property. An extra rate may be made for a period not exceeding one year or less than three months, as the council thinks fit.

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

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

Government Grants

Although Government grants (apart from those allocated through the Country Roads Board), form only a small part of municipal revenue, the special purposes for which they may be obtained have tended to increase. Subsidies are now paid, in certain circumstances, for infant welfare centres, pre-natal centres, pre-school centres, free kindergartens, crèches, libraries, vermin destruction bonuses, public halls, swimming pools, main drains in country centres, and drainage works in drainage areas. Since 1884, when the Government took over the collection of fees under the Licensing Act, a licences equivalent has been paid to municipalities. It is the nominal equivalent of the amount collected in that year. For the year ended 30th June, 1962, the amount paid to municipalities from the Licensing Fund was £56,532.

(A statement of receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund appears on page 359.) Municipal endowment for the more needy municipalities was paid almost from the inception of local government in Victoria until the onset of the depression. Subsequently, unemployment relief grants were made annually for a number of years, for various municipal works, and, after the Second World War, an amount of £100,000 was provided annually towards the cost of works of municipalities and other public bodies. In 1950, the Municipalities and Other Authorities Finances Act put this arrangement on a permanent basis.

Municipalities Assistance Fund

Under the *Municipalities and Other Authorities Finances Act 1950* (legislation which is now incorporated in part in the *Local Government Act 1958*), the amount of the annual fee for a motor driver's licence was increased from 5s. to 10s., and it was provided that the additional revenue, less the cost of collection, should be paid to the Municipalities Assistance Fund. Payments are made from the Fund, firstly, towards the cost of works of municipalities and other public bodies, and secondly, towards the annual cost of the Country Fire Authority, in order to relieve country municipalities of the contributions to that body which they were formerly required to make. The municipal works, usually subsidized from the Fund, are the establishment and improvement of recreation reserves (including toilet blocks, dressing sheds, and fencing), children's playgrounds, and public comfort stations. The amount which may be allocated by the Minister from the Fund, in any one financial year, for subsidies towards the cost of works of municipalities and other public bodies was originally fixed at £100,000. The *Local Government (Municipalities Assistance Fund) Act 1961* increased this to £200,000.

For the year ended 30th June, 1962, subsidies paid to various municipalities for works from the Municipalities Assistance Fund amounted to £113,477, while, for the same period, the amount contributed to the Country Fire Authority was £220,512.

Country Roads Board Recoups and Grants

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

For the purpose of making and maintaining certain rural roads (known as unclassified roads), municipalities also receive grants from the Country Roads Board from funds provided by the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Acts.

Expenditure

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

Borrowing Powers

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

Money may be borrowed on the credit of the municipality for permanent works and undertakings (as defined in the Local Government Act), or to liquidate the principal moneys owing by the municipality on account of any previous loan. Under a municipality's ordinary borrowing powers, the amount borrowed shall not exceed the net annual valuation of all rateable property in the municipal district, as shown by the municipality's last audited financial statement; provided that, where money is borrowed for gas or electric supply, water, quarrying, or abattoirs, an additional amount may be borrowed, not exceeding one-half of the net annual value of all rateable property in the municipal district, as shown by the last audited financial statement.

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

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

Before proceeding to borrow money for permanent works and undertakings, a municipality is required to prepare plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost of the works and undertakings to be carried out, together with a statement showing the proposed expenditure of the amount to be borrowed. This information is to be

available for a specified period for inspection by any ratepayer. The Local Government Act provides that notice of intention to borrow shall be advertised, and also contains provisions under which a number of ratepayers may oppose the proposal to borrow and demand that it be submitted to a poll of ratepayers. Should a poll be held and a majority of ratepayers vote against the proposal, the loan is forbidden.

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

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

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

- (a) Temporary accommodation on current account ;
- (b) private street construction ;
- (c) works carried out under the Country Roads and Commonwealth Aid Roads Acts ; or
- (d) purchase and acquisition of land, or the payment of compensation in connexion with certain specified schemes.

Investment of Municipal Funds in the Short-term Money Market

Since June, 1962, it has been lawful for any municipality to invest by deposit part of its municipal fund, or other moneys belonging to it, in the short-term money market.

The councils, however, may invest only with authorized dealers who have been so declared for the purpose under the provisions of section 38 of the *Companies Act* 1961. Through these dealers (at present nine in number) municipalities may invest at call, or for short-term, minimum amounts of £25,000.

Loans to this market are fully secured by Australian Government securities equal in market value to the amounts deposited. The Reserve Bank stands behind the dealers as a lender of last resort. Authorized dealers are thus at all times in a position to meet their obligations.

Investment in the short-term money market can be a useful source of additional revenue for councils. Frequently, municipalities have substantial loan funds idle for short periods, and at certain times of the year may accumulate substantial revenue credits on current account. These are likely sources of municipal investment in the short-term market.

Accounts

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

Municipal Association of Victoria

All municipalities in Victoria are members of the Municipal Association which began its existence in 1879 and was given statutory recognition by the *Municipal Association Act* 1907. The Association was established—to quote the preamble to that Act—“for the purpose of promoting the efficient carrying out of municipal government throughout the State of Victoria and of watching over and protecting the interests, rights, and privileges of Municipal Corporations”. The State Government has also found the Association a valuable organization, because it simplifies its task of dealing with the municipalities. The annual conference, which determines Association policy, is held in October. The Association also operates the Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund.

Local Authorities Superannuation Board

The Local Authorities Superannuation Act provides for a compulsory superannuation scheme for permanent employees of municipal councils, water and sewerage authorities, weights and measures unions, cemetery trusts, the Portland Harbor Trust, and the First Mildura Irrigation Trust.

The scheme is administered by a Local Authorities Superannuation Board and provides benefits for employees on retirement at the age of 65 years, or for their dependants should the employees die before reaching that age.

Important changes in the scheme, however, were provided for by the *Local Authorities Superannuation (Amendment) Act* 1960. Prior to this amending legislation, the scheme had been operated by the Board in conjunction with several approved life assurance organizations. Most permanent employees were required to effect, with an approved assurer, policies of endowment insurance maturing on the retirement of the assured at 65 years of age. Those who became permanent employees when over 55 years of age, however, were required to contribute to a provident fund which was invested for their benefit by the Board. Benefits, in each case, took the form of lump sum payments on retirement at 65 years of age, or on prior death.

The amending Act reconstituted the Board by providing for the addition of two new members, increasing its membership from three to five. Provision was also made, as from the commencement of the amending Act, for the discontinuance of policies of insurance, and for the Board to take over and administer the insurance section of the scheme. It provided for the Board to “enter into contracts to provide benefits by way of superannuation, annuities, retiring allowances, or payments on death, in respect of permanent employees”.

Two important advantages seen in the new provisions are :—

- (1) Substantially increased benefits to contributors, payable on death prior to the age of 65 years, and expected increased benefits on retirement at the age of 65 ; and
- (2) an important new source of loan funds for local authorities.

Contributions to the scheme are based on a percentage of the salaries and wages of employees, and are met in equal proportions by employees and employers.

In prior years, the accounting period of the Board ended on 30th June, whereas the premium and contribution year closed at the end of February. The Board has now adopted the year ending 28th February as its accounting period.

Under the new scheme, a Local Authorities Benefit Contracts Account was established by the Board in 1961 and at the end of the eight months period ended 28th February, 1962, it stood as follows :—

**VICTORIA—LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPERANNUATION
BOARD : BENEFIT CONTRACTS ACCOUNT, 1st JULY,
1961 TO 28th FEBRUARY, 1962**

(£)

Particulars	Amount
Premium and Investment Income	145,225*
Proceeds of Surrendered Policies	1,522,863
Sundries	5,650
	1,673,738
<i>Less</i> Contributions and Death and Withdrawal Benefits	116,410
„ Contributions to Management	16,667
	133,077
Operating Surplus for Period 1st July, 1961 to 28th February, 1962	1,540,661
Accumulated Funds (at 28th February, 1962)	2,903,983

* Excludes annual premiums which became payable on 1st March, 1962.

The accumulated funds at 28th February, 1962, consisted of investments in semi-governmental and local government loans and cash deposits.

Commission of Inquiry into Local Government in Victoria

This Commission was appointed in September, 1959, to inquire into local government in Victoria. Aspects covered by the Commission included disabilities which prevent municipal councils from, or hinder them in, fulfilling their statutory functions ; the question of whether the then existing municipal divisions of the State of Victoria provided for efficient, economical, and satisfactory units of local government ; the question of whether any, and if so what, alterations should be made to the then existing municipalities or their boundaries to provide better such units ; and the question of whether the statutory requirements for constituting new municipalities were satisfactory and, if not, what legislative amendments would be necessary to make them satisfactory.

Further References

Reference to the historical development of Victorian local government administration will be found on pages 347 to 349 of the Victorian Year Book 1961.

Melbourne City Council*Organization and Functions*

Melbourne shares with Geelong the distinction of being the oldest municipality in Victoria. Incorporated as a town by Act of the New South Wales Governor and Legislative Council in 1842, it was raised to the status of a city by Letters Patent of Queen Victoria dated in 1847. On the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851, Melbourne became the capital of the colony. From Federation in 1901 until 1927, Melbourne was also the seat of government of the Commonwealth.

The City of Melbourne still operates under parts of the 1842 Act and its amendments, although in many respects it is bound, in common with other Victorian municipalities, by other local government legislation.

For electoral purposes, Melbourne is divided into eleven Wards, each Ward returning three councillors, giving a full Council of thirty-three members. One councillor from each Ward retires annually in rotation. The City has an area of 7,765 acres. With a net annual value for the year 1961-62 of £16.2 mill., a yearly revenue of £9.5 mill., and a work force of 2,745 employees, it is the foremost municipality in the State.

The Corporation both generates and reticulates electricity. In this respect, it is integrated into the State Electricity Commission grid. The abattoirs and markets of the Council are also important. The Newmarket cattle market is the largest and most important in the State. The abattoirs, run in close conjunction with the market, supply 45 per cent. of the meat consumed in the metropolis and also feed the export market. The Victoria Market handles annually about 470,000 tons of fruit and vegetables with a value of £25 mill. The Fish Market, the only one of its kind in the State, is also a Council responsibility. The inspectorial side of the Council's activities is of the utmost importance to the community. Inspections cover the correct measuring of pre-packed goods, the correctness of weighing machines, the quality and standard of foods, the standard of housing, and checking construction of new buildings. Social services cater for the people of Melbourne from pre-natal care through to elderly citizens' activities. Active and passive recreation is provided for in 1,751 acres of parks, gardens, and reserves scattered throughout the City.

Though its population (76,810 at the 1961 Census) is below that of some suburban municipalities, its daily influx of population is high. This has demanded a high standard for traffic and general road works, including road surfacing, traffic engineering, and parking, both on and off the street.

The detailed work of the Council at councillor level is achieved by the division of its powers and responsibilities among a number of committees. There are ten permanent or standing committees, whilst

special committees are constituted from time to time for specific purposes. No councillor may be chairman of more than one permanent committee nor serve on more than three committees. The committees are the workshop of the Council, but all the work of the committees must be reported back to the Council and all decisions taken be approved.

Administration

For the effective functioning of the committees and for purposes of staff review and control, committees are married to departments, although no committee has exclusive access to the activities of a particular department. At present, the relationship of committees to departments is as follows :—

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Department</i>
Public Works	City Engineer's City Architect's
Health	Health
Finance	City Treasurer's City Valuer's
Electric Supply ..	Electric Supply
General Purposes and Legislative	Town Clerk's
Abattoirs and Markets ..	Abattoirs and Cattle Markets Markets (Fruit, Vegetables, and Fish)
Parks, Gardens, and Recreation	Parks and Gardens
Building and Town Plan- ning	Building Surveyor's

Although departmental organization gives rise to certain administrative difficulties, it provides a structure which satisfactorily fulfils the purpose of an elective form of government relying entirely on honorary service.

Parks and Gardens

Almost since its birth Melbourne has been known as a garden city. More than one quarter of the City's eleven square miles now consists of parks, gardens, and reserves. Not all of these were part of the early park reservations ; some have been added from time to time by the Council as need and opportunity arose. Even with the older reservations, developmental work has not ceased.

Royal Park, an area of some 450 acres, was originally part of an area of 2,560 acres set aside in 1854 by Governor La Trobe as open space. Like most of Melbourne's other parks and gardens, Royal Park was once an aboriginal camping ground. In 1858, it saw the start of the Burke and Wills expedition and, in 1860, it was the site of the first agricultural experimental farm. Used by the Army during

two World Wars, the last Army occupied area was handed over to the Council in 1961. Since then, large-scale development has taken place—50 acres have been reserved for a women's recreation centre, comprising an Olympic standard athletic track, 40 basketball courts, six hockey fields, and a number of softball diamonds. Other areas in the Park are being developed and a regular tree planting programme is in progress to make Royal Park one of the foremost recreation areas in Australia.

Yarra Park, Princes Park, Fawkner Park, Debney's Park, and others provide further facilities for all types of sporting activities. Together they include fifteen turf wickets, 79 asphalt wickets, two women's athletic fields, 21 football grounds (Australian Rules), thirteen soccer grounds, four rugby grounds, nineteen hockey grounds, eight baseball grounds, fifteen playgrounds, nine softball diamonds, four asphalt basketball courts, 49 grass basketball courts, 24 tennis courts, several bowling rinks, and a golf course. These areas are used by more than 6,000 children and adults each week (excluding spectators), involving over 400 separate clubs and schools.

Quite distinct from the active type of recreational facility, the Council has provided many scenic and restful areas in its gardens. Well known among these are the Fitzroy Gardens, an area which, in 1837, was subdivided into building allotments. Admittedly, builders would have encountered some difficulties, as part of the area was occupied by a bluestone quarry, and a large portion of it was swamp land. Citizens of Melbourne Town found this to be an ideal place for disposing of their refuse, much to the disgust of the gentlefolk of East Melbourne, who agitated for its cleansing and beautification. James Sinclair, a Scottish landscape gardener, who had designed and planted Czar Nicholas' Royal Gardens in the Crimea, accepted the task of transforming the area into gardens, and many of the century-old trees which now grace the Gardens were planted by him. The story is similar with many other of Melbourne's parks: Alexandra Gardens on the south side of the Yarra were Melbourne's first brick-fields.

Succeeding years have witnessed intensive efforts of designing and developing Melbourne's parks and gardens, the planting of thousands of trees, and the creation of sporting areas and quiet places for restful meditation.

The Royal Botanic Gardens which are world renowned are situated less than one mile from the centre of the city proper. They occupy an area of approximately 88 acres and, although situated within the City of Melbourne, are controlled by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Further Reference

A full account of the Melbourne City Council will be found on pages 359 to 362 of the Victorian Year Book 1961. Public Health Administration of the Council is described on page 388 of the Victorian Year Book 1963.

Bendigo

Historical Background

There is some evidence to suggest that the Bendigo valley may have been penetrated as early as 1838. Robert Ross Haverfield and James Mouat gave accounts to George Mackay, which suggest that they had visited the valley prior to its settlement.

Charles Sherrett took up the Mount Alexander Run in 1840. The first white men to live in the valley were shepherds employed by the successive owners of the Mount Alexander Run. One of these shepherds (controversy still exists as to which) was by reputation a pugilist who was nick-named "Bendigo", after William "Bendigo" Thompson, the reigning champion of the prize ring in England at this time. He lived in a little shepherd's hut on the bank of the creek where Golden Square, Bendigo, stands to-day. This hut became known as "Bendigo's Hut", the flat on which it stood as "Bendigo's Flat", and the creek as "Bendigo's Creek". The earliest post marks are "Bendigo Ck."

For a short time, the township was known officially as Castleton. For many years it was named Sandhurst. Sandhurst was renamed Bendigo by plebiscite in April, 1891. Bendigo was proclaimed a municipality in 1855, a borough in 1863, and a city in July, 1871.

Gold was first discovered in the Bendigo District at Mount Alexander in 1851 and the first discovery in the City of Bendigo was made at Golden Square in the same year. The first gold escort for 20,937 ounces of gold was despatched from Bendigo in July, 1852 to Melbourne.

The gold rush continued through 1852 into 1853. Gold of an alluvial nature was plentiful but very fine. It was not found in wholesale quantities or large nuggets as it was on some other fields. Since the summers of these years were hot and dry, the creek became a series of mudholes, and water to wash the gold-bearing clay was very scarce. The dry dusty conditions gave rise to a high incidence of disease and the malady conjunctivitis drove the diggers to distraction.

From 1856 to 1860, alluvial gold mining declined and Robert Ross Haverfield, first editor of the "Bendigo Advertiser" must be credited with being one of the principals in bringing about a revival in the form of quartz reefing or deep gold mining. He successfully advocated and promoted this method in editorials in his paper. Ballaerstaedt, Koch, Lansell, and others were the first to exploit the methods suggested and the Bendigo goldfield prospered economically until about 1915 when mining yields again declined. They have continued to do so until the present time when the field lies idle.

Pastoral development in the district was materially assisted by the gold rushes when meat and vegetables were in demand and brought high prices. Closer settlement may be said to date from land sales in 1856 in the Strathfieldsaye, Emu Creek areas. A successful wine industry was established, but the outbreak of the disease, *Phylloxera* was one factor in the decline of the industry.

The railway line from Melbourne was completed in 1862. Today Bendigo is the maintenance centre for the railway network into Northern Victoria and the railway workshops at North Bendigo ensure the city's importance in this regard for many years to come.

The City of Bendigo was laid out by Charles Larritt who also had the foresight to preserve or cause to be preserved the area known as Rosalind Park in the centre of the city. Larritt brought a straggling village bordering the Bendigo Creek into line with the requirements of all modern cities ; he planned the wide thoroughfares and broad streets that Bendigo enjoys today. Fortunately he accomplished all this before the second and more permanent stage of building commenced. This period of rebuilding in Bendigo dates from 1870 and continues until the 1890's. During this revival, architects like Vahland and Hartley designed some of the finest public buildings in Australia, many of which have been listed in classification "A" and are thus to be preserved for all time by the National Trust in view of their outstanding architectural merit.

Local industry received a considerable impetus by the establishment of the Commonwealth Ordnance Works at North Bendigo in 1942, and to some extent this counter-balanced the decline in gold mining and gave some relief to unemployment. After the Second World War, light textile industries were established in the city. The completion of the Eppalock Dam project will provide the necessary water for the canning industry.

Bendigo Goldfield (1851 to 1961)

Gold was first discovered in 1851 at "The Rocks" on the Bendigo Creek near Golden Square, and the field has since produced almost 25 mill. ozs. of gold from alluvial and reef mining. Whilst alluvial mining in the numerous gullies and creeks was highly productive in the early life of Bendigo, it was reefing which produced the main bulk of its wealth from 1854 to 1954.

The lodes of this field have been formed by the intrusion of quartz into the sandstones and slates of the Ordovician age, the quartz originating from the final phase of the granitic intrusion when the mineralized solutions were injected into the folded sedimentary rocks. The particular rock folding has given rise to the "Saddle Reef" formations from which much of the gold yield has been obtained. The

gold which was deposited at the same time as the quartz has been proven to a depth of 4,600 feet and its occurrence is in "shoots" in the lodes and often extends over hundreds of feet along the strike. Although not all reefs are payable, deposition on the field is such that it is generally accepted that all lodes carry gold values. The most famous producers have been the Garden Gully, Hustlers, New Chum, Sheepstead and Deborah lines of reef, although many outside lines have been highly productive in more or less isolated points of penetration to depth.

The deepest penetration on the field was at the "Victoria Quartz" mine at Ironbark where the shaft reached a depth of 4,608 feet. Deep sinking has been a feature of Bendigo reef mining and at one time no less than ten operating mines were working between 3,000 feet and 4,000 feet.

Although active mining ceased in 1955, a number of excellent plants and crushing batteries remain which could again be used one day.

Farming in the Bendigo District

Historical Development

The Bendigo district grew from a small settlement born as a result of the discovery of gold. By 1870, there were 200 mines employing 5,000 men. But, at the same time, and even in the early 1850's, the gold diggers were realizing that the Bendigo district also possessed unexploited agricultural resources. They found that the plains to the north of Bendigo were suited to the growing of wheat and oats, and that the climate and alluvial soils around Bendigo were well suited to the culture of fruit and of grapes for wine. Until the outbreak of the vine disease, *Phylloxera*, in 1893, the district was recognized as a leader in wine production. Orchards yielding all types of fruit gradually spread through the district. Historical documents frequently mention fruit orchards and citrus groves in the district through the latter half of last century. Even cotton growing was tried, as well as production of tobacco in 1856.

The farming community gradually expanded away from Bendigo and diversified its activities. Many of the early problems of satisfactory crop yield were overcome by breeding more suitable varieties of wheat, oats, and barley, recognizing and controlling crop diseases and pests, and appreciating the limitations of rainfall in the district. As a result of this, extensive areas of cropping are now found to the north and west of Bendigo. Similar factors have determined the development of the orchard industry in the Bendigo district.

Agriculture, Sheep, and Dairy Cattle

With the introduction of superphosphate early this century, crop yields and, eventually, pasture production were markedly increased and the district witnessed the beginnings of an agricultural revolution. The use of molybdenum has allowed the development of lighter classes of country.

Within a 30-mile radius of Bendigo, the rainfall ranges from 15 inches to 26 inches, with most country having an annual rainfall less than 20 inches. As a result of this, annual pastures are the most commonly grown. Subterranean clover strains and Wimmera rye grass are the basic annual pasture species. It is only in high-rainfall or irrigation country that perennial clovers and perennial rye grass predominate. *Phalaris tuberosa* is also grown in the district.

Sheep are generally raised for wool, with fat lambs mainly coming from the northern irrigation pastures. Stocking rates range from less than one sheep per acre on unimproved land to three sheep per acre on improved dry country. Dairy cattle are found mainly in irrigated areas, with some farms in the immediate vicinity of Bendigo and Castlemaine. Apart from these, the main districts favoured for dairy herds are Kerang, Cohuna, Echuca, Rochester, and Rushworth. Beef cattle are found in the same areas, although many are grazed together with sheep. Many dairy farms maintain a herd of pigs as a sideline.

Livestock Handling

All stock that need to be sold can be dealt with through the City Market which handles well over 1 mill. head of stock each year, mostly sheep. The Bendigo Market ranks as one of the largest in Victoria. The Victorian Inland Meat Authority handles many of the stock sold for slaughter. Each week, these works can handle 8,000 sheep as well as 1,500 pigs and 900 cattle. The works also process and pack hams and bacon. One hundred and eighty persons are employed.

Poultry

One of the industries most important to Bendigo and the rest of the State is the poultry industry. With about 2,500 farms, most of them within a radius of 20 miles of Bendigo, the district is the largest poultry centre outside Melbourne, contributing about one-third of the State's egg production. The Bendigo Egg Floor is the largest in Victoria in respect of eggs handled. Though the farms generally produce eggs, some of Victoria's leading poultry breeders are in the district and housing of birds is on a fully intensive basis. A recent development has been the acquisition of egg pulping equipment from overseas.

Orchards

The potential of the Bendigo area for fruit growing was recognized soon after Bendigo was settled and this is well vindicated by the extensive orchards now growing in the district. Most of these are found at Harcourt and Strathfieldsaye. The principal fruits grown

within 20 miles of Bendigo are apples and pears, with apples predominating and representing about 12 per cent. of the State's production. Local industries absorb fruit for preserving and, annually, about 500 tons of citrus fruits are processed for soft drinks.

Vegetables

Of the many vegetables grown in the Bendigo district, tomatoes are the most important, the fruit either being sold fresh or processed locally. Tomatoes grown in this district have the advantage of a high solids content which ensures a high yield of tomato pulp per ton of fruit.

Economic Activity

Bendigo was one of the earliest inland towns to be developed in Victoria. It is situated approximately 100 miles north-west of Melbourne in the centre of Northern Victoria and because of its geographic situation, its development has been linked with the growth of rural Victoria.

Bendigo's focal position in the network of highways and railways has made it well situated for the development of industries whose products are marketed over a wide radius. It is the recognized trading centre for a wide area and has developed as an industrial centre producing a variety of manufactured goods, with food processing and textiles as the principal industries.

Bendigo's egg industry is close to the vast wheatfields of the Mallee and the Wimmera, and with meat works and flour mills producing poultry feed, the industry has developed rapidly in the post-war years until today more than 120 mill. eggs are handled annually by two egg floors.

More than a century has passed since the establishment of the first pottery kiln in Bendigo. Today, the pottery plant at Epsom and the brick kilns in Bendigo meet the heavy demand for bricks, tiles, glazed earthenware pipes, and agricultural pipes throughout the whole of Northern Victoria.

During the war years, a large Ordnance Factory was established in Bendigo and has continued to function in the post-war era, contributing to the balanced development of the industrial section of the city.

From the fertile pasture lands of the Riverina and the valleys of the Loddon and Campaspe rivers, stock trains and road transports bring thousands of sheep and cattle to Bendigo's extensive modern saleyards which handle more than 1 mill. sheep and 50,000 cattle annually.

The shopping centre of Bendigo is modern and is constantly changing to meet the growing needs of the area.

Bendigo's main water supply is reticulated from the Coliban system, but very recently the new Eppalock Reservoir has been built, which will not only supplement the water supply of the city, but will add further to the water available for irrigation in the fertile territory north of Bendigo.

Many Government Departments have established branches in Bendigo to service the developing northern part of Victoria.

Eppalock Project

This is a project undertaken by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. The conservation and utilization of the waters of the Campaspe River have been the subject of investigations for over 70 years. In 1927, Eppalock which is some miles from Bendigo, was tested as a possible dam site and three years later, as an unemployment relief measure, work was commenced on the construction of a concrete dam. After the structure had been built to a height of only 30 feet, work was suspended. Throughout the following years the Eppalock project was often revived but, because of insufficient funds, nothing further was done. However, in 1959, in response to local representation, an inquiry was held by the Public Works Committee. After an exhaustive and searching investigation, this body recommended the building of a major dam at Eppalock to impound 250,000 acre-feet of water.

The dam has now been formed by constructing an earth and rock fill embankment across the valley immediately upstream of the old Eppalock Weir. The embankment will store the waters of the Campaspe Weir and regulate the flow from the dam throughout the year.

Large floods which will overflow the completed dam will pass through a concrete-lined spillway located in a rock-cut adjacent to the west end of the embankment.

As well as reducing flood peaks and assuring the supply of water to the Campaspe Irrigation District and other areas downstream, the dam will augment the supply to the Coliban System. Water discharged for irrigation use below the dam will normally pass through hydraulic turbines geared to pumps which will lift water to the Bendigo area. Water for both of these uses will pass through an outlet tower, pressure tunnel, and penstock to the pumping station and irrigation outlet.

A construction centre has been established at the dam site to direct and control all works on the project. The centre includes stores, mechanical workshops, carpenter's shop, oil store, first-aid post, central and field offices, soil and concrete testing laboratory, concrete mixing plant and compressed air and water supply installations. Nearby, a living area consisting of 32 houses for married men and accommodation for 80 single men has been established.

The first construction work undertaken was the excavation of the outfall channel leading from the tunnel itself, and the excavation for the outlet tower base at the tunnel entrance. The construction of the upstream toe of the dam and diversion of normal river flows through the unlined tunnel section which followed enabled the completion of the main bank foundation excavation "in the dry". Earth and rock fill were then placed up to the level of the existing weir. This stage was completed by the autumn of 1961.

The outlet tower constructed to the level of the machinery deck and the concrete lining of the tunnel were also completed in 1961. The flow in the Campaspe River was passed over the partially completed main bank and was again turned through the completed tunnel. Placing of rock on the main bank was recommenced in August, 1961, and the main bank was completed during March, 1962. The secondary banks were completed during June, 1962. The concrete lined spillway begun in October, 1960 was completed during September, 1962.

Use of Water Power at Bridgewater

Situated on the banks of the Loddon River, 23 miles from Bendigo, the town of Bridgewater has a unique flour mill. The mill is unique, in that it has drawn upon the natural resources of its locality by using water power to turn the necessary milling machinery. Situated where the river has a fall of 30 feet to the half mile, the mill holds No. 1 licence from the State of Victoria for the diversion of waters from the Loddon River for use in its 320 h.p. turbines. The company operating the mill was founded in 1873 and was one of the first in the State to introduce roller milling in lieu of mill stones.

Bendigo Art Gallery

Following a public meeting in 1887, the Bendigo Art Association was formed, and a room in the School of Mines was provided for the display of paintings. It was not until 1900 that the present site and building were acquired, altered, and occupied under the name of the Bendigo Art Gallery. Since then, the Gallery has been practically rebuilt, and now consists of three very fine courts, suitably lighted. A splendid collection of paintings and statuary has been acquired, and as a result of generous benefactions, two galleries have been added to the front portion of the building. The façade has been redesigned, and

special attention has been given to the approach so that it harmonizes with the new design.

Special reference is made to the unique collection of paintings and statuary presented to the Gallery by Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Neptune Scott. Dr. Scott, who was born in Victoria, practised in Bendigo for many years and during this time he visited the Continent annually, spending much of his time in Paris, visiting and inspecting notable collections and art exhibitions. He was especially attracted to the work of members of the famous Barbizon School in France and secured many fine works by Corot, Rousseau, Daubigny, Sisley, Boudin, Courbet, Harpignies and other contemporary French painters. The result is that, owing to the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Scott, the Gallery now possesses excellent examples of these famous masters.

In addition to European paintings, the Gallery has a fine selection of Australian oils and water colours, the latter being displayed in a special room. Pictures represent both the traditional and "modern" schools of Australian painting.

Bendigo Technical College (Incorporating School of Mines and Industries)

This College was founded in 1873 as the Bendigo School of Mines and Industries, being the second technical institution in Australia and one of the earliest in the British Commonwealth. The name was changed in 1958.

The College is situated in the heart of the city on a site of approximately 4 acres, with buildings and equipment adequate for its functions. It has an excellent technical library. The College is administered by a council of local citizens and is subsidized by the Education Department.

Full day Diploma courses of professional standard are offered in Art, Chemistry (Applied), Commerce, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Geology, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgy, and Mining Engineering. Preliminary years of the Architectural Diploma and two years of the Needlework Diploma are also available.

Day release apprenticeship courses in boilermaking and steel construction, carpentry and joinery, electrical trades, motor mechanics, plumbing and gas fitting, turning and fitting are conducted, as well as advanced evening trade classes in handrailing and staircasing, heating and ventilation, industrial electronics, refrigeration servicing, "A" grade motor mechanics, and welding.

Evening education classes in Intermediate, Leaving, and Matriculation subjects offer preliminary qualifications, while Accountancy and Management Certificate courses provide professional training.

Many hobby classes are also available including pottery, furniture making, upholstery, flower arrangement, and cake decorating.

Statistics of Local Government

General

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

In the tables which follow, municipalities have been divided into the following classes :—

- City of Melbourne ;
- Other Metropolitan Municipalities ; and
- Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area.

For statistical purposes, the Metropolitan Area is as set out in the table on pages 105–106. In compiling local government finance statistics, however, it is not practicable to dissect those municipalities which lie only partly within this area. Accordingly, in municipal tables in this section, the classification “ Other Metropolitan Municipalities ” varies from the defined area as follows :—

1956–57—Includes the whole of the Shires of Eltham, Fern Tree Gully, Frankston and Hastings (as constituted prior to severance of Shire of Hastings), Lillydale (as constituted prior to severance of Shire of Croydon) and Werribee (as constituted prior to severance of Shire of Altona), and excludes the whole of the Shires of Berwick, Bulla, and Whittlesea.

1957–58 to 1959–60—As for 1956–57, with the exception that the new Shire of Altona is included, and the reduced and redefined Shire of Werribee is transferred to “ Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area ”.

1960–61—As for 1957–58 to 1959–60, with the exception that the whole of the Shire of Whittlesea and the new Shire of Frankston are included, and the new Shire of Hastings is transferred to “ Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area ”.

At 30th September, 1961, in municipalities throughout the State, there were 2,262 councillors, namely, 33 in the City of Melbourne, 498 in 42 other metropolitan municipalities, and 1,731 in 163 municipalities outside the Metropolitan Area.

Properties Rated, Loans Outstanding, &c.

In the following table, the number of properties rated, the value of rateable property, General Account income, the amount of loans outstanding, &c., are shown for each of the years 1956-57 to 1960-61 :—

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

Year Ended 30th September—	Number of Rate- payers	Number of Properties Rated	Value of Rateable Property		General Account Income	Loans Out- standing
			Net Annual Value	Estimated Capital Improved Value		
	'000	'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
CITY OF MELBOURNE						
1957	32	35	9,526	190,511	2,757	10,751
1958	33	36	10,422	208,443	2,902	11,838
1959	35	36	11,299	225,973	3,006	12,630
1960	35	35	12,297	245,939	3,377	13,720
1961	35	36	13,939	278,773	3,562	15,014
OTHER METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES*						
1957	587	608	55,077	1,088,129	11,854	11,355
1958	617	614	60,133	1,193,886	12,664	12,442
1959	650	629	67,373	1,328,536	14,220	14,078
1960	699	653	73,060	1,446,239	16,386	16,691
1961	731	664	80,825	1,588,089	17,945	19,746
MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN AREA						
1957	339	424	42,703	853,875	10,865	7,918
1958	358	438	46,097	918,812	11,860	9,818
1959	384	450	50,509	1,005,216	12,871	10,945
1960	407	470	53,756	1,062,263	14,106	12,151
1961	422	489	58,610	1,171,124	15,402	12,866
TOTAL MUNICIPALITIES						
1957	958	1,067	107,306	2,132,515	25,476	30,024
1958	1,008	1,088	116,652	2,321,141	27,426	34,098
1959	1,069	1,115	129,181	2,559,725	30,097	37,653
1960	1,141	1,158	139,113	2,754,441	33,869	42,562
1961	1,188	1,189	153,374	3,037,986	36,909	47,626

* See definition on previous page.

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure

The following tables show, for each of the years ended 30th September, 1957 to 1961, the revenue and expenditure of municipalities in Victoria.

The first table gives particulars of revenue and expenditure on account of the ordinary services provided by municipalities, while the second table shows similar details for the business undertakings under municipal control. Transactions presented are generally on a revenue basis.

Particulars relating to Loan Accounts, Private Street Accounts, and Special Improvement Charge Accounts are excluded.

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
ORDINARY SERVICES : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
(£'000)**

Year Ended 30th September—	Revenue				Expenditure			
	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other			City of Melbourne	Other		
1957 ..	2,757	11,854	10,865	25,476	2,683	11,720	10,897	25,300
1958 ..	2,902	12,664	11,860	27,426	2,868	12,594	11,748	27,210
1959 ..	3,006	14,220	12,871	30,097	2,985	14,225	12,757	29,967
1960 ..	3,377	16,386	14,106	33,869	3,193	16,049	13,955	33,197
1961 ..	3,562	17,945	15,402	36,909	3,646	18,234	15,521	37,401

* See definition on page 421.

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : BUSINESS
UNDERTAKINGS: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
(£'000)**

Year Ended 30th September—	Revenue				Expenditure			
	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other			City of Melbourne	Other		
1957 ..	4,164	6,542	756	11,462	4,086	6,300	718	11,104
1958 ..	4,563	7,504	954	13,021	4,494	7,130	917	12,541
1959† ..	4,994	9,089	1,159	15,242	5,005	8,718	1,092	14,815
1960† ..	5,319	10,058	1,128	16,505	5,352	9,779	1,071	16,202
1961† ..	5,357	10,370	1,158	16,885	5,393	10,242	1,097	16,732

* See definition on page 421.

† Includes business undertakings excluded in previous years, viz. :—Quarries, iceworks, and reinforced concrete pipe and culvert works.

General Account

The ordinary revenue of a municipality, consisting of rates, Government grants, &c., is payable into the General Account, and such account is applied towards the payment of all expenses incurred in respect of administration, debt services, ordinary municipal services, &c.

Details of the principal items of revenue received during the year ended 30th September, 1961, are given below :—

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
ORDINARY SERVICES : REVENUE, 1960–61
(£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Taxation—				
Rates (Net)	1,950	12,755	9,451	24,156
Penalties	9	59	32	100
Licences—				
Dog	2	56	48	106
Health, Dairy, Slaughtering, and Noxious Trades	5	40	17	62
Other	2	10	13	25
Total Taxation	1,968	12,920	9,561	24,449
Public Works and Services—				
Sanitary and Garbage Services	26	839	600	1,465
Council Properties—				
Parks, Gardens, Baths, and Other Recreational Facilities	70	253	223	546
Markets	337	103	138	578
Halls	25	127	114	266
Libraries	†	30	56	86
Weighbridges	11	2	16	29
Sale of Materials	22	168	221	411
Plant Hire .. .. .	..	378	1,809	2,187
Grazing Fees .. .. .	..	..	4	4
Pounds	†	2	5	7
Other	149	243	161	553
Street Construction	58	645	793	1,496
Private Street Supervision .. .. .	..	250	73	323
Other—				
Car Parking	290	73	48	411
Building Fees	31	183	62	276
Miscellaneous	17	190	127	334
Total Public Works and Services	1,036	3,486	4,450	8,972
Government Grants—				
Roads	6	48	190	244
Libraries	11	154	104	269
Parks, Gardens, &c. .. .. .	..	32	197	229
Infant Welfare Centres	9	111	94	214
River Works .. .. .	..	3	18	21
Licences Equivalent	8	14	35	57
Other	16	214	201	431
Total Government Grants	50	576	839	1,465
Transfers from Business Under- takings	48	287	22	357
Police Court Fines	163	47	12	222
Other Revenue	297	629	518	1,444
Total Revenue	3,562	17,945	15,402	36,909

* See definition on page 421.

† Under £500.

After exclusion of an amount of £1,072,442 transferred from other funds, the net General Account income during 1960-61 was £35,836,446. Of this total, 68·2 per cent. was derived from taxation (67·7 per cent. from rates and penalties, and 0·5 per cent. from licences); 25·0 per cent. from public works and services; 1·0 per cent. from transfers from business undertakings; 4·1 per cent. from Government grants; and 1·7 per cent. from other sources. The total amount collected from taxation (£24,448,795) was equivalent to £8 8s. 0d. per head of population or to £20 11s. 7d. per ratepayer.

Details of the principal items of expenditure from the General Account during the year ended 30th September, 1961, are set out below :—

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
ORDINARY SERVICES : EXPENDITURE, 1960-61
(£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
General Administration—				
Pay-roll Tax	40	169	119	328
Other	537	2,249	2,293	5,079
Total General Administration	577	2,418	2,412	5,407
Debt Services (Excluding Business Undertakings)—				
Interest—				
Loans	475	586	474	1,535
Overdraft .. .. .	..	33	79	112
Redemption	265	905	949	2,119
Other	†	23	3	26
Total Debt Services ..	740	1,547	1,505	3,792
Public Works and Services—				
Roads, Streets, and Bridges ..	399	5,603	6,100	12,102
Street Lighting	‡	521	196	717
Health—				
Sanitary and Garbage Services	138	1,647	667	2,452
Other	104	929	502	1,535
Council Properties—				
Parks, Gardens, Baths, and Other Recreational Facilities	355	1,620	890	2,865
Markets	138	83	96	317
Halls	102	402	295	799
Libraries	23	392	246	661
Weighbridges	6	6	11	23
Materials .. .. .	..	124	138	262
Plant	56	600	718	1,374
Grazing Expenses .. .. .	..	†	11	11
Pounds	†	18	23	41
Other	94	445	232	771
Other—				
Car Parking	280	198	42	520
River Works .. .. .	..	8	25	33
Miscellaneous	12	209	111	332
Total Public Works and Services	1,707	12,805	10,303	24,815

* See definition on page 421.

† Under £500.

‡ Cost of street lighting is charged to Electricity Undertaking.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : ORDINARY
SERVICES : EXPENDITURE, 1960-61—*continued*
(£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Grants—				
Country Roads Board ..	..	187	588	775
Fire Brigades	88	472	†	560
Hospitals and Other Charities ..	19	55	44	118
Other	238	298	188	724
Total Grants ..	345	1,012	820	2,177
Other Expenditure	277	452	481	1,210
Total Expenditure ..	3,646	18,234	15,521	37,401

* See definition on page 421.

† Under £500.

After exclusion of an amount of £987,290 transferred to other funds, the net General Account expenditure during 1960-61 was £36,413,317. Of this total, 14·9 per cent. was for administration; 10·4 per cent. for debt services; 10·9 per cent. for health services; 7·9 per cent. for parks, gardens, &c.; 33·2 per cent. for roads, streets, &c.; 3·8 per cent. for plant and equipment; 12·3 per cent. for other public works and services; 6·0 per cent. for grants and contributions; and 0·6 per cent. for miscellaneous items.

Municipal Administrative Costs

Particulars of the principal items of expenditure, other than Pay-roll Tax, during each of the years ended 30th September, 1957 to 1961, in respect of general municipal administration, are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—COST OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
(£'000)

Particulars	Year Ended 30th September—				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Salaries*	2,649	2,875	3,108	3,382	3,716
Mayoral and Presidential Allowances	77	80	87	93	103
Audit Expenses	25	28	33	39	41
Dog Registration Expenses ..	33	42	48	54	62
Election Expenses	28	30	26	28	38
Insurances	235	328	378	362	399
Legal Expenses	64	68	51	80	84
Printing, Stationery, Advertising, Postage, Telephone	329	346	389	502	539
Other	101	91	88	81	97
Total	3,541	3,888	4,208	4,621	5,079

* Including cost of valuations and travelling expenses, but excluding health officers' salaries, which are included with "Health—Other" on previous page.

Municipal Business Undertakings

In Victoria, during 1960-61, 21 municipal councils conducted electricity supply undertakings. These constituted the principal trading activities of municipalities. Other trading activities included water supply, abattoirs, hydraulic power, quarries, iceworks, and reinforced concrete pipe and culvert works, but, relatively, these were not extensive. A list of the principal local authorities which have assumed responsibility for water supply is to be found on page 438.

The tables which follow show, for the year ended 30th September, 1961, revenue and expenditure of the various types of local authority business undertakings :—

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS : REVENUE, 1960-61
(£'000)**

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Water Supply— Rates, Sale of Water, &c. ..	..	180	197	377
Electricity— Charges for Services and Sales of Products, &c.	5,006	10,019	552	15,577
Abattoirs— Charges for Services and Sales of Products, &c.	320	126	194	640
Other†— Charges for Services and Sales of Products, &c.	31	45	215	291
Total Revenue ..	5,357	10,370	1,158	16,885

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS : EXPENDITURE, 1960-61
(£'000)**

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Water Supply— Working Expenses	157	140	297
Depreciation	18	18
Debt Charges	1	47	48
Other Expenditure	7	4	11
Total Water Supply .	..	165	209	374

* See definition on page 421.

† Includes hydraulic power, quarries, iceworks, and reinforced concrete pipe and culvert works.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : BUSINESS
 UNDERTAKINGS : EXPENDITURE, 1960-61—*continued*
 (£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Electricity—				
Working Expenses	4,307	9,148	438	13,893
Depreciation	258	172	7	437
Debt Charges	99	332	57	488
Other Expenditure	295	292	14	601
Total Electricity ..	4,959	9,944	516	15,419
Abattoirs—				
Working Expenses	313	75	130	518
Depreciation	18	4	5	27
Debt Charges	34	6	26	66
Other Expenditure	36	4	8	48
Total Abattoirs ..	401	89	169	659
Other†—				
Working Expenses	30	34	178	242
Depreciation .. ..	..	7	13	20
Debt Charges .. ..	..	1	8	9
Other Expenditure	3	2	4	9
Total Other	33	44	203	280
Total Expenditure ..	5,393	10,242	1,097	16,732

* See definition on page 421.

† See footnote on page 427.

Municipal Loan Finance

Municipal Loan Receipts

The following tables show loan receipts of municipalities exclusive of redemption loans and loans raised for works in private streets.

The first table shows total loan receipts for each of the years 1956-57 to 1960-61, and the second table details the loan raisings for ordinary services and business undertakings during the year ended 30th September, 1961.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
LOAN RECEIPTS

(Excluding Redemption Loans)

(£'000)

Year Ended 30th September—	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
1957	1,392	1,862	1,730	4,984
1958	2,134	2,226	2,269	6,629
1959	2,142	2,194	2,047	6,383
1960	1,833	2,612	2,133	6,578
1961	2,417	3,256	2,134	7,807

* See definition on page 421.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
LOAN RECEIPTS, 1960–61

(Excluding Redemption Loans)

(£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Loan Raisings for—				
Ordinary Services	1,238	2,480	1,799	5,517
Business Undertakings—				
Water Supply .. .. .	..	..	83	83
Electricity	400	568	75	1,043
Abattoirs	56	..	25	81
Other Receipts (Government Grants, Recoups, &c., to Loan Fund) ..	723	208	152	1,083
Total Receipts ..	2,417	3,256	2,134	7,807

* See definition on page 421.

Municipal Loan Expenditure

Particulars of the total loan expenditure exclusive of expenditure on private streets, for each of the years 1956–57 to 1960–61, are given in the first of the following tables. The second table details the principal items of expenditure from loan funds during the year ended 30th September, 1961.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
LOAN EXPENDITURE

(£'000)

Year Ended 30th September—	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
1957	1,665	1,831	1,508	5,004
1958	1,921	1,994	2,096	6,011
1959	1,690	2,048	2,091	5,829
1960	1,839	2,219	1,993	6,051
1961	1,656	2,758	2,134	6,548

* See definition on page 421.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
LOAN EXPENDITURE, 1960–61

(£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Ordinary Services—				
Roads, Streets, and Bridges ..	174	1,444	1,080	2,698
Council Properties—				
Parks, Gardens, Baths, and Other Recreational Facilities	128	268	175	571
Markets	20	3	30	53
Plant	20	113	84	217
Halls	39	210	264	513
Other	174	217	219	610
Infant Welfare Centres ..	1	23	25	49
Pre-School (Crèches, &c.) ..	2	..	3	5
Other	416	24	24	464
Total Ordinary Services	974	2,302	1,904	5,180

* See definition on page 421.

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : LOAN EXPENDITURE, 1960-61—*continued*
(£'000)

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities*		Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total
	City of Melbourne	Other		
Business Undertakings—				
Water Supply .. ..	..	14	90	104
Electricity	632	442	115	1,189
Abattoirs	50	..	25	75
Total Business Undertakings	682	456	230	1,368
Total Expenditure ..	1,656	2,758	2,134	6,548

* See definition on page 421.

At 30th September, 1961, there were unexpended balances in Loan Accounts amounting to £4,833,804.

Municipal Loan Liability

The loan liability of the municipalities in Victoria, at the end of each of the five years 1956-57 to 1960-61, is given below :—

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
LOAN LIABILITY

At 30th September—	Due to—		Gross Loan Liability	Accumulated Sinking Funds	Net Loan Liability	
	Government*	Public			Amount	Per Head of Population
			£'000			£ s. d.
1957 ..	475	29,549	30,024	2,889	27,135	10 1 8
1958 ..	637	33,461	34,098	3,160	30,938	11 4 6
1959 ..	858	36,795	37,653	3,145	34,508	12 3 10
1960 ..	951	41,611	42,562	3,376	39,186	13 12 7
1961 ..	1,127	46,499	47,626	3,111	44,515	15 2 5

* Excluding liability to Country Roads Board.

Construction of Private Streets

The council of any municipality may construct roads or streets on private property, and may also construct, on land of the Crown or of any public body, means of back access to, or drainage from, property adjacent to such land. The cost of this work is recoverable

from the owners of adjoining or neighbouring properties where, in the opinion of the council, the work performed accrues to the benefit of those properties. At the request of any owner, the amount apportioned as his total liability may be made payable by 40 or, if the council so directs, 60 quarterly instalments, bearing interest on the portion that, from time to time, remains unpaid.

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

The following table details the receipts and expenditure, for 1960-61, on the Private Street Account for areas outside that controlled by the Melbourne City Council (which has no such account) :—

**VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES : PRIVATE
STREET ACCOUNT : RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURE, ETC.,
1960-61
(£'000)**

Particulars	Metropolitan Municipalities (Excluding City of Melbourne)*	Municipalities outside Metropolitan Area	Total Victoria
Receipts—			
Loans	1,172	528	1,700
Bank Overdraft (Increase)	561	155	716
Owners' Contributions	3,148	595	3,743
Other	135	44	179
Total	5,016	1,322	6,338
Expenditure—			
Works	4,252	974	5,226
Debt Charges—			
Redemption of Loans	275	62	337
Interest on Loans	159	42	201
Interest on Overdraft	53	9	62
Other	9	2	11
Other	258	40	298
Total	5,006	1,129	6,135
Cash in Hand or in Bank at 30.9.1961 ..	1,160	515	1,675
Bank Overdraft at 30.9.1961	2,778	578	3,356
Loan Indebtedness at 30.9.1961	3,619	1,094	4,713

* See definition on page 421

Details of receipts and expenditure of the private street account including the net increase or decrease in bank overdraft, during each of the years 1956-57 to 1960-61 are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES :
PRIVATE STREET ACCOUNT : RECEIPTS AND
EXPENDITURE
(£'000)

Particulars	Year Ended 30th September—				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Receipts—					
Loans	327	339	653	1,190	1,700
Bank Overdraft (Increase)	742	182	101	..	716
Owners' Contributions ..	2,622	2,662	2,757	3,676	3,743
Other	91	52	136	278	179
Total	3,782	3,235	3,647	5,144	6,338
Expenditure—					
Works	3,276	2,618	2,763	3,618	5,226
Bank Overdraft (Decrease)	..	..	..	240	..
Debt Charges—					
Redemption of Loans ..	125	150	180	242	337
Interest on Loans ..	77	85	100	140	201
Interest on Overdraft ..	89	98	77	80	62
Other	7	2	6	5	11
Other	134	149	226	270	298
Total	3,708	3,102	3,352	4,595	6,135

Length of Roads and Streets

The following table shows the estimated length of all roads and streets in the State in the year 1961. The mileage of State highways, Tourists' roads, Forest roads, and By-pass roads, was supplied by the Country Roads Board, and the mileage of other roads and streets has been compiled from information furnished by all municipal authorities.

VICTORIA—LENGTH OF ALL ROADS AND STREETS AT
30TH SEPTEMBER, 1961
(Miles)

Type of Road or Street	State Highways	Tourists' Roads	Forest Roads	Other Roads and Streets	Total
Wood or stone .. .. .	..	..	..	80	80
Portland cement concrete ..	4	..	..	136	140
Asphaltic concrete and sheet asphalt	17	..	..	801	818
Tar or bitumen surface seal over tar or bitumen penetrated or water-bound pavements	4,011	202	144	16,238*	20,595
Water-bound macadam, gravel, sand, and hard loam pavements ..	470	224	319	31,106	32,119
Formed, but not otherwise paved	..	..	..	22,576	22,576
Surveyed roads (not formed) which are used for general traffic ..	..	..	..	25,499	25,499
Total	4,502	426	463	96,436*	101,827

* Includes 9 miles by-pass roads.

Forest roads are roads in the vicinity of forest areas or otherwise inaccessible areas from which the local councils receive little or no rate revenue.

Main roads in urban areas provide for some of the main traffic streams apart from those routes declared as State highways. In rural areas, main roads connect areas of production with townships and provide links between townships. In each case, progressive improvements are being undertaken as well as regular maintenance.

At 30th June, 1962, the mileage of declared roads and the mileage with bituminous surface were as follows :—

**VICTORIA—MILEAGE OF DECLARED ROADS AT
30TH JUNE, 1962**

Classification	Mileage	Mileage Scaled
State Highways	4,498	4,085
By-pass Roads	9	9
Tourists' Roads	426	204
Forest Roads	461	154
Main Roads	9,112	6,965
Total	14,506	11,417

In order to facilitate its own direct work and to ensure technical and administrative co-operation with municipal councils, the Board has established divisional offices, depots, and workshops at Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Benalla, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Traralgon, and Warrnambool. Two divisions (Dandenong and Metropolitan) are located at the Head Office at Kew, and utilize the workshop services of the central depot at Syndal.

Receipts and Expenditure

Receipts and expenditure, covering the operations of the Board for each of the years 1957-58 to 1961-62, were as follows :—

**VICTORIA—COUNTRY ROADS BOARD : RECEIPTS AND
EXPENDITURE
(£'000)**

Particulars	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
RECEIPTS					
Fees and Fines—Motor Car Act (Less Cost of Collection)	8,233	8,625	9,394	9,578	9,866
Municipalities Repayments—Permanent Works and Maintenance—Main Roads	560	686	724	789	778
Commonwealth Aid Roads Acts	6,159	6,871	8,461	8,984	9,878
Proceeds from Commercial Goods Vehicles Act	1,529	1,873	2,117	2,254	2,262
State Loan Funds	403	76	160	283	683
Commonwealth Special Grant .. .. .	..	..	..	..	500
Commonwealth-State Agreement—Flood Restoration	460	53	5	1	..
Other Receipts	37	31	44	50	76
Total	17,381	18,215	20,905	21,939	24,043

VICTORIA—COUNTRY ROADS BOARD : RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
—continued
(£'000)

Particulars	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
EXPENDITURE					
Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges	14,726	15,021	17,220	19,089	21,076
Traffic Line Marking and Traffic Lights	37	35	38	45	50
Plant Purchases	1,053	713	1,028	708	175
Interest and Sinking Fund Payments	831	862	875	888	928
Payment to Tourist Fund	109	145	152	188	191
General Expenditure*	824	970	1,636	1,662	1,621
Total	17,580	17,746	20,949	22,580	24,041

* Includes expenditure on erection of office buildings, etc., at Kew—£452,000 in 1959-60; £528,000 in 1960-61; and £19,554 in 1961-62.

Expenditure on Roads and Bridges

The following is a summary of the total expenditure by the Country Roads Board on roads and bridges during each of the five years 1957-58 to 1961-62 :—

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

Particulars	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
State Highways—					
Construction	2,984	3,484	3,735	4,627	5,316
Maintenance and Reconditioning	2,005	1,873	2,117	2,254	1,520
By-Pass Roads .. .. .	..	29	267	1,097	683
Main Roads—					
Construction	4,243	4,357	4,991	4,752	5,790
Maintenance and Reconditioning	1,186	1,179	1,268	1,167	1,637
Unclassified Roads—					
Construction and Maintenance	3,615	3,371	3,974	4,228	5,193
Tourists' Roads—Construction and Maintenance	458	454	551	600	573
Forest Roads—Construction and Maintenance	128	191	192	275	295
River Murray Bridges and Punts—					
Maintenance	107	83	125	89	69
Total Expenditure	14,726	15,021	17,220	19,089	21,076

Further References

A history of the Board is set out on pages 375-376 of the Victorian Year Book 1961. Traffic engineering problems and by-pass roads

are described on pages 394 to 396 of the Victorian Year Book 1962, and sources of funds on pages 408–409 of the Victorian Year Book 1963.

Water Supply Authorities

The principal authorities controlling water supply for domestic purposes in Victoria at 31st December, 1962, are listed in the following table :—

VICTORIA—WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITIES

Authorities	Administered under the Provisions of—
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ..	Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission ..	} Water Acts
Waterworks Trusts (159)	
Local Governing Bodies—	
Ballarat Water Commissioners	
Municipal Councils—	
Ararat City	
Bacchus Marsh Shire	
Beechworth Shire	
Bet Bet Shire	
Clunes Borough	
Creswick Shire	
Korong Shire	
Kyabram Borough	
Stawell Town	
Talbot Shire	
Warrnambool City	
Werribee Shire	
Walpeup Shire	
East Loddon Shire	
Fern Tree Gully Shire	
Kilmore Shire	
Lillydale Shire	
Mansfield Shire	
Sale City	
Seymour Shire	
Tambo Shire	
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act
Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board ..	Latrobe Valley Act
First Mildura Irrigation Trust	} Mildura Irrigation Trusts Acts
Mildura Urban Water Trust	

Information about the activities of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission will be found on pages 532 to 543. The finances of the Commission (which form part of the Public Account and are subject to annual Budget review) are included in the tables in Part 9 of the Year Book.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

Introduction

The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1890 and commenced operations on the 18th March, 1891. The original functions of the Board were to take over, control, and manage the existing metropolitan water supply system and to provide the metropolis

with an efficient sewerage system. In 1922, it was given responsibility for the disposal of nightsoil from unsewered properties within the same area.

In 1923, the Board was empowered to deal with main drains and main drainage works and to control and manage the rivers, creeks, and watercourses within the Metropolis. The Board, in 1949, was entrusted with the task of preparing a planning scheme for the Melbourne Metropolitan Area for the approval of the Governor in Council and, by legislation passed in 1954, it became a permanent planning authority.

In 1956, the Board was made the authority for metropolitan highways, bridges, parks, and foreshores, while under the *Road Traffic Act 1956*, it was required to appoint to the Traffic Commission an officer experienced in traffic engineering.

The Board consists of 51 commissioners and a chairman. Each commissioner is appointed by, and must be a member of, one of the municipal councils or groups of councils entitled to representation. Members cannot sit longer than three years without re-election. The chairman, however, is appointed by the Board for a four-year term.

Area under the Control of the Board

The area under the Board's control has been expanded in stages. The Board is now responsible for water supply, sewerage, drainage, and river improvements over an area of 460 square miles. To this must be added a further 24 square miles in which the Board is responsible for water supply only. Its town planning commitment extends over 688 square miles.

Melbourne's Water Supply

Melbourne's water supply, gathered in catchment areas high in the mountain ranges, is pure and not treated in any way. This valuable legacy is the result of the policy introduced about 70 years ago of fully protecting the water catchment areas. In this way, Melbourne has avoided any pollution of its water supply at the source and has not had to resort to treatment and filtration as have many large cities overseas.

In these catchments, aggregating some 277 square miles in extent, no habitation, utilization of timber, cultivation, or grazing of land is permitted. In consequence, much of the area has retained its virgin state—a dense forest of indigenous trees with light scrub below and a damp floor. This provides conditions necessary for a high annual yield of water and the maintenance of stream flows in summer.

The supply comes from four main catchments—the Yan Yean, Maroondah, O'Shannassy, and Upper Yarra—situated on the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range. With the exception of part of the Yan Yean system, the catchment of which extends northwards over the Divide to include the Wallaby and Silver Creeks (tributaries of the Goulburn River), Melbourne's water supply catchments are located on the Yarra River or its tributaries.

The water yield of the catchments is impounded in storage reservoirs, the particulars of which are set out below and illustrated on the map facing this page.

- (1) The Yan Yean Reservoir near Whittlesea was completed in 1857 and has a total capacity of 7,233 mill. gall., of which 6,649 mill. gall. are available for consumption.
- (2) The Toorourrong Reservoir at the foot of the Plenty Ranges on the eastern branch of the Plenty River was completed in 1885 and has a capacity of 60 mill. gall. This reservoir is a retarding basin for water from the Wallaby and Silver Creeks.
- (3) The Maroondah Reservoir on the Watts River above Healesville was completed in 1927 and has a capacity of 6,289 mill. gall. of which 4,870 mill. gall. are available for consumption.
- (4) The O'Shannassy Reservoir on the O'Shannassy River beyond Warburton was completed in 1928 and has a capacity of 930 mill. gall. The O'Shannassy Reservoir is used for regulating the flow of the O'Shannassy River, the water from which is stored in the Silvan Reservoir.
- (5) Silvan Reservoir in the Dandenong Ranges was completed in 1932 and has a capacity of 8,853 mill. gall., of which 8,823 mill. gall. are available for consumption. As well as providing the main storage for the O'Shannassy system, Silvan is also the terminal reservoir for the Upper Yarra system.
- (6) Upper Yarra Reservoir on the headwaters of the Yarra River about 20 miles beyond Warburton has a capacity of 45,400 mill. gall., of which 44,120 mill. gall. are available for consumption.

The total capacity of these storage reservoirs is 68,765 mill. gall., of which 65,452 mill. gall. are available for consumption.

The water from the storage reservoirs flows by gravitation in aqueducts and pipelines to distributing reservoirs near the perimeter of the Metropolitan Area, thence by large mains to service reservoirs, located at elevated positions within the metropolis from which the distribution mains radiate. In 1962, there were 37 distributing and service reservoirs, with a total capacity of 366 mill. gall., in Melbourne's water supply system. The function of the service reservoirs is to regulate the pressure in their various zones of supply, to meet the daily peak demand, and to provide a reserve against failure of the main supply lines.

The distribution mains from the service reservoirs feed the reticulation system from which private service pipes are laid onto properties. As well as supplying metropolitan consumers, Melbourne's water supply has been extended to certain mountain districts in the Dandenong Ranges.

Cost of Water Supply System

The cost of capital works in respect of the water supply system under the control of the Board is shown in the following table for each of the years 1957–58 to 1961–62, together with the total expenditure (less depreciation) to 30th June, 1962 :—

VICTORIA—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON WATERWORKS
(Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Area Only)
(£'000)

Particulars	During Year Ended 30th June—					Total Cost to 30th June, 1962
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	
Yan Yean System ..	3	*	88	85	25	893
Maroondah System ..	26	*	7	1	8	1,770
O'Shannassy, Upper Yarra, and Silvan System ..	543	232	52	14	2	20,978
Service Reservoirs ..	346	331	189	236	178	1,988
Large Mains ..	2,077	2,398	1,932	1,643	2,139	16,808
Reticulation ..	777	1,429	1,019	1,211	1,351	12,904
Afforestation ..	9	5	4	10	8	274
Investigations, Future Works ..	2	5	5	5	9	43
Total Outlay	3,783	4,400	3,296	3,205	3,720	55,658

* Under £500.

Output of Water

The total output of water from the various sources of supply for each of the years 1957–58 to 1961–62 was as follows :—

VICTORIA—OUTPUT OF WATER
(Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Area Only)
('000 Gall.)

Particulars	Year Ended 30th June—				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Yan Yean Reservoir ..	5,865,600	3,347,400	4,041,100	5,260,200	5,126,300
Maroondah Reservoir ..	15,408,400	15,392,300	14,783,100	16,032,200	13,209,400
O'Shannassy River, Upper Yarra, and Silvan Reservoirs ..	25,740,300	30,149,000	34,377,600	34,495,400	39,189,000
Total Output ..	47,014,300	48,888,700	53,201,800	55,787,800	57,524,700

Consumption of Water

During the year ended 30th June, 1962, the maximum consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs on any one day was 332·9 mill. gall. on 21st November, 1961, and the minimum consumption was 92·7 mill. gall. on 3rd September, 1961.

The following table shows, for each of the years 1957-58 to 1961-62, the number of properties supplied with water and sewers, the quantity of water consumed, the daily average consumption, and the daily average consumption per head of population :—

VICTORIA—WATER CONSUMPTION IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS

(Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Area Only)

Year			Properties Supplied with Water at 30th June	Properties for Which Sewers Were Provided at 30th June	Total Annual Consumption of Water	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water	Daily Consumption of Water per Head of Population Served
			No.	No.	mill. gall.	mill. gall.	gall.
1957-58	..	..	454,853	373,019	47,006	128·78	78·67
1958-59	..	..	483,410	378,738	48,917	134·02	77·02
1959-60	..	..	496,841	384,844	53,169	145·27	81·20
1960-61	..	..	510,078	395,109	55,822	152·94	83·30
1961-62	..	..	519,216	399,890	57,521	157·59	84·32

Sewerage System

There are now three separate systems collecting, purifying, and disposing of sewage from the Melbourne Metropolitan Area. These are the Werribee, South Eastern, and Kew systems.

Werribee is the principal system and serves approximately 98 per cent. of the sewered area of the Metropolis. All sewage collected by this system flows by gravitation through two main sewers to a pumping station at Spotswood.

The North Yarra main sewer, as the name implies, serves the area north of the river, whilst the Hobson's Bay main sewer serves the area south of the river. These main sewers terminate at the pumping station 37 feet and 45 feet respectively, below the low-water level of the bay.

At the pumping station, the sewage is screened and then nine electrically-driven centrifugal pumps lift it 108 feet through three rising mains to a point 2½ miles away at Brooklyn (see pages 416, 417 of the Victorian Year Book 1963). From there, it gravitates 16 miles along the main outfall sewer to the Board's Farm just beyond Werribee, where it is purified by either land filtration, grass filtration, or lagooning.

The effluents resulting from these methods of purification comply with the prescribed standards set out in the Stream Pollution Regulations of the Department of Health and are finally discharged into Port Phillip Bay.

The South Eastern system disposes of the sewage from Mordialloc, Mentone, Parkdale, and Cheltenham, which for economic reasons could not be brought into the Werribee system.

The treatment process established at Braeside for this system is biological and involves sedimentation of the sewage and subsequent slow filtration through a bed of broken stone from which a clear effluent emerges. The effluent is then stored in large lagoons where it undergoes final purification before being absorbed by the soil.

The Kew system serves an area of 112 acres at Kew which could not be economically connected to the Werribee system. The treatment process is similar to that at Braeside.

Cost of the Sewerage System

The cost of sewerage works during each of the years 1957–58 to 1961–62, and the total cost (less depreciation) to 30th June, 1962, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SEWERAGE SYSTEM (Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Area Only) (£'000)

Particulars	During Year Ended 30th June—					Total Cost to 30th June, 1962
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	
Farm Purchase and Preparation	216	209	195	159	186	4,181
Treatment Works	68	23	20	48	13	492
Outfall Sewers and Rising Mains	39	136	56	138	278	1,203
Pumping Stations, Buildings, and Plant	23	334	1,606	1,078	1,217	4,670
Main and Branch Sewers	648	1,367	1,382	1,667	2,378	11,752
Reticulation Sewers	1,249	1,482	1,887	1,414	2,256	24,526
Cost of House Connexions Chargeable to Capital .. ..	..	Cr. 274	..	..	..	397
Sanitary Depots	36	75	115	68	*	387
Investigations	10	11	11	10	..	130
Total Outlay	2,289	3,363	5,272	4,582	6,328	47,738

* Under £500

Metropolitan Sewerage Farm

Statistical data for the year ended 30th June, 1962, are as follows :—

Total area of farm	26,811 acres
Area used for sewage disposal	16,153 acres
Average rainfall over 67 years	18·84 inches
Net cost of sewage purification per head of population served	5s. 8d.
Profit on cattle and sheep	£174,248

Disposal of Nightsoil from Unsewered Premises

The responsibility for the collection, removal, and disposal of nightsoil from unsewered premises within the metropolis was transferred from the individual municipal councils to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works as from 19th November, 1924. By

agreement, each council pays to the Board a prescribed amount per annum to offset the cost of the service, &c. For the year 1961-62, working expenses were £65,945 and interest £21,606, making a total of £87,551. Revenue was £29,396, leaving a deficiency of £58,155.

Stormwater Drains

Since 1924, the Board has been empowered by Act of Parliament to deal with main drains and main drainage works. Before that date, main drainage problems were the responsibility of individual municipal councils.

The Board has now taken over and maintains many miles of drains previously constructed by councils. It is also the constructing authority for further works to dispose of stormwater drainage from catchments exceeding 150 acres in area.

River Improvements

The Board is responsible for metropolitan rivers, creeks, and watercourses except for certain parts under the jurisdiction of other public authorities. It works to keep all streams free from pollution, to dredge them for flood control, to provide free safe passage for small boats and pleasure craft, to maintain the banks, and prevent erosion.

Cost of Drainage and River Improvement Works

The total cost of drainage and river improvement works (less depreciation) to 30th June, 1962, was £9,437,944. The length of main drains under the control of the Board at 30th June, 1962, was 198 miles.

Assessed Value of Property

The net annual value of property in 1961-62 for the purpose of the Board's rating was as follows :—

Water Rate	..	..	..	..	£90,737,905
Metropolitan General Rate (for sewerage services)	..	..	..	..	£71,185,969
Metropolitan Drainage and River Improvement Rate	..	..	..	..	£86,268,054
Metropolitan Improvement Rate (for planning purposes)	..	..	..	..	£91,248,027

Capital Works

Capital works are financed mainly from moneys which the Board is given approval to borrow after the annual meeting of the Australian Loan Council has considered the projected loan programmes of semi-governmental authorities throughout Australia. All money borrowed is charged and secured upon the Board's revenues.

Board's Borrowing Powers

The Board is empowered to borrow £115 mill. This amount is exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally raised by the Government for the construction of waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891.

Loan Liability

The Board's loan liability at 30th June, 1962, was £108,497,060. The Board was, at that date, empowered to borrow a further £8,892,874 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

Revenue, Expenditure, &c.

The following is a table of the revenue, expenditure, surplus or deficit, and capital outlay of the Board, during each of the five years 1957-58 to 1961-62 :—

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS : REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.*

(£'000)

Particulars	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
REVENUE					
Water Supply—					
Water Rates and Charges (Including Revenue from Water Supplied by Measure)	3,038	3,273	3,757	4,106	5,179
Sewerage—					
Sewerage Rates	2,983	3,275	3,546	3,842	4,263
Trade Waste Charges	198	212	214	231	235
Sanitary Charges	51	54	55	82	89
Metropolitan Farm—					
Grazing Fees, Rents, Pastures, &c. ..	11	18	15	11	9
Balance, Live Stock Account	168	169	259	214	174
Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers—					
Drainage and River Improvement Rate	504	554	608	662	742
River Water Charges	10	10	10	10	9
Total	6,963	7,565	8,464	9,158	10,700
EXPENDITURE					
Water Supply—					
Management and Incidental Expenses	480	502	537	578	616
Maintenance	722	841	907	966	1,069
Sewerage—					
Management and Incidental Expenses	434	466	513	559	576
Maintenance	506	529	565	591	581
Metropolitan Farm—					
Administrative Expenses	15	17	23	28	32
Maintenance	302	321	369	336	345
Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers—					
Management and Incidental Expenses	43	38	41	34	49
Maintenance	59	57	63	66	86
Main Drainage Works	252	277	304	331	371
Pensions and Allowances	72	75	79	108	97
Loan Flotation Expenses	80	68	154	114	192
Interest (Including Exchange)	3,137	3,607	4,221	4,725	5,276

* Excluding Metropolitan Improvement Fund.

VICTORIA—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS :
REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.*—*continued*

(£'000)

Particulars	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
Contribution to—					
Sinking Fund	171	403	527	388	401
Loans Redeemed Reserve .. .. .	..	..	..	143	194
Renewals Fund	136	143	181	192	216
Superannuation Account	62	61	70	74	69
Depreciation	11	20	22	27	31
Municipalities	17	17	17	17	17
Exchange Reserve	150	74	..	..	..
Rates Equalization Reserve	95	40	(Cr) 63	(Cr) 119	475
Insurance Account	200	..	..	..	..
Total	6,944	7,556	8,530	9,158	10,693
Net Surplus (+) or Deficit (—)	(+) 19	(+) 9	(—) 66	..	(+) 7
Capital Outlay at 30th June—					
Water Supply	41,037	45,437	48,733	51,938	55,658
Sewerage	28,194	31,556	36,829	41,411	47,738
Drainage and River Improvement Works	6,843	7,772	8,454	8,912	9,438

*Excluding Metropolitan Improvement Fund.

Town Planning

The purpose of the Planning Scheme prepared by the Board is to guide and co-ordinate the future development of the Melbourne Metropolitan Area in the best interests of the community. The scheme controls the use of land by classifying it into zones and reserved lands. It has been prepared in the form of 163 maps and an ordinance.

The maps show, in distinctive colours and notations, the various zones and reserved lands in sufficient detail for the effect of individual properties to be ascertained. The ordinance sets out the rules governing the use of land in such zones and reservations.

Since 1st March, 1955, the development of the Melbourne Metropolitan Area has been controlled under an Interim Development Order in accordance with the Planning Scheme.

The Planning Scheme has been drawn up to provide for a population of 2,250,000 people, a figure which was not expected to be reached until the turn of the century.

However, over the past few years, the rapidly accelerating growth of population, together with the development of new activities and ideas both here and abroad, will bring about the need for modification of the scheme from time to time. This can be done by

amending planning schemes. One such amending scheme to increase the potential population capacity of the Metropolitan Area by 250,000 people has been completed.

Thus, the Planning Scheme, whilst controlling Melbourne's development, is flexible enough to enable alterations to be made to meet the changing needs of the community.

Further Reference

A full account of the Planning Scheme is given on pages 407 to 410 of the Victorian Year Book 1962.

Highways and Bridges

A complete network of freeways and highways designed to meet the needs of the Melbourne Metropolitan Area for the next 20–30 years is one of the major provisions of the Planning Scheme.

The Board was made a responsible authority for metropolitan highways and bridges because Parliament recognized the vital importance of integrating such construction works with planning.

The most costly traffic delays occur within the central area, and new freeways and the major reconstruction of some existing roads, together with new overpasses and bridges, constitute the most pressing need.

Comprehensive studies to determine construction priorities have been made and a £20 mill. programme, which forms the first and urgent part of the new network, has been drawn up. This programme is in progress and projects have been completed at High-street, Kew, and Hanna and Roy streets (re-named King's Way), South Melbourne.

South-Eastern Freeway

The opening of the first stage of the South-Eastern Freeway in May, 1962 marked the commencement of the system of urban freeways proposed in Melbourne's Master Plan prepared by the Board to provide safe and fast motor traffic routes between the city and suburbs.

The first stage starts at Batman-avenue and skirts the Yarra River as far as Grange-road Bridge. The terminal points at Batman-avenue and Grange-road are only temporary until the freeway links up with the proposed Ring Road.

As constructed, the freeway provides a four-lane highway—two traffic lanes in each direction, with additional lanes for emergency stopping purposes and at points where traffic enters or leaves the highway. Pedestrians are separated from road traffic by fences and guard rails. Modern mercury-type lighting is provided throughout.

A prominent feature of the first stage of the South-Eastern Freeway is the Morshead Overpass, comprising a bridge, 1,300 feet long, with a total of 25 spans including one of 160 feet over Punt-road.

A further major structure is the bridge, 1,200 feet long, constructed to carry the highway over soft ground along the north bank of the Yarra and over the entrance to the Board's river depot at Burnley. The total length of the highway as now constructed is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, including half a mile of reconstructed existing roads.

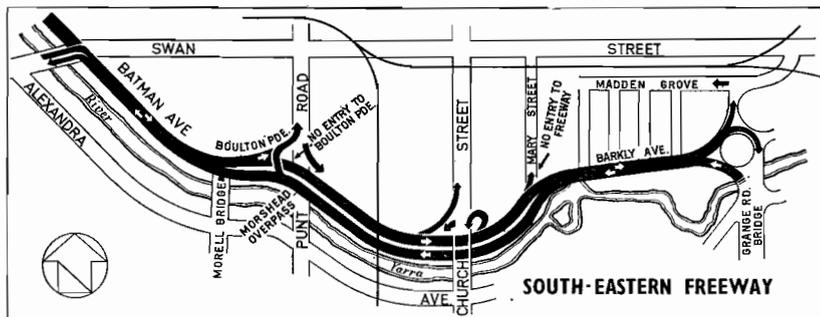


FIGURE 12. The first stage of the South-Eastern Freeway extends from Batman-avenue to Grange-road Bridge.

Foreshores

The Board is responsible for the protection and improvement of 49 miles of the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay, from near the Point Cook aerodrome on the western side of the Bay to Canadian Bay in the east.

Works have been carried out at a number of places to arrest erosion, and other protective works will be carried out from time to time as the need arises.

Parklands

Because large areas are reserved in the Planning Scheme for parklands, the Board may, with the consent of local councils, acquire and develop such lands as parks, gardens, and playing fields.

Water Supply and Sewerage in Country Towns

Water Supply

Constituted under the *Water Act* 1905, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission commenced operations in 1906. In that year it took over from the Victorian Water Supply Department the general control of water supply to 111 towns, comprising a total population of 261,000.

The Commission assumed direct responsibility for the operation of fifteen centres supplying 75,000 persons. These centres included the mining towns of Bendigo and Castlemaine and the seaport of Geelong. The other 96 centres had operated through local authorities which, in

1906, came under the general supervision of the Commission. Of these local authorities, one-quarter were within the Wimmera-Mallee Waterworks Trust Districts, a similar number along the route from Melbourne to Wodonga, and the rest concentrated in the Ballarat area and the old mining towns to the north and north-west of that city, towns in the Sunbury-Kyneton-Lancefield area, and the northern irrigation areas.

The control of town water supply by Trusts has been satisfactory. The trusts have never had to contend with the problems of irregular revenue and divided control of headworks experienced by the Irrigation and Waterworks Trusts which controlled rural water supply prior to 1906. The Commission has always encouraged local autonomy and, in general, acts only in a supervisory capacity. Direct management is undertaken only where it is essential.

The major urban water supply areas directly administered by the Commission are the Mornington Peninsula, Bellarine Peninsula, Otway, and Coliban systems.

The Mornington Peninsula System dates back to 1916 when supply was given to the Flinders Naval Base. Water is derived from the Bunyip and Tarago Rivers and travels over 100 miles to Point Nepean on the tip of the Mornington Peninsula.

The Bellarine system serves all the major coastal towns south of Geelong on the Bellarine Peninsula from Portarlington to Anglesea.

The Otway system serves the major towns from Camperdown to Warrnambool, the headworks being located at the Gellibrand River in the Otway Ranges.

The Coliban System serves the Bendigo-Castlemaine area and also supplies limited irrigation water which is delivered under a permit system on a measurement basis.

Other important groups include nearly 40 small towns in the Wimmera-Mallee and twenty centres in the irrigation areas, but the majority of the urban population in these areas is served by local authorities taking bulk supply from the Commission.

In all, the Commission directly administers the water supply to 139 towns with a population of about 210,000.

Local authorities constituted for the administration of town water supplies, now number 177 and now serve 213 cities and towns with a combined population of 555,000. The predominance of local control is shown by these figures which show that the population served from local controlled schemes is more than double the population supplied from schemes directly managed by the Commission.

In all, 770,000 persons in 350 centres outside the Metropolitan Area are now provided with reticulated water supplies by the Commission or by Local Trusts and Authorities.

In addition to their functions as water supply authorities, three local authorities are also responsible for sewerage systems. A brief description of the activities of these authorities follows.

Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust

The Trust was constituted as the Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust on 25th January, 1908. It was reconstituted as a Water and Sewerage Authority under the *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act* 1909, and further reconstituted in September, 1950, to include a Government nominee (chairman). Provision was also made for a commissioner to be elected by the ratepayers of the Shire of Corio, thus making a total of seven commissioners instead of five as formerly.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £6·5 mill. for water supply, £5 mill. for sewerage works, and £485,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payments conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1962, was—water supply, £5,045,085 ; sewerage, £2,268,824 ; and sewerage installation, £457,933, of which £126,361 was outstanding. The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1962, was £501,304 on account of waterworks and £256,885 on account of sewerage. Since 1913, the Trust has appropriated and set apart sums out of revenues for the creation of a sinking fund to redeem loans. To 30th June, 1962, the amount so appropriated was £496,215 and of this sum £272,389 had been used to redeem loans which have matured from time to time.

At the 30th June, 1962, the population served was estimated by the Trust at 96,723, the number of buildings within the drainage area was 24,361, and the number of buildings within sewered areas was 21,535.

For some years, the Trust has been engaged on an expansion programme which will involve a total loan expenditure of approximately £6 mill.

The principal work in this programme is the construction of a large dam with a capacity of 5,000 mill. gall. on the Upper Barwon River at an estimated cost of £2·5 mill. This project, which was commenced in 1960, is expected to be completed in 1964. The expansion programme, for both water supply and sewerage, has become necessary to cater for the current and future growth of the population of Geelong.

Water Supply

Moorabool System.—The catchment of the watersheds is about 38,000 acres. There are six storage reservoirs and five service basins. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs and service basins of the Moorabool System is 4,356 mill. gall.

Barwon System.—This was acquired from the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in 1955.

The catchment area of the watersheds is about 17,000 acres in extent and comprises the head waters of the Barwon River and its tributaries. There is one storage reservoir and six service basins. The total storage of the reservoir and service basins of the Barwon System is 4,280 mill. gall. The Trust is required to supply up to 700 mill. gall. per year to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission's Bellarine Peninsula System.

Sewerage

The sewerage system consists of a main outfall sewer 4 feet by 3 ft. 3 in. to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong, and 234.78 miles of main and reticulation sewers. The outfall sewer is laid on a gradient of 1 in 2,500, and was designed to take the discharge from a contributing population of 120,000. The sewerage area, which is 10,559 acres, includes the Cities of Geelong, Geelong West, and Newtown and Chilwell, and suburban areas in the Shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board

The Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board was constituted on the 1st July, 1954. The Board consists of seven members: the manager, who is *ex officio* chairman, appointed by the Governor in Council; three members being elected by water supply, sewerage, and river improvement authorities within the Latrobe Valley; one member representing the State Electricity Commission of Victoria; one member representing the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria; and one member appointed by the Governor in Council as a Government nominee.

Water Supply

The Board is empowered to construct water supply works within the area of the Latrobe Valley, but, at present, is confining its main construction activities to the central and industrialized area, particularly around the towns of Morwell and Traralgon.

During the year 1961–62, the Board completed the construction of a major storage on the Upper Tyers River, converting a previously pumped water supply scheme into a gravitational scheme. The capacity of this storage is approximately 7,000 mill. gall., and water is conveyed from the storage, a distance of approximately 10 miles, by a pipe-line 60 inches in diameter.

The capital cost of construction of waterworks was £4,512,300 to the 30th June, 1962. Liabilities amounted to £4,944,523 at 30th June, 1962, including loans due to the Government, totalling

£4,817,250. The income for the year 1961–62 was £124,046, and expenditure during the year amounted to £118,362, including interest charges amounting to £40,521. Redemption payments to 30th June, 1962, amounted to £64,287.

The Board does not strike a rate, but charges consumers, including local water supply authorities, by measure.

Water supplied during the year ended 30th June, 1962, totalled 3,005 mill. gall.

Sewerage

The Board has constructed an outfall sewer some 50 miles in length to convey wastes to an area where they are disposed of on agricultural land. Wastes conveyed by the outfall sewer consist mainly of industrial wastes such as paper wastes and gasification wastes, together with small quantities of domestic sewage.

The capital cost of sewerage construction works to the 30th June, 1962, was £2,426,759.

The scheme is financed by Government loan, the liabilities on account of loans at the 30th June, 1962, amounting to £2,600,545. Income during 1961–62 amounted to £113,607 and expenditure, which included £54,685 interest on loans, amounted to £141,585. Redemption payments to 30th June, 1962, amounted to £94,350.

The Board does not strike a sewerage rate, but charges by measure for the receipt of wastes, both from industries and public authorities, such as sewerage authorities, in the area.

Ballarat Water Commissioners

The local governing body by the name of “The Ballarat Water Commissioners” was constituted on the 1st July, 1880, by the *Waterworks Act* 1880.

The water supply district of the Ballarat Water Commissioners embraces an area of approximately 65 square miles, including the City of Ballarat, the Borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the Shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, Bungaree, and Grenville. Water is also supplied in bulk to the Buninyong Waterworks Trust, which is responsible for a reticulated supply to the township of Buninyong. The total estimated population supplied is 59,000. The works comprise seven reservoirs, which have a total storage capacity of 5,606 mill. gall. The catchment area is 24,182 acres. The Commissioners supply water to 20,179 ratepaying tenements, of which 12,833 are connected to the sewers.

For the year 1962, the total consumption was 2,120 mill. gall. including 73 mill. gall. supplied to Lake Wendouree, on which important rowing and other aquatic sports are held.

The average *per capita* consumption for the year 1962 was 99·9 gall. per day. Approximately 83 per cent. of the properties supplied are metered and, to reduce leakage losses and wastage to a minimum, the Commissioners have planned to meter at least 90 per cent. of the properties supplied.

To 31st December, 1962, the capital cost of construction was £2,720,483, and loans outstanding (including private loans) were £1,662,354. During 1962, revenue amounted to £190,632, and expenditure to £188,390.

Ballarat Sewerage Authority

The Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act 1915*, by Order in Council dated 30th November, 1920, which provides that the members of the Water Commissioners shall be the Sewerage Authority.

The Ballarat Sewerage District embraces the City of Ballarat, portions of the Shires of Ballarat, Bungaree, and Grenville, and the Borough of Sebastopol.

At 31st December, 1962, there were 19,621 assessments in the sewerage district, and 14,866 in declared sewerage areas, where 12,833 tenements were connected.

Construction is financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions. The liabilities on account of loans secured for construction at 31st December, 1962, amounted to £1,376,681; redemption payments at that date totalled £329,892. Revenue during 1962 amounted to £147,186, and expenditure, which included £88,188 on interest and redemption, was £146,299. During 1962, 143 contracts were completed under the Deferred Payments System, the amount outstanding at 31st December being £85,178.

Further References

A description of the system operated by the Ballarat Sewerage Authority will be found on pages 395–396 of the Victorian Year Book 1961.

Country Sewerage Authorities

With the exception of sewerage systems operated by the State Electricity Commission and the Eildon Sewerage District (under the direct administration of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission), country sewerage works are controlled by local authorities. These local sewerage authorities operate under the direct supervision of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in a similar manner

to the local water supply authorities. Of the 70 local sewerage authorities constituted at 31st December, 1962 (including the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, and the Ballarat Sewerage Authority), 49 authorities had systems in operation. A further seven authorities had systems under construction.

In the following table, particulars are shown in respect of all country sewerage systems which are in operation, or in course of construction (with the exception of those controlled by the State Electricity Commission), for each of the years 1957 to 1961 :—

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

Particulars	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
No. of Systems in Operation ..	36	38	38	39	41
No. of Systems under Construction	4	3	7	11	12
Estimated Population Served (At End of Year)	323,008	339,609	354,756	369,951	395,432
No. of Properties Connected to Sewers (At End of Year) ..	84,031	89,574	94,747	100,397	106,604
	£'000				
Income—					
Rates	726	818	916	1,036	1,208
Other	169	295	344	434	459
Total	895	1,113	1,260	1,470	1,667
Expenditure—					
Working Expenses	355	402	465	538	583
Other	548	698	789	855	1,039
Total	903	1,100	1,254	1,393	1,622
Loan Account—					
Receipts	2,012	1,597	2,175	2,839	3,123
Expenditure	2,224	1,569	1,797	2,376	3,243
Loan Liability (At End of Year) ..	7,942	9,171	11,008	13,637	16,033

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board

Municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District contribute one-third and fire insurance companies, transacting business in the same area, provide two-thirds of the amount required to maintain metropolitan fire brigades. During 1961–62, contributions by municipalities were equivalent to 1·75d. in the £1 of the annual value of property amounting to £85,101,490, while fire insurance companies contributed at a rate of £17 9s. 0·44d. for every £100 of fire insurance premiums paid on insured property. Premiums received in the Metropolitan Fire District in 1960 amounted to £7,099,822.

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, and loan indebtedness of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board for each of the five years 1957-58 to 1961-62 are as follows :—

VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD :
REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.

(£'000)

Particulars	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
REVENUE					
Contributions—					
Municipal	345	447	486	539	619
Insurance Companies	689	893	972	1,078	1,232
Receipts for Services	141	139	141	193	205
Interest and Sundries	120	131	198	118	106
Total	1,295	1,610	1,797	1,928	2,162
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries	870	963	1,076	1,133	1,275
Administrative Charges, &c.	301	281	340	245	265
Partially-paid Firemen and Special Service Staff Allowances	85	88	94	105	114
Plant—Purchase and Repairs	120	127	147	141	168
Interest	4	8	12	15	18
Repayment of Loans	8	8	10	9	10
Superannuation Fund	35	39	59	72	80
Motor Replacement Reserve	14	15	20	22	35
Pay-roll Tax	26	28	31	33	37
Miscellaneous	6	5	7	10	30
Total	1,469	1,562	1,796	1,785	2,032
Net Surplus (+) or Deficit (—)	(—) 174	(+) 48	(+) 1	(+) 143	(+) 130
Loan Indebtedness (At 30th June)	119	191	271	322	352

The following table shows particulars of the number of fire stations operated by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades and the number of staff employed at 30th June in each of the years 1958 to 1962 :—

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

Particulars	At 30th June—				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Fire Stations	43	44	44	45	45
Staff Employed*—					
Fire Fighting	824	824	883	924	1,024
Special Service and Partially Paid Firemen	93	93	93	103	107

* Excluding clerical staff.

Further References

An outline of the functions and activities of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board will be found on page 397 of the Victorian Year Book 1961.

Country Fire Authority

The history of the development of Victoria from its earliest times is threaded with the recurring disasters of widespread bushfires. By 1928, there were 106 brigades in Victoria when the Bush Fire Brigades Association was formed to secure necessary powers for the effective prevention and extinction of bushfires. The Bush Fire Brigades Act was passed in 1933, establishing the Bush Fire Brigades Committee with which the brigades could now be registered.

In the towns of Victoria, the fire service had its beginning in the "Bucket Brigades" of the early 1850's. The first organized fire brigades were Geelong and Sandhurst No. 1 (Bendigo) in 1854 and Ballarat in 1856, all formed at public meetings. Brigades had to rely mainly on their own efforts until the establishment of the two boards (metropolitan and country) in 1890, when the Government, municipalities, and insurance companies were named as contributors.

In April, 1945, the Country Fire Authority took complete control of fire-fighting and fire prevention in the country area of Victoria and the Country Fire Brigades Board and the Bush Fire Brigades Committee ceased to exist.

At the inception of the Authority, there were 185 urban fire brigades and 727 rural fire brigades. The registered members of rural fire brigades numbered 35,000 volunteers, and equipment was estimated to be worth £100,000. At the 30th June, 1962, there were 207 urban fire brigades with 5,775 members (including 121 on extended leave) comprising 3,888 active and 1,887 reserve volunteers. Rural brigades numbered 1,037 with 101,129 volunteer members.

During the seventeen years the Authority has been in existence, the fire services in the three larger provincial cities of Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong have been placed under permanent officer control and the staff of permanent firemen has increased considerably. Because of the population increase in places where the demands on the volunteer service began to press too heavily, permanent officers have been appointed in charge of volunteer brigades. At 30th June, 1962, there were 37 permanent fire officers and 53 firemen in the Authority service with permanent officers at Dandenong, Springvale, Morwell, North Geelong, Frankston, Doveton, Mildura, Warrnambool, and Shepparton. Permanent Regional Officers administered 21 Fire Control Regions with rural fire districts.

As from October, 1950, the municipalities were relieved of their contributions, their one-third being provided from the Municipalities Assistance Fund. From January, 1954, the Government ceased to contribute, the responsibility for its one-third being transferred to the

insurance companies. Whereas the Government, municipalities, and insurance companies each provided one-third of the Authority revenue when it was created in 1944, in 1962, therefore, the insurance companies contributed two-thirds of the revenue, the remaining one-third being provided from the Municipalities Assistance Fund. Annual expenditure has grown from £75,688 in the first year to £634,518 in 1962.

Up to 30th June, 1962, the Authority has raised 36 loans, representing a total of £1,175,000, which has been used for the provision of buildings and equipment. In August, 1951, the limit of borrowing was raised from £200,000 to £500,000, and was further increased to £1,000,000 in October, 1955. Loan indebtedness at 30th June, 1962, amounted to £746,682.

In December, 1959, statutory provision was made for the formation of groups of rural fire brigades, and, after the gazettal of regulations in November, 1960, the first groups were formed, there being 69 by the 30th June, 1962.

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, surplus, and loan expenditure and indebtedness of the Country Fire Authority, for each of the years 1957-58 to 1961-62, are shown in the first of the following tables. The second table gives details of the number of fire brigades, personnel, and motor vehicles for the same years.

VICTORIA—COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY : REVENUE,
EXPENDITURE, ETC.

(£'000)

Particulars	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
REVENUE					
Statutory Contributions—					
Municipalities Assistance					
Fund	166	175	182	201	220
Insurance Companies	333	351	365	402	441
Other	26	26	23	23	29
Total	525	552	570	626	690
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries and Wages	172	187	208	230	249
Depreciation	23	25	28	30	31
Insurance	19	18	21	18	23
Interest	31	32	34	36	37
Maintenance	95	89	91	78	118
Motor Replacement Fund	40	44	49	54	59
Other	92	94	95	109	117
Total	472	489	526	555	634
Net Surplus	53	63	44	71	56
Loan Expenditure	70	111	131	93	109
Loan Indebtedness (At 30th June)	673	686	691	719	747

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

Particulars	At 30th June—				
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Fire Brigades—					
Urban	203	203	205	206	207
Rural	1,028	1,033	1,031	1,035	1,037
Personnel—					
Professional	97	102	109	109	120
Volunteer	98,307	99,477	100,865	102,620	106,783
Motor Vehicles—					
Transport	43	44	45	46	48
Fire Service	804	819	833	859	883

Further References

An outline of the functions of the Country Fire Authority will be found on pages 399–400 of the Victorian Year Book 1961.

Local Government and Semi-Governmental Bodies—

New Money Loan Raisings

In the following statement, particulars are given of the new money loan raisings, during each of the years 1958–59 to 1961–62, by local government, semi-governmental, and other public bodies in Victoria :—

VICTORIA—LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL,
AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES : NEW MONEY LOAN
RAISINGS

(£'000)

Particulars	Year Ended 30th June—			
	1959	1960	1961	1962
LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
Due to Government	526	295	199	219
Due to Public Creditor	5,207	7,004	6,800	9,227
Total Local Government	5,733	7,299	6,999	9,446
SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL, &c.				
Due to Government*	14,039	17,919	19,130	21,574
Due to Public Creditor	38,489	48,337	39,522	59,402
Total Semi-Governmental, &c.	52,528	66,256	58,652	80,976
ALL AUTHORITIES				
Due to Government	14,565	18,214	19,329	21,793
Due to Public Creditor	43,696	55,341	46,322	68,629
Total	58,261	73,555	65,651	90,422

* Including the following advances by the Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement :—£7,560,000 in 1958–59, £7,560,000 in 1959–60, £7,560,000 in 1960–61, and £9,942,345 in 1961–62.

State Development and Regional Planning
Division of State Development

Functions

The promotion of industrial development throughout Victoria is the main function of the Division. In addition, the Division provides the administrative organization for the Central Planning Authority, the Latrobe Valley Development Advisory Committee, and the State Development Committee, all of which are directly concerned with the development of the non-metropolitan portion of the State.

Promotion of Secondary Industry

The Division in its earlier years concentrated on the establishment, expansion, and retention of secondary industry in country areas, but more recently has also taken an increasingly active interest in the Metropolitan Area. However, the emphasis still remains on promoting and assisting decentralization wherever possible and practicable.

Working in collaboration with a qualified statistical research group within the Division, are officers who are thoroughly familiar with the requirements of industry and the resources of the State. These officers act in a consultative capacity to industrialists and are able to suggest the various locations suited to the type of industry contemplated.

Close liaison is maintained with government, semi-governmental, and local authorities, and the Division assists in resolving problems which might arise as between the prospective industry and these bodies.

In addition to these services, assistance in various forms is available to persons establishing industries in non-metropolitan areas in Victoria. (See page 583 of the Victorian Year Book 1963.)

Regional Planning

The Central Planning Authority under the chairmanship of the Minister of State Development co-ordinates the activities of twelve regional committees throughout the State, whose function is to study the resources and the development within the Regions, and to recommend to the Authority the means by which those resources can best be developed. The Authority, consisting of senior representatives of Government departments and instrumentalities, is the body through which the recommendations of the various committees are channelled to the Government.

Latrobe Valley Development Advisory Committee

The Latrobe Valley Act of 1949 (now incorporated in the *Latrobe Valley Act 1958*) provided for the creation of the Latrobe Valley Development Advisory Committee of five members, appointed by the Governor in Council, and for the establishment of a fund of £.1 mill. for expenditure on approved works in the Latrobe Valley.

The Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Minister regarding advances from this fund ; it is also required to convene conferences for securing co-ordination between the respective authorities in the Latrobe Valley of proposed works and activities.

State Development Committee

This is a Parliamentary Committee of six members appointed under the State Development Act to report to the Governor in Council on the economic, industrial, and rural development of the State. The Committee's inquiries in the past two years have covered the economic development of Gippsland, the utilization of timber resources in the watersheds of the State, the Victorian fishing industry, the introduction of European carp into Victorian waters, and the underground water resources of the State. At present an inquiry is proceeding into the bulk handling of oats and barley.

Further References

A full statement on State development and regional planning is set out on pages 419 to 424 of the Victorian Year Book 1962.