

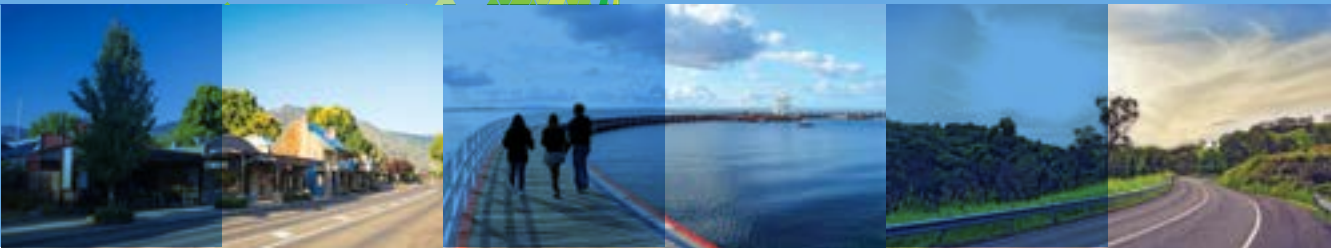


Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications



Local Government National Report



2015-16

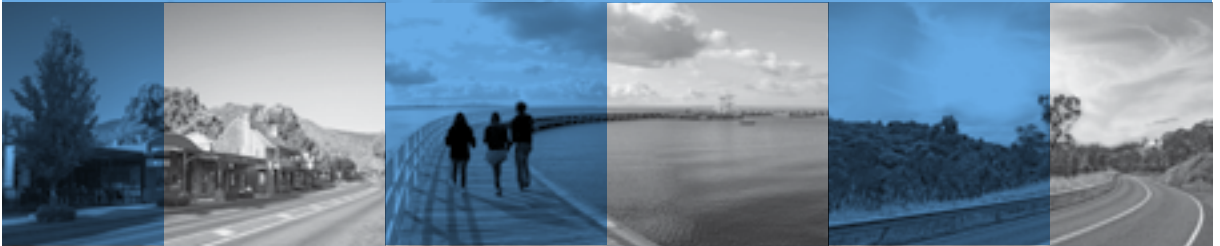
2015-16 report on the operation of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications**

Local Government National Report



2015-16

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ISBN 978-1-925701-12-8
July 2018 / INFRA-3515

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Transmittal Letter



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

Secretary
Simon Atkinson

EC19-001067

The Hon Mark Coulton MP
Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Tabling of the 2015-16 Local Government National Report

In accordance with Section 16 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act), I provide you with the 2015-16 Local Government National Report (the Report) on the operation of the Act for you to present to both Houses of Parliament.

The Report has been prepared with the cooperation of all levels of government and local government associations, in accordance with the reporting requirements under the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Atkinson'.

Simon Atkinson

6 March 2020

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The Australian Government recognises that the national interest is served through improving the capacity of local government to deliver services to all Australians by enhancing the performance and efficiency of the sector. The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) is an important means used to achieve these goals.

During 2015–16, Australia had 571 local governing bodies eligible to receive funding under the Australian Government’s Financial Assistance Grant program. The Act provides the legislative basis for this program. These 571 local governing bodies included:

- 560 local governments
- 10 declared local governing bodies, consisting of five Indigenous local governments and the Outback Areas Community Development Trust in South Australia; the Local Government Association of Northern Territory; and the Silverton, Tibooburra villages, and Lord Howe Island in New South Wales
- the Australian Capital Territory, which receives funding through the Financial Assistance Grant program as it maintains both territorial and local government functions.

The Act defines the term ‘local governing bodies’ in a way that includes local governments established under state and Northern Territory legislation as well as ‘declared bodies’. The terms ‘council’ and ‘local government’ are used interchangeably in this report to encompass all local governing bodies.

Declared bodies are funded under the Financial Assistance Grant program and are treated as local governments for the purposes of grant allocations. However, declared bodies are not local governments and have different legislative obligations. Due to this difference, data in this report that relates to local government may not be directly comparable to local governing bodies. Also, data relating to local government cannot be directly compared to that for the Australian Capital Territory, as the Australian Capital Territory performs both territorial and local government functions.

Local government functions

While the structure, powers and responsibilities of the Australian and state governments were established during federation, local government was not identified as a Commonwealth responsibility—it is a state and Northern Territory responsibility. The states and the Northern Territory have created the legal and regulatory frameworks to create and operate local government. As such, there are significant differences between the systems within which councils operate.

The main roles of local government are governance, planning, community development, service delivery, asset management and regulation.

Local governments are close to their communities and have a unique insight into local and community needs. Councils determine service provision according to local needs and the requirements of state or territory legislation.

Population

The estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 2016 was 24,127,200 an increase of 337 800 persons or 1.4 per cent from 30 June 2015. All states and territories experienced positive growth for the year ending 30 June 2016. Victoria recorded the fastest growth rate (2.1 per cent) while the Northern Territory recorded the slowest (0.2 percent).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes information on Australia's population through the *Australian Demographic Statistics*, ABS cat. No 3101.0.

Diversity

Local government can be highly diverse, both within and between jurisdictions. This diversity extends beyond rural–metropolitan differences. In addition to size and population, other significant differences between councils include the:

- attitudes and aspirations of local communities;
- fiscal position (including revenue-raising capacity), resources and skills base;
- legislative frameworks, including voting rights and electoral systems;
- physical, economic, social and cultural environments; and
- range and scale of functions.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils have been established under different legislative frameworks. They can be established under the mainstream local government legislation of a jurisdiction or through distinct legislation. They can also be 'declared' to be local governing bodies by the Australian Government Minister for Local Government on advice from a state or Northern Territory minister for the purpose of providing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program.

National representation of local government

The interests of local government are represented through a number of groups, including the Council of Australian Governments and the Australian Local Government Association.

Council of Australian Governments

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is the peak inter-governmental forum in Australia. It comprises the Prime Minister, state premiers, territory chief ministers and the Australian Local Government Association President. COAG was established in May 1992 and its role is to initiate, develop and monitor the implementation of policy reforms of national significance. It requires co-operative action by all Australian governments.

COAG establishes inter-governmental agreements that signify the commitment of jurisdictions to implement its decisions. In many instances, these agreements are precursors to the passage of legislation at the Commonwealth, state and territory levels. Further information is available at www.coag.gov.au.

Australian Local Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association is a federation of state and Northern Territory local government associations and the Australian Capital Territory Government. The Australian Local Government Association aims to add value, at the national level, to the work of state and territory associations and their member councils. It represents the interests of local government through its participation in the Council of Australian Governments and other ministerial councils. Further information is available at alga.asn.au.

Australian Government grants to local government

The Australian Government supports local government through the Financial Assistance Grant program, specific purpose payments and direct funding.

In 2015–16, the Australian Government provided \$2.3 billion in untied funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies and the Australian Capital Territory Government. The Australian Government brought forward \$1.1 billion of the budgeted allocation for 2015–16 and paid this funding to states and territories in June 2015. The means of distributing the funding provided under the Financial Assistance Grant program in 2015–16 is discussed in Chapter 2. Allocations to local governing bodies for 2015–16 are provided in Appendix D.

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, the Australian Government provides ongoing financial support to the service delivery efforts of the states and territories to local government through:

- national specific purpose payments to be spent in key service delivery sectors
- national partnership payments to support delivery of specified outputs or projects, facilitate reforms or reward those jurisdictions that deliver on nationally significant reforms
- general revenue assistance, consisting of GST payments and other general revenue assistance.

The national specific purpose payments (SPPs) are distributed among the states each year in accordance with the Australian Statistician's determination of state population shares as at 31 December of that year. An equal per capita distribution of the specific purpose payments ensures that all Australians, regardless of the jurisdiction they live in, are provided with the same share of Commonwealth funding support for state service delivery.

Total payments to the states for specific purposes constitute a significant proportion of Commonwealth expenditure. In 2015–16, total specific purpose payments were estimated to total \$50.0 billion, an increase of \$3.4 billion compared with \$46.5 billion in 2014–15 (Australian Government, Budget measures: *Budget paper Number 3, 2015–16*).

Local government finances

Share of taxation revenue by sphere of government

Taxation revenue raised by local governments increased by 5.3 per cent from 2014-15 to \$16.6 billion in 2015-16. Local government taxation revenue in 2015-16 amounted to 3.6 per cent of all taxes raised across all spheres of government in Australia. Taxes on property were the sole source of taxation revenue for local governments (Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2015-16, ABS cat. Number 5506.0*). Table 1 provides further information on the local government share of taxation revenue in 2015-16.

Table 1 Share of taxation revenue by sphere of government and source, 2015-16

Revenue source	Federal %	State %	Local %	Total %
Taxes on income	57.0	–	–	57.0
Employers payroll taxes	0.1	4.9	–	4.9
Taxes on property	–	7.1	3.6	10.7
Taxes on provision of goods and services	21.2	2.6	–	23.7
Taxes on use of goods and performance activities	1.3	2.5	–	3.7
Total	79.6	17.0	3.6	100.0

Notes: Figures may not add to totals due to inclusion of external territories and rounding.

– represents nil or figure rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2015-16, Total Taxation Revenue, ABS cat. Number 5506.0*.

Local government revenue sources

Nationally, in 2015-16, councils raised 91.8 per cent of their own revenue, with grants and subsidies making up the remaining 8.2 per cent (Table 2). Individual councils have differing abilities to raise revenue. These differing abilities may not be apparent when national or even state averages are considered. The differences between urban, rural and remote councils, including their population size, rate-collection base and ability to levy user charges, can affect the ability of a council to raise revenue.

Table 2 Local government revenue sources by jurisdiction in 2015–16

Revenue source		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Total
Own-source revenue									
Taxation	\$m	4 169	4 746	3 634	2 143	1 433	375	120	16 620
	%	30.7	52.9	32.4	44.4	63.5	49.8	23.4	39.5
Sales of goods and services	\$m	4 360	1 805	3 721	986	405	166	116	11 559
	%	32.1	20.1	33.1	20.4	18.0	22.0	22.6	27.4
Interest	\$m	303	92	243	113	21	14	9	795
	%	2.2	1.0	2.2	2.3	0.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
Other*	\$m	3 033	1 739	3 211	1 101	254	128	161	9 627
	%	22.4	19.4	28.6	22.8	11.3	17.0	31.4	22.9
Total own-source revenue		11 865	8 382	10 809	4 343	2 113	683	406	38 601
Grants and subsidies	\$m	1 705	597	416	481	143	70	107	3 519
	%	12.6	6.7	3.7	10.0	6.3	9.3	20.9	8.4
Total grant revenue		1 705	597	416	481	143	70	107	3 519
Total revenue	\$m	13 570	8 977	11 225	4 824	2 255	753	513	42 118
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Other revenue relates to items that are not recurrent and are not generated by the ordinary operations of the organisation, including items such as parking and other fines, rental incomes, insurance claims and revaluation adjustments.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to inclusion of external territories and rounding.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2015–16*, ABS cat. Number 5512.0.

Local government revenue – taxes

Local government raise taxes through rates on property. In 2015–16, 39.5 per cent of local government revenue nationally came from rates. The proportion of revenue from rates varied notably between jurisdictions—from a high of 63.5 per cent for South Australia to a low of 23.4 per cent for the Northern Territory (Table 2).

Rates in each state and the Northern Territory are based on land valuations. However, methods for assessing land values differ significantly between jurisdictions.

Local government revenue – other non-grant revenue sources

On average, local government received 27.4 per cent of its revenue in 2015–16 from the sale of goods and services (Table 2).

Councils in the Northern Territory relied more on government grants and subsidies than councils in other jurisdictions, as they raised only 79.1 per cent of their own revenue. In the remaining states, the proportion of revenue raised from own sources ranged from 87.4 for New South Wales councils to 96.3 per cent for Queensland councils (Table 2).

Local government expenditure

Local government expenditure is primarily on housing and community amenities (24.1 per cent) followed by transport and communication (21.4 per cent) and general public services (17.5 per cent) (Table 3).

Table 3 Local government expenditure by purpose and jurisdiction in 2015–16

Expenditure		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$m	1	3	16	–	12	–	–	32
	%	–	–	0.2	–	0.6	–	–	0.1
Education	\$m	58	118	7	4	0	0	4	191
	%	0.6	1.5	0.1	0.1	–	–	0.8	0.6
Fuel and energy	\$m	–	–	3	2	12	–	1	18
	%	–	–	–	0.1	0.6	–	0.2	0.1
General public services	\$m	1 521	1 357	2 168	541	132	126	172	6 016
	%	14.8	17.3	24.1	13.7	6.4	18.4	35.4	17.5
Health	\$m	70	160	50	67	58	12	5	421
	%	0.7	2.0	0.6	1.7	2.8	1.8	1.0	1.2
Housing and community amenities	\$m	2 866	1 620	2 332	662	563	145	96	8 284
	%	27.8	20.6	25.9	16.8	27.2	21.2	19.8	24.1
Mining, manufacturing and construction	\$m	193	0	98	40	33	–	–	364
	%	1.9	–	1.1	1.0	1.6	–	–	1.1%
Other economic affairs	\$m	344	392	214	124	102	36	35	1 247
	%	3.3	5.0	2.4	3.1	4.9	5.3	7.2	3.6
Public debt transactions	\$m	230	79	423	34	32	4	–	802
	%	2.2	1.0	4.7	0.9	1.5	0.6	–	2.3
Public order and safety	\$m	325	183	145	140	41	7	20	859
	%	3.2	2.3	1.6	3.6	2.0	1.0	4.1	2.5
Recreation and culture	\$m	1 524	1 462	1 051	885	488	121	58	5 588
	%	14.8	18.6	11.7	22.5	23.6	17.7	11.9	16.3
Social security and welfare	\$m	395	933	46	189	130	22	30	1 746
	%	3.8	11.9	0.5	4.8	6.3	3.2	6.2	5.1
Transport and communications	\$m	1 886	1 450	2 303	1 008	467	186	55	7 356
	%	18.3	18.5	25.6	25.6	22.5	27.2	11.3	21.4
Other	\$m	896	99	143	245	2	25	11	1 421
	%	8.7	1.3	1.6	6.2	0.1	3.6	2.3	4.1
Total	\$m	10 308	7 854	8 997	3 941	2 072	685	486	34 345
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes: Figures may not add to totals due to inclusion of external territories and rounding.

– represents nil or figure rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2015–16, Total Taxation Revenue*, ABS cat. Number 5506.0.

Assets and liabilities

In 2015–16, local government in Australia had a net worth of \$423.3 billion, with assets worth \$442.8 billion and liabilities worth \$19.6 billion (Table 4 and Table 5).

On a state basis, only councils in South Australia had a net debt position as at 30 June 2016, while all the other states had a net surplus (Table 5).

Table 4 Local government assets in 2015–16

Assets \$m	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Total	
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	
Financial	Cash and deposits	1 773	1 480	3 897	3 135	45	353	190	10 873
	Advances paid	–	2	–	2	30	2	–	35
	Investments, loans and placements	8 187	1 912	2 125	280	131	25	91	12 752
	Other non-equity assets	1 387	922	1 073	349	146	43	26	3 945
	Equity	67	77	4 972	380	67	1,595	–	7,158
	Total	11 415	4 394	12 066	4 146	418	2 017	307	34 762
Non-financial	Land and fixed assets	149 182	84 721	97 599	41 257	22 907	8 419	2 287	406 372
	Other non-financial assets	797	538	245	20	–	18	62	1 680
	Total	149 979	85 259	97 844	41 276	22 907	8 437	2 349	408 052
Total assets	161 394	89 652	109 911	45 422	23 325	10 454	2 656	442 815	

Notes: These figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

– represents nil or figure rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2015–16*, ABS cat. Number 5512.0.

Table 5 Local government liabilities and net worth and debt in 2015–16

Liabilities	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Deposits held	60	237	7	60	183	7	–	553
Advances received	17	7	–	–	–	–	–	24
Borrowing	3 439	1 131	5 183	695	429	81	8	10 966
Unfunded superannuation liability and other employee entitlements	1 395	762	661	334	184	69	26	3 430
Other provisions	12	75	–	5	6	26	4	127
Other non-equity liabilities	1 480	780	1 261	524	283	73	63	4 464
Total liabilities	6 402	2 990	7 111	1 618	1 085	256	101	19 564
Net worth	154 992	86,662	102 800	43 804	22 240	10 198	2 555	423 250
Net debt*	–6 445	–2,020	–832	–2 662	407	–292	–274	–12 117
Net financial worth†	5 012	1 403	4 956	2 528	–667	1 761	206	15 198

* Net debt figures are memorandum items for comparison only. They do not derive from the above calculations. Net debt is the sum of selected financial liabilities, deposits held, advances received, government securities, loans, and other borrowing, less the sum of selected financial assets, cash and deposits; advances paid; and investments, loans and placements. Net debt is a common measure of the strength of a government's financial position.

† Net financial worth is the difference between total financial assets and total liabilities.

Notes: These figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

– represents nil or figure rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2015–16*, ABS cat. Number 5512.0.





History of the arrangements

Financial Assistance Grant program funding is provided under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act), which replaced the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986* (Cwth) from 1 July 1995.

Funding from the Australian Government to local government began in 1974–75. At that time, funding was determined by the Commonwealth Grants Commission on an equalisation basis.

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986* (Cwth) introduced a new indexation formula which included the consumer price index and population growth. In addition, local government grants commissions were introduced to determine distributions to individual councils. These took into account horizontal equalisation and a 30 per cent minimum grant principle.

The 1990 Special Premiers' Conference determined that a local road component would be provided from 1 July 1991, in addition to the general purpose component. The untied local road component was introduced to replace specific purpose funding for local roads provided under the *Australian Land Transport Development Act 1988* (Cwth). The local road formula, agreed to by all Premiers, is intended to help local government with the cost of maintaining local roads.

The Act introduced the untied local road component and formalised a set of National Principles. Each local government grants commission must consider the National Principles when determining allocations to local governing bodies. Further information on the National Principles is provided in Appendix A.

The objectives of the general purpose component include improving the capacity of local governments to provide their communities with an equitable level of services and increasing local government's efficiency and effectiveness. The objective of the identified road component is to support local governing bodies with funding allocated on the basis of relative needs for roads expenditure and to preserve road assets.

Both components are paid quarterly to the states and territories and are to be passed on to local government without delay. The Financial Assistance Grant program is untied in the hands of local government, which means local governments are free to spend the funding according to local priorities.

Table 6 shows funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program since the introduction of the general purpose component in 1974–75 and the local road component in 1991–92.

Quantum of financial assistance grant allocations

Table 6 shows funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program since the introduction of the general purpose component in 1974-75 and the local road component in 1991-92.

Table 6 National financial assistance grant allocations, 1974-75 to 2015-16

Year	General purpose (\$)	Local road (\$)	Total (\$)
1974-75	56 345 000	n/a	56 345 000
1975-76	79 978 000	n/a	79 978 000
1976-77	140 070 131	n/a	140 070 131
1977-78	165 327 608	n/a	165 327 608
1978-79	179 426 870	n/a	179 426 870
1979-80 ^a	222 801 191	n/a	222 801 191
1980-81	302 226 347	n/a	302 226 347
1981-82	352 544 573	n/a	352 544 573
1982-83	426 518 330	n/a	426 518 330
1983-84	461 531 180	n/a	461 531 180
1984-85	488 831 365	n/a	488 831 365
1985-86	538 532 042	n/a	538 532 042
1986-87	590 427 808	n/a	590 427 808
1987-88	636 717 377	n/a	636 717 377
1988-89	652 500 000	n/a	652 500 000
1989-90	677 739 860	n/a	677 739 860
1990-91	699 291 988	n/a	699 291 988
1991-92 ^b	714 969 488	303 174 734	1 018 144 222
1992-93 ^c	730 122 049	318 506 205	1 048 628 254
1993-94	737 203 496	322 065 373	1 059 268 869
1994-95	756 446 019	330 471 280	1 086 917 299
1995-96 ^d	806 748 051	357 977 851	1 164 725 902
1996-97	833 693 434	369 934 312	1 203 627 746
1997-98	832 859 742	369 564 377	1 202 424 119
1998-99	854 180 951	379 025 226	1 233 206 177
1999-2000	880 575 142	390 737 104	1 271 312 246
2000-01	919 848 794	408 163 980	1 328 012 774
2001-02	965 841 233	428 572 178	1 394 413 411
2002-03	1 007 855 328	447 215 070	1 455 070 398
2003-04	1 039 703 554	461 347 062	1 501 050 616
2004-05	1 077 132 883	477 955 558	1 555 088 441
2005-06	1 121 079 905	497 456 144	1 618 536 049
2006-07	1 168 277 369	518 399 049	1 686 676 418
2007-08	1 234 986 007	547 999 635	1 782 985 642
2008-09	1 621 289 630	719 413 921	2 340 703 551
2009-10	1 378 744 701	611 789 598	1 990 534 300
2010-11	1 446 854 689	642 012 005	2 088 866 694
2011-12	1 856 603 939	823 829 803	2 680 433 742

Year	General purpose (\$)	Local road (\$)	Total (\$)
2012–13	1 525 571 456	676 940 950	2 202 512 406
2013–14	798 026 429	354 107 812	1 152 134 241
2014–15	2 377 879 350	1 055 135 046	3 433 014 396
2015–16	792 547 188	351 676 511	1 144 223 699
Total	37 319 333 593	13 594 865 644	50 914 199 238

- a Grants to the Northern Territory under the program commenced in 1979–80, with the initial allocation being \$1 061 733.
- b Before 1991–92, local road funding was provided as tied grants under different legislation.
- c In 1992–93, part of the road grant entitlement of the Tasmanian and Northern Territory governments was reallocated to local government in these jurisdictions.
- d Grants to the Australian Capital Territory under the program commenced in 1995–96.

Notes: All funding represents actual entitlements.
n/a = not applicable.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Overview of current arrangements

The arrangements to determine the 2015–16 funding distribution to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant program is were as follows:

- Before the start of the financial year, the Australian Government estimated the quantum of general purpose and local road components that local government was entitled to nationally. This was equal to the national grant entitlement for the previous financial year multiplied by the estimated escalation factor of changes in population and the consumer price index.
- States and territories were advised of their estimated quantum of general purpose and local road components, calculated in accordance with the Act.
- Local government grants commissions in each state and the Northern Territory recommended to their local government minister the general purpose and local road component distributions among local governing bodies in their jurisdiction. The Australian Capital Territory does not have a local government grants commission because the territory government provides local government services in lieu of having a system of local government.
- State and Northern Territory local government ministers forwarded the recommendations of the local government grants commission in their jurisdiction to the Australian Government Minister (the Minister) responsible for local government.
- When satisfied that all legislative requirements have been met, the Minister approved payment of the recommended allocations to local governing bodies in that jurisdiction.
- The Australian Government paid the grant in quarterly instalments to the states and territories, which, without undue delay, passed them on to local government as untied grants.
- When updated changes in the consumer price index and population became available toward the end of the financial year, an actual escalation factor was calculated and the actual grant entitlement was determined.
- Any difference between the estimated and actual entitlements is combined with the estimated entitlement in the next year to determine that year's cash payment. This is referred to as the adjustment.

Determining the quantum of the grant

Section 8 of the Act specifies the formula that the Treasurer of the Commonwealth (the Treasurer) is to apply each year to calculate the escalation factors used to determine the funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program. The escalation factors are based on changes in the consumer price index and population.

The Act provides the Treasurer with discretion to increase or decrease the escalation factors in special circumstances. When applying this discretion, the Treasurer is required to have regard to the objects of the Act (below) and any other matter the Treasurer thinks relevant. The same escalation factor is applied to both the general purpose and local road components.

Objects of the Act

Section 3(2) of the Act states the objects as follows.

The Parliament of Australia wishes to provide financial assistance to the states for the purposes of improving:

- (a) the financial capacity of local governing bodies; and
- (b) the capacity of local governing bodies to provide their residents with an equitable level of services; and
- (c) the certainty of funding for local governing bodies; and
- (d) the efficiency and effectiveness of local governing bodies; and
- (e) the provision by local governing bodies of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Pause on indexation

In the 2014–15 Budget, the Australian Government announced that the indexation applied to the Financial Assistance Grant program would be paused for three years (2014–15 to 2016–17). Funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program remained at \$2.3 billion each year from 2014–15 to 2016–17 as a result of this measure. State and territory allocations continued to fluctuate in line with changes in population estimates provided annually by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In line with the Act's objectives, funding continues to be provided to all councils including minimum grant councils. Local government grants commissions continue to apply the horizontal equalisation principle that supports needier councils, including rural and remote councils.

Determining entitlements for 2015–16 and 2016–17

Calculation of the 2015–16 actual entitlement and the 2016–17 estimated entitlement using the final escalation factor (the final factor) and estimated escalation factor (the estimated factor) are set out in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

In June 2015, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss, announced the Australian Government's decision to bring forward two quarters of the 2015–16 estimate into 2014–15. This resulted in payments of \$1.1 billion to jurisdictions for immediate distribution to local government. This early payment was made to ensure councils were able to continue to provide important services to their communities and have early access to funding for critical infrastructure projects. This funding consisted of a general purpose component of \$792.6 million and a local road component of \$351.7 million. The brought forward payment was provided for under amendments made to the Act in 2009. Brought forward payments have been provided in each Budget from 2009–10 to 2013–14.

The *estimated* entitlement for 2015–16 was calculated by multiplying the final entitlement for 2014–15 (\$3.4 billion) by the Treasurer's estimated factor (0.3333) (see Table 8). This resulted in an estimated entitlement, \$1.1 billion, consisting of \$792.5 million under the general purpose component and \$351.7 million under the identified local road component.

The *final* entitlement for 2015–16 is calculated by multiplying the final entitlement for 2014–15 (\$3.4 billion) by the Treasurer's final factor (0.3333). This resulted in a final entitlement of \$1.1 billion. This consists of a general purpose component of \$792.5 million and an identified local road component of \$351.7 million (see Table 7).

There was no adjustment made under the program between the final and estimated entitlement for 2015–16 due to the pause on indexation. However, due to changes in population there were adjustments to the jurisdictional general purpose components.

Under the Act, population estimates are applied to the estimated and final entitlements. As such, jurisdictions experiencing a negative population change from one year to the next will receive a declining share of the general purpose component. In 2015–16, Western Australia and the Northern Territory experienced a decreasing population share.

The 2016–17 estimated entitlement was calculated by multiplying the final entitlement for 2015–16 (\$1.1 billion) by the Treasurer's estimated factor (2.0002). This resulted in an estimated entitlement of \$2.3 billion consisting of \$1.5 billion under the general purpose component and \$703.4 million under the identified local road component.

Table 7 Final entitlements and adjustments for 2015-16

	2014-15 final entitlement	2015-16 final factor	2015-16 final entitlement	2015-16 estimated entitlement	2015-16 adjustment
	\$		\$	\$	\$
General purpose	2 377 879 350	x 0.3333 =	792 547 188	less =	0
Local road	1 055 135 045	x 0.3333 =	351 676 510	less =	0
Total	3 433 014 395	x 0.3333 =	1 144 223 698	less =	0
General purpose			31 December 2014 population*		
NSW	761 839 141	7 564 626	253 920 878	less =	92 780
Vic	590 577 279	5 886 555	197 593 273	less =	98 931
Qld	478 422 402	4 749 057	159 411 017	less =	27 744
WA	259 422 206	2 572 919	86 364 858	less =	-238 015
SA	171 177 435	1 691 605	56 781 899	less =	30 705
Tas	52 458 632	515 294	17 296 811	less =	10 290
NT	24 842 383	243 191	8 163 163	less =	-32 111
ACT	39 139 872	387 742	13 015 288	less =	9 676
Total	2 377 879 350	x 0.3333 =	792 547 188	less =	0
Local road			2014-15 final factor		
NSW	306 127 787	x 0.3333 =	102 032 391	less =	0
Vic	217 530 683	x 0.3333 =	72 502 977	less =	0
Qld	197 693 649	x 0.3333 =	65 891 293	less =	0
WA	161 331 700	x 0.3333 =	53 771 856	less =	0
SA	57 986 815	x 0.3333 =	19 327 006	less =	0
Tas	55 914 699	x 0.3333 =	18 636 369	less =	0
NT	24 716 352	x 0.3333 =	8 237 960	less =	0
ACT	33 833 360	x 0.3333 =	11 276 658	less =	0
Total	1 055 135 045	x =	351 676 510	less =	0

* Based on statistics provided by the Australian Statistician on 23 June 2016.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Table 8 Estimated entitlements and cash paid in 2015–16

	2014–15 final entitlement	2015–16 estimated factor	2015–16 estimated entitlement	2014–15 adjustment	2015–16 cash payment
	\$		\$	\$	\$
General purpose	2 377 879 350	x 0.3333	= 792 547 188	Plus -24 717	= 792 522 471
Local road	1 055 135 045	x 0.3333	= 351 676 510	Plus -10 966	= 351 665 544
Total	3 433 014 395	x 0.3333	= 1 144 223 698	Plus -35 683	= 1 144 188 015
General purpose			31 December 2014 population*		
NSW	761 839 141	7 565 497	253 828 098	Plus 657 703	= 254 485 801
Vic	590 577 279	5 886 436	197 494 342	Plus -439 751	= 197 054 591
Qld	478 422 402	4 750 513	159 383 273	Plus 148 315	= 159 531 588
WA	259 422 206	2 581 250	86 602 873	Plus -1 239 711	= 85 363 162
SA	171 177 435	1 691 503	56 751 194	Plus 491 930	= 57 243 124
Tas	52 458 632	515 235	17 286 521	Plus 257 505	= 17 544 026
NT	24 842 383	244 265	8 195 274	Plus 80 763	= 8 276 037
ACT	39 139 872	387 640	13 005 613	Plus 18 529	= 13 024 142
Total	2 377 879 350	23 622 339	792 547 188	Plus -24 717	= 792 522 471
Local road			2014–15 estimated factor		
NSW	306 127 787	x 0.3333	= 102 032 391	Plus -3 182	= 102 029 209
Vic	217 530 683	x 0.3333	= 72 502 977	Plus -2 260	= 72 500 717
Qld	197 693 649	x 0.3333	= 65 891 293	Plus -2 055	= 65 889 238
WA	161 331 700	x 0.3333	= 53 771 856	Plus -1 675	= 53 770 181
SA	57 986 815	x 0.3333	= 19 327 006	Plus -604	= 19 326 402
Tas	55 914 699	x 0.3333	= 18 636 369	Plus -682	= 18 635 787
NT	24 716 352	x 0.3333	= 8 237 960	Plus -257	= 8 237 703
ACT	33 833 360	x 0.3333	= 11 276 658	Plus -351	= 11 276 307
Total	1 055 135 045	x	= 351 676 510	Plus -10 966	= 351 665 544

* Based on statistics provided by the Australian Statistician on 25 June 2015.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Figure 1 Determining the final factor for 2015-16

Under section 8 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) (the Act), the unadjusted factor for 2014-15 was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2014}}{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2013}} \times \frac{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2016}}{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2015}}$$

That is:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{23\,610\,989}{23\,292\,176} \times \frac{108.2}{106.8} = 1.0270$$

However, to account for the Australian Government's 2014-15 Budget decision to pause indexation for three years from 1 July 2014 and the government's decision to bring forward the first two quarter payments in 2015-16 to the 2014-15 financial year, the unadjusted factor was adjusted in accordance with section 8(1)(c) of the Act as follows:

$$\text{Adjustment factor} = \frac{2015-16 \text{ adjustment amount} - 2014-15 \text{ adjustment amount}}{2014-15 \text{ final entitlement}} \times \frac{1}{\text{Unadjusted factor}}$$

That is:

$$\text{Adjustment factor} = \frac{2\,288\,700\,054 + 1\,144\,350\,027}{3\,433\,014\,395} \times \frac{1}{1.0270} = 0.3246$$

Therefore, the final factor for 2015-16 was determined through the multiplication of the unadjusted factor and the adjustment factor as follows:

$$\text{Final factor} = \text{unadjusted factor (1.0270)} \times \text{adjustment factor (0.3246)} = 0.3333$$

Figure 2 Determining the estimated factor for 2016–17

Under section 8 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) (the Act), the unadjusted factor for 2015–16 was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2015}}{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2014}} \times \frac{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2017}}{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2016}}$$

That is:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{23\,937\,030}{23\,610\,989} \times \frac{110.6}{108.2} = 1.0363$$

In order to account for the Government's 2014–15 Budget decision to pause indexation for three years from 1 July 2014, the unadjusted factor will be adjusted, in accordance with paragraph 8(1)(c) of the Act, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Adjustment factor} &= \frac{2016-17 \text{ unadjusted amount} - 2015-16 \text{ adjustment amount}}{2015-16 \text{ final entitlement}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{1}{\text{Unadjusted factor}} \end{aligned}$$

This equates to an adjustment factor of:

$$\text{Adjustment factor} = \frac{2\,288\,700\,054 - 0}{1\,144\,223\,698} \times \frac{1}{1.0363} = 1.9302$$

The estimated factor for 2016–17 is determined through the multiplication of the unadjusted factor and the adjustment factor as follows:

$$1.0363 \times 1.9302 = 2.0002$$

Variations in reported grants

At the beginning of each financial year, the quantum of the grant to local government is estimated using the estimated factor, which is based on forecasts of the consumer price index and population changes for the year.

At the end of each financial year, the actual or final grant for local government is calculated using the final factor, which is based on updated consumer price index and population figures.

Invariably there is a difference between the estimated and actual grant entitlements. This difference is combined with the estimated entitlement in the following financial year to provide the cash payment for the next year.

Consequently, there are three ways in which funding provided under the Financial Assistance Grant program can be reported: an estimated entitlement, a final entitlement and cash paid.

Inter-jurisdictional distribution of grant

The Act specifies that the general purpose component is to be divided among the jurisdictions on a per capita basis. The distribution is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' estimate of each jurisdiction's population and the estimated population of all states and territories as at 31 December of the previous year.

In contrast, each jurisdiction's share of the local road component is fixed. The distribution is based on shares determined from the former tied grant arrangements (see *History of the interstate distribution of local road grants* in the *2001-02 Local government national report*). Therefore, the local road share for each state and territory is determined by multiplying the previous year's funding by the estimated factor as determined by the Treasurer.

The 2015-16 allocations of general purpose and local road grants among jurisdictions is provided in Table 9, while Table 10 provides a comparison to 2014-15 allocations.

Table 9 2015–16 allocations of general purpose and local road grants among jurisdictions

State	General purpose (GP)					Local road (LR)					Total grant		
	GP final entitlement	GP bring forward paid in June 2015	Total GP final and bring forward	% of total GP pool	\$ per population* Dec 2014	LR final entitlement	LR bring forward paid in June 2015	Total LR final and bring forward	% of LR pool	% of LR length	\$ per km	Total final entitlement	% of total grant
NSW	253 920 878	253 601 909	507 522 787	32.0	7 564 626	102 032 391	102 043 656	204 076 047	29.0	146 324	22.2	355 953 269	31.1
Vic	197 593 273	197 287 319	394 880 592	24.9	5 886 555	72 502 977	72 510 981	145 013 958	20.6	130 549	19.8	270 096 250	23.6
Qld	159 411 017	159 338 873	318 749 890	20.1	4 749 057	65 891 293	65 898 568	131 789 861	18.7	149 663	22.7	225 302 310	19.7
WA	86 364 858	87 227 861	173 592 719	11.0	2 572 919	53 771 856	53 777 792	107 549 648	15.3	127 876	19.4	140 136 714	12.2
SA	56 781 899	56 649 190	113 431 089	7.2	1 691 605	19 327 006	19 329 140	38 656 146	5.5	78 215	11.8	76 108 905	6.7
Tas.	17 296 811	17 257 300	34 554 111	2.2	515 294	18 636 369	18 638 427	37 274 796	5.3	14 216	2.2	35 933 180	3.1
NT	8 163 163	8 269 069	16 432 232	1.0	243 191	8 237 960	8 238 870	16 476 830	2.3	13 307	2	16 401 123	1.4
ACT	13 015 288	13 003 168	26 018 456	1.6	387 742	11 276 658	11 277 904	22 554 563	3.2	n/a	-	24 291 947	2.1
Total	792 547 188	792 634 689	1 585 181 876	100.0	23 610 989	351 676 510	351 715 338	703 391 849	100	660 150	100.0	1 144 223 698	100.0

* Excludes other territories comprising Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Table 10 2015-16 final entitlement and percentage change from 2014-15

State	General purpose (GP)			Local road (LR)			Total entitlement		
	2015-16 final entitlement	2014-15 final entitlement	% change from 2014-15 final entitlement*	2015-16 LR final entitlement \$	2014-15 LR final entitlement	% change from 2014-15 final entitlement*	2015-16 final entitlement	Total 2014-15 final entitlement	% change from 2014-15 final entitlement
NSW	253 920 878	761 839 141	-200.0	102 032 391	306 127 787	-200	355 953 269	1 067 966 928	-200.0
Vic	197 593 273	590 577 279	-198.9	72 502 977	217 530 683	-200	270 096 250	808 107 962	-199.2
Qld	159 411 017	478 422 402	-200.1	65 891 293	197 693 649	-200	225 302 310	676 116 051	-200.1
WA	86 364 858	259 422 206	-200.4	53 771 856	161 331 700	-200	140 136 714	420 753 906	-200.1
SA	56 781 899	171 177 435	-201.5	19 327 006	57 986 815	-200	76 108 905	229 164 250	-201.1
Tas	17 296 811	52 458 632	-203.3	18 636 369	55 914 699	-200	35 933 180	108 373 331	-201.6
NT	8 163 163	24 842 383	-204.3	8 237 960	24 716 352	-200	16 401 123	49 558 735	-202.2
ACT	13 015 288	39 139 872	-200.7	11 276 659	33 833 361	-200	24 291 947	72 973 233	-200.4
Total	792 547 187	2 377 879 350	-200.0	351 676 511	1 055 135 046	-200	1 144 223 698	3 433 014 396	-200.0

*Percentage change from 2014-15 final entitlement to 2015-16 final entitlement is high as there was no bring forward announced in the 2016-17 Budget.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

National Principles for the allocation of grants under the Act

The Act requires the Australian Government Minister (the Minister) to formulate National Principles in consultation with state and territory ministers for local government and a body or bodies representative of local government. The National Principles guide the states and the Northern Territory in allocating funding from the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies within their jurisdiction.

The National Principles are set out in full in Appendix A.

Determining the distribution of grants within jurisdictions

Under sections 11 and 14 of the Act, funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program can only be paid to jurisdictions (other than the Australian Capital Territory) that have established a local government grants commission. The Australian Capital Territory does not have a local government grants commission because its government provides local government services.

The local government grants commissions make recommendations, in accordance with the National Principles, on the quantum of the funding allocated to local governing bodies under the Financial Assistance Grant program. The state and Northern Territory governments determine the membership of, and provide resources for, their respective local government grants commissions. Further detail on the local government grants commissions is provided in Figure 3.

Once each local government grants commission has determined the recommended allocations to local governing bodies in its jurisdiction under the Financial Assistance Grant program, the relevant state or Northern Territory minister recommends the allocations to the Australian Government Minister (the Minister) responsible for local government for approval. The Act requires that the Minister is satisfied that the states and the Northern Territory have adopted the recommendations of their local government grants commission.

As a condition for paying funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program, Section 15 of the Act requires that the states and the Northern Territory must provide the funding to local government without undue delay and without conditions, giving local government discretion to use the funds for local priorities.

Further, the Act requires the state and Northern Territory treasurers to give the Minister, as soon as practicable after 30 June each year, a statement detailing payments made to local government during the previous financial year, including the date the payments were made, as well as a certificate from their respective Auditor-General certifying that the statement is correct.

Funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program is paid in equal quarterly instalments. The first payment for each financial year is paid as soon as statutory conditions are met. One of the requirements of the Act is that the first payment cannot be made before 15 August.

Figure 3 Local government grants commissions

Section 5 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) specifies the criteria a body must satisfy to be recognised as a local government grants commission. These criteria are:

- the body is established by a law of a state or the Northern Territory
- the principal function of the body is to make recommendations to the state or territory government about provision of financial assistance to local governing bodies in the state or territory
- the Minister is satisfied that the body includes at least two people who are or have been associated with local government in the state or territory, whether as members of a local governing body or otherwise.

Section 11 of the Act requires local government grants commissions to: hold public hearings in connection with their recommended grant allocations; permit or require local governing bodies to make submissions to the commission in relation to the recommendations; and make their recommendations in accordance with the National Principles.

The legislation establishing local government grants commissions in each state and the Northern Territory are:

New South Wales	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Victoria	<i>Victoria Grants Commission Act 1976</i>
Queensland	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>
Western Australia	<i>Local Government Grants Act 1978</i>
South Australia	<i>South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992</i>
Tasmania	<i>State Grants Commission Act 1976</i>
Northern Territory	<i>Local Government Grants Commission Act 2014</i>

Bodies eligible to receive funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program

All local governing bodies constituted under state and territory legislation are automatically local governing bodies.

In addition, section 4(2)(b) of the Act provides for:

...a body declared by the Minister, on the advice of the relevant state minister, by notice published in the Gazette, to be a local governing body for the purposes of this Act.

In addition to the Australian Capital Territory, 570 local governing bodies, including 10 declared local governing bodies made eligible under section 4(2)(b), received funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program in 2015-16 (Table 11) at 1 July 2015.

Table 11 Distribution of local governing bodies, by type and jurisdiction

Type	NSW ^c	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^e	Tas	NT ^d	Total
Local governments ^a	152	79	77	138	68	29	17	560
Declared local governing bodies ^b	3	–	–	–	6	–	1	10
Total	155	79	77	138	74	29	18	570

a These are local governing bodies eligible under section 4(2)(a) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth).

b These are declared local governing bodies under section 4(2)(b) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth).

c Includes Lord Howe Island, Silvertown and Tibooburra.

d Includes the Northern Territory Roads Trust Account.

e Includes the Outback Communities Authority.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Methodologies of local government grants commissions

Local government grants commissions each have their own methodology for allocating funds to local government in their jurisdiction.

When allocating the general purpose component, local government grants commissions assess the amount each local government would need to be able to provide a standard range and quality of services while raising revenue from a standard range of rates and other income sources. The local government grants commissions then develop recommendations that take into account each local governing body's assessed need. The recommended allocation of the local road component is based on the local government grants commissions' assessment of the local governing bodies' road expenditure needs. Local government grants commissions are required to make their recommendations in line with the National Principles (see Appendix A).

A detailed description of each local government grants commission's methods can be found in Figure 4 and Appendices B and C.

Figure 4 Internet addresses for local government grants commissions

Jurisdiction	Internet address
New South Wales	https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/commissions-and-tribunals/local-government-grants-commission-information-and-key-resources/
Victoria	https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-funding-and-grants/victoria-grants-commission
Queensland	https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/local-government/governance/queensland-local-government-grants-commission
Western Australia	https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/boards-and-commissions#grants
South Australia	https://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/LGGC
Tasmania	http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/state-grants-commission
Northern Territory	http://www.grantscommission.nt.gov.au

Allocations to local government in 2015–16

The responsible Australian Government Minister (the Minister) agreed to the allocations of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies for 2015–16, as recommended by local government grants commissions through state and Northern Territory ministers. Appendix D contains the final entitlements for 2015–16 and the estimated entitlements for 2016–17.

Table 12 provides the average general purpose allocation per capita provided to local governing bodies by jurisdiction and the Australian Classification of Local Governments. The average local road component per kilometre provided to local governing bodies by jurisdiction and the Australian Classification of Local Governments is outlined in Table 13.

The results in these tables suggest there are some differences in outcomes between jurisdictions. Notwithstanding the capacity of the Australian Classification of Local Governments classification system to group similar local governing bodies, it should be noted that considerable scope for divergence within these categories remains. This divergence can occur because of a range of factors including isolation, population distribution, local economic performance, daily or seasonal population changes, age of population and geographic differences.

Table 12 Average general purpose component per capita to councils 2015–16

Classification	Jurisdiction (\$)										Average
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT				
Urban Capital City (UCC)	20.25	20.28	20.27	20.24	20.19	20.14	20.93				20.33
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	20.25	n/a	n/a	20.24	20.19	n/a	n/a				20.23
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	20.25	n/a	n/a	20.24	20.19	n/a	n/a				20.23
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	23.34	23.42	n/a	20.24	20.19	n/a	n/a				21.80
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	31.59	36.12	n/a	20.24	33.79	n/a	n/a				30.44
Urban Regional Small (URS)	121.14	182.48	150.31	43.13	117.36	60.45	27.88				100.39
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	93.49	144.73	119.89	40.09	20.87	20.14	n/a				73.20
Urban Regional Large (URL)	75.53	109.52	50.80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				78.62
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	67.69	71.77	23.23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				54.23
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	n/a	76.45	88.92	20.24	33.63	79.46	20.93				53.27
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	1 804.64	64.44	54.87	22.43	20.55	20.14	n/a				331.18
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	1 977.72	n/a	n/a	20.24	99.13	n/a	n/a				699.03
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	40.72	60.31	n/a	20.24	31.83	n/a	n/a				38.28
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	n/a	n/a	n/a	48.54	n/a	n/a	n/a				48.54
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	943.37	n/a	n/a	773.93	742.17	560.22	n/a				754.92
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	526.74	673.30	1 193.90	211.60	370.20	188.95	n/a				527.45
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	346.06	400.86	n/a	177.33	231.54	185.10	n/a				268.18
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	208.36	215.90	390.56	115.12	166.52	99.92	20.93				173.90
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	502.51	n/a	7 139.48	7 163.34	477.69	n/a	50.97				3066.80
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	n/a	n/a	3 126.66	1 718.85	n/a	n/a	n/a				2422.76
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	1 546.81	n/a	1 332.27	1 015.45	410.22	n/a	99.15				880.78
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	674.91	n/a	1 381.68	297.41	377.99	269.56	229.56				538.52
Total \$ per capita	66.77	67.60	67.55	67.34	67.29	67.13	69.77				67.64

Note: n/a = not applicable.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Table 13 Average local road component per kilometre to councils 2015-16

Classification	Jurisdiction (\$)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Average		
Urban Capital City (UCC)	3 988.72	3 207.39	2 648.71	4 393.05	4 369.24	5 206.96	3 459.25	3 896.19		
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	2 533.75	n/a	n/a	2 214.64	2 231.17	n/a	n/a	2 326.52		
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	2 982.06	n/a	n/a	2 092.66	2 367.36	n/a	n/a	2 480.69		
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	2 818.61	1 552.37	n/a	2 485.31	1 989.97	n/a	n/a	2 211.32		
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	2 704.00	1 618.76	n/a	2 218.10	2 297.41	n/a	n/a	2 209.57		
Urban Regional Small (URS)	1 394.59	1 080.89	672.79	1 307.45	1 263.42	3 150.05	3 572.03	1 777.32		
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	1 641.97	1 171.60	694.98	1 166.02	699.59	3 687.53	n/a	1 510.28		
Urban Regional Large (URL)	2 184.97	1 292.00	935.22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 470.73		
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	2 243.64	1 468.80	1 507.34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 739.93		
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	n/a	1 284.68	685.64	1 826.38	516.28	2 565.39	3 343.45	1 703.64		
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	41.88	1 550.25	799.43	1 836.01	637.06	3 140.59	n/a	1 334.20		
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	60.85	n/a	n/a	1 948.66	1 496.66	n/a	n/a	1 168.72		
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	2 262.48	1 614.57	n/a	2 096.54	1 963.43	n/a	n/a	1 984.26		
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 508.58	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 508.58		
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	943.09	n/a	n/a	605.70	289.77	2 060.88	n/a	974.86		
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	1 001.06	776.30	572.74	821.95	257.26	2 147.86	n/a	929.53		
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	1 038.76	637.09	n/a	982.80	288.27	2 362.80	n/a	1 061.94		
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	1 122.95	1 036.88	601.75	855.09	263.50	2 328.48	3 309.47	1 359.73		
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	n/a	n/a	556.88	468.31	2 069.78	n/a	851.18	986.54		
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	n/a	n/a	561.20	627.53	n/a	n/a	n/a	594.37		
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	924.05	n/a	574.01	437.64	45.62	n/a	1 323.24	660.91		
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	948.86	n/a	577.28	758.93	n/a	3 247.37	866.38	1 279.76		
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	658.48	658.48		
Total \$ per kilometre	1 394.12	1 110.80	880.58	841.05	494.23	2 622.03	1 238.21	1 225.86		

Note: n/a = not applicable.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Local governing bodies on the minimum grant

Local governing bodies that receive the minimum grant entitlement generally fall within the capital city, urban developed or urban fringe classifications, as described in the Australian Classification of Local Government. Local governing bodies on the minimum grant are identified with a hash (#) in Appendix D. Table 14 provides details on local governing bodies on the minimum grant by jurisdiction, from 2002–03 to 2015–16. The per capita grant to minimum grant councils in 2015–16 was between \$20.19 and \$20.93.

The proportion of the population covered by local governing bodies on the minimum grant varies between jurisdictions. In 2015–16, the proportion ranged from 28.5 per cent in Victoria to 74.5 per cent in Western Australia. This generally reflects the degree of concentration of a jurisdiction's population in their capital city. Variations can also arise because of a local government's geographic structuring and differences in the methods used by local government grants commissions.

In 2015–16, the proportion of the general purpose grant that went to local governing bodies on the minimum grant was 13.6 per cent nationally. It varied from 8.6 per cent in Victoria to 22.5 per cent in Western Australia.

Local government grants commissions determine the level of assistance that each local governing body requires to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the jurisdiction. In doing this, they consider the revenue-raising ability and expenditure requirements of each local governing body in the jurisdiction. Where a local governing body is on the minimum grant, its local government grants commission has determined that it requires less assistance to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the jurisdiction.

Over the past decade, the number of local governing bodies on the minimum grant increased from 86 in 2005–06 to 106 in 2015–16; from 12.3 per cent to 18.6 per cent. The percentage of the population in minimum grant councils increased from 32.6 per cent in 2005–06 to 45.1 per cent in 2015–16. This resulted in an increase in the per capita grant to non-minimum grant local governments relative to that of minimum grant local governments. This trend is consistent with the National Principle for horizontal equalisation (see Appendix A).

Table 14 Councils on the minimum grant, by jurisdiction, 2005-06 to 2015-16

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
NSW											
\$ general purpose	374 443 598	385 938 812	406 050 359	422 066 453	442 758 903	463 479 161	471 413 267	489 045 833	508 608 083	508 237 232	506 290 484
\$ to minimum grant councils	27 451 347	29 279 694	30 793 666	32 070 254	33 460 548	36 160 752	37 593 617	38 999 527	41 044 913	42 527 921	47 455 907
% to minimum grant councils	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.4	9.4
Population per jurisdiction	6 749 297	6 790 811	6 854 067	6 943 884	6 983 605	7 133 854	7 232 022	7 301 607	7 289 779	7 409 856	7 508 849
Population for minimum grant councils	1 644 799	1 712 959	1 725 814	1 744 716	1 759 235	1 855 282	1 922 430	1 940 916	1 960 961	2 066 788	2 343 212
% of population in minimum grant councils	24.4	25.2	25.2	25.1	25.2	26.0	26.6	26.6	26.9	27.9	31.2
Minimum grant councils /No. LGBs	20/155	21/155	21/155	21/155	21/155	22/155	23/155	23/155	23/155	24/155	26/155
Vic											
\$ general purpose	276 987 692	289 188 062	305 906 191	319 394 720	336 060 498	354 852 579	360 195 861	375 393 290	393 135 181	393 289 960	394 880 592
\$ to minimum grant councils	13 194 313	16 041 360	13 310 089	23 450 803	27 458 066	30 577 564	30 820 330	28 328 702	33 555 381	33 587 740	33 799 568
% to minimum grant councils	4.8	5.6	4.4	7.3	8.2	8.6	8.6	7.6	8.5	8.5	8.6
Population per jurisdiction	4 992 667	5 088 427	5 163 649	5 262 390	5 313 734	5 443 134	5 545 838	5 621 116	5 632 519	5 739 228	5 841 632
Population for minimum grant councils	789 522	928 552	738 401	1 273 912	1 447 208	1 563 445	1 581 774	1 413 974	1 600 743	1 633 808	1 664 977
% of population in minimum grant councils	15.8	18.2	14.3	24.2	27.2	28.7	28.5	25.2	28.4	28.5	28.5
Minimum grant councils /No. LGBs	9/80	10/80	7/79	11/79	12/79	12/79	13/79	12/79	13/79	13/79	13/79

Table 14 continued

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Qld											
\$ general purpose	217 821 826	230 151 592	244 752 786	257 092 111	272 006 416	288 922 754	290 459 015	304 750 796	319 028 016	319 083 531	318 749 890
\$ to minimum grant councils	26 940 642	25 346 303	26 876 194	27 468 884	29 098 788	30 728 757	50 601 267	62 254 683	65 533 567	65 766 311	65 795 193
% to minimum grant councils	12.4	11.0	11.0	10.7	10.7	10.6	17.4	20.4	20.5	20.6	20.6
Population per jurisdiction	3 926 210	4 049 647	4 131 389	4 242 789	4 178 232	4 421 783	4 510 510	4 576 882	4 556 416	4 653 008	4 718 591
Population for minimum grant councils	1 599 555	1 454 323	1 486 720	1 458 827	1 489 934	1 567 615	2 619 274	3 116 561	3 138 148	3 196 772	3 246 648
% of population in minimum grant councils	40.7	35.9	36.0	34.4	35.7	35.5	58.1	68.1	68.9	68.7	68.8
Minimum grant councils /No. LGBs	3/157	2/157	2/157	2/73	2/73	2/73	6/73	8/73	8/77	9/77	9/77
WA											
\$ general purpose	110 620 829	115 836 527	123 301 075	129 395 614	137 579 902	146 620 875	151 667 051	157 781 551	171 319 297	172 194 345	173 592 719
\$ to minimum grant councils	24 661 291	25 901 130	27 858 876	29 147 411	31 045 359	33 132 023	34 286 560	35 432 688	38 760 735	39 026 105	38 981 399
% to minimum grant councils	22.3	22.4	22.6	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.6	22.5	22.6	22.7	22.5
Population per jurisdiction	1 993 926	2 038 209	2 081 303	2 138 062	2 171 197	2 245 057	2 293 510	2 349 325	2 430 252	2 519 321	2 577 840
Population for minimum grant councils	1 473 011	1 498 209	1 544 602	1 581 149	1 633 126	1 691 057	1 728 272	1 758 611	1 832 803	1 903 262	1 920 784
% of population in minimum grant councils	73.9	73.5	74.2	74.0	75.2	75.3	75.4	74.9	75.4	75.5	74.5
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	30/142	30/140	31/140	31/139	31/139	31/139	31/138	30/138	31/138	31/138	31/138

Table 14 continued

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
SA											
\$ general purpose	85 234 073	88 633 994	93 329 590	96 948 206	101 127 276	105 434 395	107 468 610	110 938 451	115 072 530	114 528 245	113 431 086
\$ to minimum grant councils	14 175 161	14 706 754	15 018 873	16 084 800	16 309 932	17 542 801	14 330 230	17 938 909	18 042 090	17 154 972	16 990 531
% to minimum grant councils	16.6	16.6	16.1	16.6	16.1	16.6	13.3	16.2	15.7	15.0	15.0
Population per jurisdiction	1 536 333	1 559 565	1 575 389	1 593 494	1 603 361	1 623 590	1 644 582	1 656 299	1 654 778	1 670 827	1 685 714
Population for minimum grant councils	850 511	852 943	834 072	876 276	861 778	900 691	810 045	892 807	864 995	834 042	841 721
% of population in minimum grant councils	55.4	54.7	52.9	55.0	53.8	55.5	49.3	53.9	52.3	49.9	49.9
Minimum grant councils/ No. LGBs	22/74	22/74	20/74	21/74	20/74	21/74	20/74	20/74	18/74	17/74	17/74
Tas											
\$ general purpose	26 841 415	27 766 033	29 129 652	30 163 788	31 433 715	32 611 864	33 677 077	34 471 522	35 487 132	35 201 332	34 554 111
\$ to minimum grant councils	810 666	837 576	1 676 505	2 914 651	3 994 953	4 775 551	3 620 178	3 714 379	5 219 534	5 182 417	5 091 852
% to minimum grant councils	3.0	3.0	5.8	9.7	12.7	14.6	10.8	10.8	14.7	14.7	14.7
Population per jurisdiction	483 813	488 559	491 704	495 377	497 529	503 292	507 643	510 519	512 019	513 159	514 762
Population for minimum grant councils	48 533	48 794	93 708	158 901	210 772	245 667	181 900	183 365	251 030	251 828	252 849
% of population in minimum grant councils	10.0	10.0	19.1	32.1	42.4	48.8	35.8	35.9	49.0	49.1	49.1
Minimum grant councils/ No. LGBs	1/29	1/29	2/29	3/29	4/29	5/29	4/29	4/29	5/29	5/29	5/29

Table 14 continued

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
NT											
\$ general purpose	11 142 605	11 865 377	12 590 104	13 203 569	13 880 149	14 733 572	15 224 579	15 518 239	16 449 092	16 573 314	15 930 250
\$ to minimum grant councils	1 219 197	-	1 350 251	1 772 176	2 424 889	2 555 872	3 239 988	2 714 718	2 889 253	2 938 751	2 939 595
% to minimum grant councils	10.94	-	10.72	13.42	17.47	17.35	21.28	17.49	17.56	17.7	18.5
Population per jurisdiction	200 844	208 778	212 519	217 435	212 983	218 635	220 753	223 443	227 963	233 399	231 833
Population for minimum grant councils	69 958	-	70 245	17 856	124 029	126 424	156 597	130 295	133 471	137 953	140 441
% of population in minimum grant councils	34.83	-	33.05	8.21	58.23	57.82	70.94	58.31	58.55	59.1	60.6
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	1/63	0/62	1/61	2/16	4/16	4/16	6/16	5/16	5/16	5/18	5/18
Australia											
\$ general purpose	1 103 092 038	1 149 380 397	1 215 059 757	1 268 264 461	1 334 846 859	1 406 655 200	1 430 105 460	1 487 899 682	1 559 099 331	1 559 107 959	1 557 429 132
\$ to minimum grant councils	108 452 617	112 112 817	116 884 454	132 908 979	143 792 535	155 473 320	174 492 170	189 383 606	205 045 473	206 184 217	211 054 045
% to minimum grant councils	9.8	9.8	9.6	10.5	10.8	11.1	12.2	12.7	12.7	13.2	13.6
Population per jurisdiction	19 883 090	20 223 996	20 510 020	20 893 431	20 960 641	21 589 345	21 954 858	22 239 191	22 303 726	22 738 798	23 079 221
Population for minimum grant councils	6 475 889	6 495 780	6 493 562	7 111 637	7 526 082	7 950 181	9 000 292	9 436 529	9 782 151	10 024 453	10 410 632
% of population in minimum grant councils	32.6	32.1	31.7	34.4	35.9	34.3	41.0	42.4	43.1	44.1	45.1
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	86/700	86/697	84/695	91/565	94/565	97/565	103/564	102/564	97/568	104/570	106/570

Notes: The Northern Territory Road trust is not included as it does not receive an allocation under the general purpose component. LGB = local governing bodies.
Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Council changes

In May 2016, the New South Wales Government underwent amalgamations that reduced the number of New South Wales councils from 152 to 128 and formed:

- Armidale Regional Council from Armidale Dumaresq Council and Guyra Shire Council
- Canterbury-Bankstown Council from Bankstown City Council and Canterbury City Council
- Central Coast Council from Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council
- City of Parramatta Council from parts of Auburn City Council, The Hills Shire Council, Holroyd City Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Parramatta City Council
- Cumberland Council from parts of Auburn City Council, Holroyd City Council and Parramatta City Council
- Edward River Council from Conargo Shire Council and Deniliquin Council
- Federation Council from Corowa Shire Council and Urana Shire Council
- Georges River Council from Hurstville City Council and Kogarah City Council
- Gundagai Council from Cootamundra Shire Council and Gundagai Shire Council
- Hilltops Council from Boorowa Council, Harden Shire Council and Shire of Young
- Inner West Council from Ashfield Council, Leichhardt Municipal Council and the Council of the Municipality of Marrickville
- Mid-Coast Council from Gloucester Shire Council, Great Lakes Council and Greater Taree City Council
- Murray River Council from Murray Shire Council and The Council of the Shire of Wakool
- Murrumbidgee Council from Jerilderie Shire Council and Murrumbidgee Shire Council
- Northern Beaches Council from Manly Council, Pittwater Council and Warringah Council
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council from Palerang Council and Queanbeyan City Council
- Snowy Monaro Regional Council from Bombala Shire Council, Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and Snowy River Shire Council
- Snowy Valleys Council from Tumbarumba Shire Council and Tumut Shire Council
- Western Plains Regional Council from Dubbo City Council and Wellington Council.

Comparing councils

Councils often compare the grant they receive to that of other councils and assume that if another council gets a similar sized grant, then both councils have been assessed as having a similar relative need. This can be an incorrect assumption.

Local government grants commissions implicitly determine a ranking for each council in their state on the basis of relative need when they allocate the general purpose grant and the local road grant to councils. An analysis of the grant per capita for the general purpose component can be used to compare relative need (Appendix E). Appendix E also shows the local road grant, where allocations for each council are divided by their length of local road to obtain a relative expenditure needs measure.

Councils are ranked from the greatest assessed relative need to the least assessed relative need. For each state and the Northern Territory, the position of the average general purpose grant per capita and the average local road grant per kilometre are also shown within the ranking of councils. These state averages are taken from Table 12 and Table 13.

Reviews of local government grants commission methodologies

Local government grants commissions monitor outcomes and refine aspects of their allocation methodologies to be in line with the National Principle requirements of the Act. From time to time local government grants commissions undertake reviews of their methodologies.

Since the Act commenced in July 1995, most local government grants commissions have undertaken major reviews of their methodologies, are undertaking such examinations or have such activities planned (Table 15).

The 2001 Commonwealth Grants Commission review of the operations of the Act reinforced the need to review the methodologies. The review identified the need to revise methodologies to achieve consistency with the principles of relative need, other grant support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Commonwealth Grants Commission 2001).

Table 15 Status of most recent major methodology reviews by state, as at 30 June 2016

State	General purpose grants	Local road grants
NSW	During 2015–16, the New South Wales Government commissioned KPMG to carry out a review. The report from this review was provided to the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission for consideration. No changes to the methodology were implemented.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.
Vic	Updates to the methodology have included population estimates, valuations data, and council expenditure and revenue information.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.
Qld	No changes to the methodology were implemented.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.
WA	No significant changes were made to the methodology since the last major review, which was implemented for the 2012–13 grant determinations. Expenditure and revenue standard equations were updated for new data inputs. The medical cost adjustor changed from a band system to a percentage allocation of actual expenditure, capped at \$75 000.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.
SA	No changes to the methodology were implemented.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.
Tas	The Tasmanian State Grants Commission implemented a change in methodology and recognised returns to councils received from waste management authorities. Previously, these returns were treated as an offset against expenditure. This change means that these returns are now recognised as a component of the total assessed revenue of all councils. The Tasmanian State Grants Commission implemented its exclusion of car parking expenditure from the assessment of council expenditure, to align with the exclusion of car parking revenue. The population decline cost adjustor was altered and is now based on three years of population data rather than five.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.
NT	No changes to the methodology were implemented.	No changes to the methodology were implemented.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Impact of local government grants commission capping policies

Year-to-year variations in the data that local government grants commissions use to determine their allocations to local governments can lead to significant fluctuations in the funding provided to individual local governing bodies. Changes in local government grants commission methodologies to improve allocations, most likely to achieve horizontal equalisation, can also lead to fluctuations. As unexpected changes in annual funding allocations can impede efficient planning by local governments, local government grants commissions have adopted policies to ensure that changes are not unacceptably large from one year to the next.

Many local government grants commissions average the data of several years to reduce fluctuations. Nevertheless, policies to limit changes, by capping increases or decreases, may be used to limit year-to-year variations.

No local governing body receives less than the minimum grant, so local governing bodies on the minimum grant are exempt from capping. In some circumstances, a local government grants commission may decide a local governing body's grant should not be capped. Usually, this is to allow a larger grant increase than would otherwise be possible.

Local government efficiency and performance



Under section 16 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act), an annual report must be made to the Australian Parliament on the operations of the Act. The report must include an assessment of the performance of local governments, including their efficiency, based on comparable national data.

Previous local government national reports have identified the difficulty of basing an assessment on comparable national data, due in large part to the different arrangements each jurisdiction has to collect and report on local government performance.

Each year jurisdictions are asked to report on measures undertaken to improve local government efficiency and performance.

Developments in long-term financial and asset management plans

Jurisdictions were asked to report on developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government during 2015–16. A summary of the progress for each jurisdiction follows.

The **New South Wales** Government instituted the Fit for the Future reform program to create stronger and more effective local councils. The program required councils to submit Fit for the Future proposals. These proposals included an assessment of how well councils currently meet asset management and financial sustainability benchmarks, and how they plan to continue to meet those benchmark processes. This has given councils a solid basis to continually review and improve their financial and asset management plans to ensure they are effectively implemented as an integrated part of the council's operations.

In 2015-16, the **Victoria** State Government issued the revised *Best practice guidance in asset management practices*. A key feature of this guidance has been its alignment with the *Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's asset infrastructure financial management manual* and a commitment to participate in national benchmarking via the National Assessment Framework.

The Local Government Association of **Queensland** provided training and advisory support to councils to develop capability across a range of skills, including financial and asset management. In 2015–16, the Association's Total Solutions courses have trained 389 council officers and elected members in financial management related skills.

Over 2015–16, the **Western Australian** Government capacity building program, supported by Royalties for Regions' Country Local Government Fund, continued to help 64 country local governments to assess their asset management maturity and subsequently establish an asset management improvement plan. The program also helped them to assess and update the condition and useful life data of one critical asset class, resulting in a more accurate calculation of their asset renewal funding gap.

South Australia continued to provide advice and assistance to the sector in 2015–16 through the Local Government Association of South Australia’s Financial Sustainability Program. During the year, resources made available to councils by the Financial Sustainability Program included: subsidies for 18 Councils for up to \$4000 and a report by an asset management advisory committee. This report recommended future directions to help councils in the areas of: waste management; community wastewater management systems; street lighting; council capacity; advocacy; and regional airports as well as more consistent audit treatment of asset management and long-term financial planning.

The **Tasmanian Local Government (Content of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014** outlines the minimum requirements of a council’s financial and asset management plans, strategies and policies, including the classes of assets for which council asset management plans and strategies must apply. At 30 June 2016, 27 of Tasmania’s 29 councils were fully compliant with the Plans and Strategies Order.

In the **Northern Territory**, model financial statements were agreed and made available for local government councils to use for 2015–16 reporting. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory has been tasked with reviewing the take-up and use of these model financial statements for future reflection and improvement.

The **Australian Capital Territory** continued with the Capital Framework which facilitated the procurement of two Private Public Partnership projects in the Australian Capital Territory in 2015–16; the Australian Capital Territory Courts redevelopment and the Light Rail – Stage 1 project. These projects had contractual and financial completion in 2015–16 and have both moved into the construction phase.

Performance measures between local governing bodies

All local governments have a legal requirement to report on their performance under their jurisdiction’s local government legislation. This may be in the form of annual reports, performance statements, financial statements and/or strategic planning reports.

While not all performance information is publicly available, some jurisdictions provide a comparative analysis of local governments within their jurisdiction. This information collected either by the responsible agency or by the local government grants commissions.

For this National Report, state and territory governments and local government associations were asked to report on measures undertaken in 2015–16 to develop and implement comparative local government performance indicators. A summary of these reports for each jurisdiction follows.

New South Wales released its *Your council 2014–15* time series data which marks the 25th year of New South Wales local government councils data publication. This data enables a range of performance indicators to be compared between councils and over time. Data sources include council financial reports, rating records and Australian Bureau of Statistics’ population data.

In November 2015, **Victoria** launched the *Know Your Council* (www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au) website, designed to improve council transparency and accountability and to make it easy for the community to access and compare council performance. The website, based on Victoria’s Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, requires all Victorian councils to collect performance data and report against 66 performance indicators each year. The performance indicators cover 12 different service areas, including finance, roads, waste and libraries.

The framework also includes a checklist of 24 items considered essential for supporting good governance and management in local government.

The *Know Your Council* website has been nominated for a number of national awards. In 2016, the site was awarded Runner Up of the Government 2.0 category at the Australian Government ICT Awards in Sydney, and shortlisted for the Institute of Public Affairs Australia Prime Minister's Awards in Canberra. The *Know Your Council* website is popular, with more than 150 000 unique users visiting the site in the first year alone, and several other jurisdictions around Australia and overseas have showed interest in developing a similar resource.

In addition to the performance reporting framework in place, the Municipal Association of Victoria has worked with its members to implement an open data toolkit. It is designed to help people in all council business areas to understand how they can contribute to and benefit from publishing open data.

Queensland continued to provide information to the community through the *Queensland Local Government Comparative Information Report*. The Local Government Association of Queensland established its Better Councils, Better Communities campaign in 2014, which continues to focus attention on productivity, efficiency and innovation. The campaign's supporting initiatives include a benchmarking service (Ready.Set.Go); best practice portal; and #77 Stories—a public website that celebrates innovative initiatives implemented by councils across Queensland.

In April 2016, **Western Australia** launched its *MyCouncil* website (mycouncil.wa.gov.au). *MyCouncil* provides a place to find out how local governments are raising, spending and managing their money. *MyCouncil* enables users to compare key demographic and financial information. Data such as council expenditure by program rates and other revenue; and service delivery can be viewed for each council and compared with others.

Each year in **South Australia**, the Local Government Association of South Australia assembles an update report that provides the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector. The 2016 update report (covering the fourteen-year period from 1 July 2000 until 30 June 2015) included data for the sector as a whole on the: operating surplus (deficit); net financial liabilities ratio; and operating surplus ratio.

In 2015, the **Tasmanian** Government and councils agreed to develop a continuous improvement framework. The framework provides councils with tools to promote continuous improvement. It will also support performance improvements through the development of new and targeted resources, such as case studies, best practice guides, templates, and training. The framework concept was developed following a 2014 evaluation of the previously established joint Tasmanian State—Local Government Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project.

During 2014–15 in the **Northern Territory**, a Model Financial Statements Working Group was established to develop an annual financial reporting framework for the Northern Territory local government sector. It is anticipated that the model financial statements will include three standard ratios to enable financial performance to be compared across the sector. For 2015–16, the model financial statements were agreed and made available for local government councils to use in 2015–16 reporting. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory has been tasked with reviewing the take-up and use of these model financial statements for future reflection and improvement.

The **Australian Capital Territory** Government participates in the Productivity Commission's annual *Report on government services* which provides information on the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of government services in Australia. The report outlines the Australian Capital Territory's performance relative to other state and territory jurisdictions on key government services including: education, health, community services, justice services, emergency management and housing and homelessness.

Efficiency and effectiveness reforms

As part of their reports, jurisdictions were asked to provide information on 2015-16 reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery. A summary for each jurisdiction follows.

In 2015-16, the **New South Wales** Government implemented a number of key initiatives from its comprehensive Fit for the Future reforms package. These are designed to strengthen and revitalise local councils and their communities. The initiatives included council mergers to create stronger councils and the progression of other structural reforms, as well as improvements to the systems supporting councils.

In 2016, New South Wales reduced council numbers from 152 to 128 through council mergers. These mergers followed the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's comprehensive consultation and assessment of the councils' Fit for the Future proposals in late 2015. This assessment included how well they would meet the current and future needs of their communities.

In 2015-16, New South Wales commenced a series of reforms to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government: a new Local Government Act; a new TCorp borrowing facility; an independent review of regulatory and compliance burden; an independent review of the local government rating system; and improved accountability. They also considered opportunities to redirect Financial Assistance Grant funding to communities with the greatest need.

Victoria has also undertaken several major projects in 2015-16, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its local government sector. These were focused on standardising and analysing strategic resource plans; improving natural disaster and emergency management response arrangements; implementing the Fair Go Rates System; reducing red tape reporting; implementing legislative reform; and implementing and monitoring arrangements under the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement.

Victoria's analysis of councils 2015-16 strategic resource plans shows that Victorian councils collectively expect to spend over \$8.9 billion on capital works over the next four years and that 67 per cent of this expenditure is committed to asset renewal and upgrade.

Through a three-year project, Victoria is aiming to enhance local government's capacity and capability in emergency management. The project was identified as a key priority in the *Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan 2015-2018*.

The Fair Go Rates System was introduced by Victoria in 2015-16 to cap future rate rises based on the consumer price index and enhance transparency and accountability. The Fair Go Rates System aims to facilitate opportunities for community engagement and enable ongoing council financial sustainability.

For the 2015–16 year, the two major reforms to reduce the local government reporting burden included: considering local government impacts in Cabinet submissions, and implementing the Victorian Common Funding Agreement that ensures all Victorian State Government departments use a similar agreement when funding local councils for services and projects.

A comprehensive review of the *Local Government Act 1989* has progressed significantly over 2015–16. In September 2015, Victoria released a discussion paper and then commissioned ten background papers, established eight technical working groups, conducted extensive face-to-face consultations across the state and analysed over 300 submissions in response to the discussion paper. In June 2016, Victorian released a directions paper—*Act for the future*—which outlined 157 proposed government actions to deal with all aspects of a new local government Act.

The Victorian Local Government Digital Transformation Taskforce was formed in March 2016 to improve community outcomes by establishing a strategic direction for the local government sector. The taskforce aims to enable simpler, faster, valued and engaging community interactions with local government through digital transformation.

Following the quadrennial local government elections in March 2016, **Queensland** conducted councillor training sessions to help elected councillors understand their roles and responsibilities including statutory responsibilities. These sessions were conducted in 67 local government areas across the state and 590 councillors attended. Queensland also sponsored 64 local government employees and councillors to undertake the nationally accredited Diploma in Local Government Program in both administration and asset management.

Following the Queensland Auditor-General's *Report on fraud management in local government* in June 2015, the Queensland Government amended the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) and the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (Qld) to require local governments to report fraud losses. In addition, local governments are now required to keep written records of alleged and proven fraud-related losses.

In addition to this legislative reform, Queensland engaged the Local Government Association of Queensland to develop a range of resources, templates and support services focused on smaller councils to help them implement fraud management regimes. These resources are available online and were supported by 12 workshops conducted throughout the state that were attended by 123 officers from 38 local governments.

Queensland councils continued to participate in large scale shared service arrangements set up by the Local Government Association of Queensland. Independent analysis has shown these subsidiary businesses continue to save participating councils a combined \$100 million per annum.

In 2015–16, **Western Australian** continued to deliver local government capacity building initiatives, including training, to elected members in non-metropolitan local governments. Since the pilot was launched in 2014, 324 councillors have attended this training.

Western Australia continued to deliver its Better Practice Review program to review key areas of local government's activities and operations, including governance; integrated planning and reporting; planning and regulatory functions; asset and financial management; community; consultation; and workforce planning. Reviews have been undertaken at the towns of Narrogin and Port Hedland, and the shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Irwin, Toodyay, Morawa, Northam, Esperance, Wyalkatchem, Broome, Capel and Victoria Plains.

The efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery continues to be supported by the Western Australian Local Government Association's deployment of technologies to automate processes and improve the timeliness of procurement processes. 'eSign' continued to support a process whereby hundreds of contracts are expedited by removing the need for printing, sending and paper-based file management. eQuotes has also seen thousands of purchasing engagements streamlined to a quotation process with auditable and transparent records.

For **South Australia**, the Local Government Research and Development Scheme continued as a primary source of funding for research in local government. Funded through tax-equivalent payments by the Local Government Finance Authority and royalties on extractive minerals, it was overseen by an advisory committee. The scheme has approved 683 projects since its inception in 1997, with a total of \$27.6 million in approved funding. This has attracted significant matched funding and in-kind support from other sources.

The Local Government Association of South Australia continued to provide a range of material to help councils meet their governance obligations. These materials include model policies and procedures, guidelines, information papers and codes of practice.

In the 2015-16, **Tasmania** allocated \$400 000 to help councils develop feasibility studies for local government reform. A further \$200 000 was allocated in 2016-17 to enable all willing councils to participate in investigations. Initially, two memoranda of understanding were signed between the Tasmanian Government and councils in Tasmania's south.

The memoranda of understanding outlined proposals for local government reform opportunities, including voluntary amalgamations, strategic shared services and resource sharing options for greater Hobart councils and south-east councils. Subsequently, two memoranda of understanding were signed with councils in the north-west and a separate memorandum of understanding was signed with councils in the north to undertake feasibility studies into strategic shared services.

The studies in the north and north-west will identify opportunities for councils to work more collaboratively through enhanced shared services or strategic resource sharing arrangements.

A discussion paper was released in Tasmania in April 2016 which outlined a targeted review of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas). The targeted review of the Act is aimed at improving governance arrangements within councils. The review will ensure the legislative framework for local government is effective and efficient.

Tasmania released its *Good Governance Guide* in May 2016. The Guide acts as a resource for Tasmanian local government elected members to help build a better understanding of and promote and enhance good governance in local government.

The **Northern Territory** established local authorities in 63 remote communities within nine regional councils. These comprise between six and 14 members, including community nominated and regional council elected members. A review of local authorities in 2015-16 indicated that local authorities were delivering on their objectives to deliver a stronger local voice and greater accountability for service delivery. There are 600 members of local authorities, including 522 Indigenous people (87 per cent) and 246 women (41 per cent). In 2015-16, local authorities held 400 meetings, of which 288 (72 per cent) successfully reached a quorum.

Examples of council reforms during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery included:

- installing solar power in council buildings and LED street lighting to reduce electricity costs;
- rehabilitating abandoned landfill sites to more appropriate standards, using guidelines that were developed during the year, to enable their closure;
- auditing household waste to plan for future waste management strategies;
- purchasing equipment to safely recycle fluorescent tube lighting;
- introducing drone technology in the areas of asset management, mapping and disaster management, tree condition assessments, wetlands assessment and feral animal monitoring; and
- installing closed-circuit television, improved lighting and fencing to protect public assets against vandalism.

Access Canberra provides a one-stop shop for the **Australian Capital Territory** Government customer and regulatory services. During 2015–16, the service:

- installed new touch screen terminals at Access Canberra service centres, enabling citizens to get their business done and get back to their day without having to wait in a queue;
- simplified forms and made them more accessible, with 221 services online;
- processed more than 1.3 million online transactions;
- moved the publication of public notices online and removed the requirement to advertise notices in print media, saving businesses time and money; and
- simplified the licence application process for the security industry.





Reporting requirements

Section 16 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) requires an assessment, based on comparable national data, of the delivery of local government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

During 2015–16, all jurisdictions pursued initiatives to promote the delivery of local government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A summary of key initiatives is also provided later in this chapter.

Closing the Gap

In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) set targets aimed at eliminating the gap in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Current Closing the Gap targets:

- Close the gap in life expectancy within a generation (by 2031).
- Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018).
- 95 percent of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025) – renewed target.
- Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018).
- Halve the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy achievements within a decade (by 2018).
- Halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020).
- Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018).

State, territory and local government initiatives

An outline of key activities undertaken by jurisdictions and local government associations to improve the provision of local government services to Indigenous peoples in 2015–16 is as follows.

All **New South Wales** councils are required to prepare integrated planning and reporting plans to facilitate community strategic planning and the delivery of council services to best meet community needs. These plans also require councils to develop a community engagement strategy, which includes how they will engage with hard-to-reach groups. The strategy should ensure that all groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have an opportunity to be heard. This then informs the council's community strategic plan which identifies the community's main goals and strategies. Through this process councils also consider New South Wales Government and other relevant plans.

In this way, integrated planning and reporting helps councils to work in partnership with the New South Wales Government and others to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in New South Wales.

Victoria is working to build a community of practice within the Victorian local government sector to advance the interests of Aboriginal people. Underpinning this commitment is Victoria's *Ministerial statement on local government* to develop and implement an Aboriginal local government action plan.

The Aboriginal local government action plan aims to capture and showcase best practice and will be an important resource for councils across the state. It will recognise, celebrate and share good practice and will present a practical framework to help councils: improve relationships with Aboriginal communities; promote reconciliation; and engage Aboriginal people in planning, decision-making, employment, programs and services.

The Victorian Government continued to fund the *Maggolee* website (www.maggolee.org.au), hosted by Reconciliation Victoria, to support action plan implementation and uptake. *Maggolee's* objective is to provide a platform that celebrates excellence and supports improved practice among Victorian local governments engaging with Aboriginal communities and advancing reconciliation.

The Victorian Government is facilitating the implementation of the Local Government Engagement Strategy of the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Gunai Kurnai Recognition and Settlement Agreement.

Twelve local government boundaries overlap Dja Dja Wurrung Country, and nine overlap in Gunai Kurnai Country, according to the native title determinations under the Victorian Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.

The Victorian Government is responsible for the Local Government Engagement Strategy of both the Recognition and Settlement Agreements and has facilitated workshops and training sessions for local governments involved in Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement to increase engagement in, and facilitate actions under, the Recognition and Settlement Agreement. Local Government Victoria will expand this approach to local governments involved in the Gunai Kurnai Recognition and Settlement Agreements in 2016–17.

Queensland continued to provide funding to Indigenous local governments to help them provide local government services to their communities. In 2015–16, there was a \$30.3 million funding pool for the State Government Financial Aid program for the state's 16 Indigenous councils. Each council received an allocation, in lieu of rates, to help deliver local government services such as community and town planning, urban storm water management, roads, environment and transport, and water and sewerage.

In 2015–16, Indigenous councils in Queensland also received \$3.5 million under the Revenue Replacement Program, an initiative under the state's alcohol-related harm reduction strategy. Nine Indigenous local governments that compulsorily surrendered their council-held liquor licences in 2009 received the funding. Funding was provided under this program to help councils maintain community services previously funded by the profits from alcohol sales.

Under the Indigenous Economic Development Grant program, Queensland continued its commitment to support Indigenous councils to employ municipal services staff. Each eligible council received \$80 000 to support 1.6 full-time equivalent positions, except for Yarrabah and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councils and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, which each received \$160 000 to support 3.2 full-time equivalent positions.

In 2015–16 the Queensland Government undertook a \$2.5 million upgrade to the drinking water infrastructure at Pormpuraaw, a \$242 000 upgrade to the wastewater infrastructure at Palm Island and an \$89 000 upgrade to the wastewater infrastructure at Cherbourg.

Following the March 2016 local government elections, two Indigenous Leaders Forums of the 17 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils (including Torres Shire Council) were convened. The forums served to establish effective networks between newly elected members, identify collective strategies for addressing common issues and provide an opportunity for quality dialogue between council representatives and relevant Ministers from the Queensland and Australian Governments. An additional forum was convened in late 2016 to discuss ongoing public housing issues. A blueprint for a submission on the future of public and community housing arose from the forum and was subsequently submitted to the Australian Government.

A third annual summit between Queensland Police and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils was convened and attended by the Queensland Police Commissioner to discuss key policing issues. This collaborative approach between the Police Commissioner and councils has proven to be very productive in improving police and community relations and policing generally in the community.

The **Western Australian** Government is continuing to deliver a major reform program. With support from Aboriginal people, the Western Australian Government has formed leadership groups across the state that can work with local governments and service providers on the ground to improve service delivery. This approach will create opportunities to strengthen communities and benefit children and families through better services and investment locally.

Local governments continue to be involved in providing high-level strategic advice on, and identifying opportunities for, changes that could be made to government expenditure, policies, programs and governance to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Biennial ordinary local government elections were conducted on 17 October 2015. Prior to the elections, the Western Australian Department of Local Government in conjunction with the Western Australian Electoral Commission ran a campaign designed to increase voter turnout and increase the diversity of local government representatives.

In **South Australia** and with the support and encouragement of the Local Government Association of South Australia, 25 councils have signed Indigenous land use agreements with the Kaurna people. Actions are now underway to facilitate formal agreements through Native Title Services. The Local Government Association of South Australia also drafted its reconciliation action plan.

In April 2015, the South Australian Government secured \$15 million from the Australian Government to provide municipal services to Aboriginal communities outside of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. Over 2015-16, \$2.7 million was provided to deliver municipal services including waste management, dog control and environmental health, road maintenance and water provision.

Of the 17 service providers funded, four are local councils or a similar body, including the:

- Berri Barmera Council which provides services to Gerard
- District Council of Yorke Peninsula which provides services to Point Pearce
- District Council of Coober Pedy which provides services to Umoona
- Outback Communities Authority which provides services to Dunjiba.

This funding will continue over 2016-17 to support these vital services.

In **Tasmania**, the Flinders Council has undertaken initiatives specifically for Aboriginal communities. The Flinders Council works in partnership with the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated to deliver the Furneaux Festival. This is a three-day event that celebrates the Islands' musical heritage, shared culture and history. The event is designed to include and acknowledge the Aboriginal community over the Australia Day long weekend.

Flinders Council also delivers an annual school holiday program with the support of the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated. The program is delivered four times a year and has included arts-based activities, rock climbing, abseiling, learn-to-surf school, performing arts and comedy, tennis clinics, DJ workshops and dance.

Local authorities were established in 63 remote communities across the **Northern Territory**. Of the 600 members of local authorities, 522 are Indigenous (87 per cent) and 246 are women (41 per cent). In addition to delivering a stronger local voice and greater accountability for service delivery, one of the functions of the local authorities is to determine local projects that reflect the needs and priorities of the local community.

In 2015-16, the 63 local authorities approved 391 local projects for their communities. Three hundred and fifty-three of these (90 per cent) have been completed or are in progress. Projects to date include community amenities, playgrounds, water parks, sporting facilities, community lighting, community festivals and public toilets. Regional councils receive funding of \$5.1 million per year for local authority projects. This is allocated through a methodology consistent with that used for distributing Financial Assistance Grant program funding.

In 2015-16, the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development provided \$7.9 million in Indigenous Jobs Development Funding to nine regional councils and one shire council. This funding helped subsidise 50 per cent of the cost of employing Indigenous staff within their councils. The grant provides regional councils with financial assistance for salaries and approved on-costs for Indigenous employees delivering local government services.

In 2016, the **Australian Capital Territory**, in collaboration with the Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, delivered Mura Gunya—meaning ‘Pathway to Home’. This is a purpose built development of five, two-bedroom units designed specifically for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Mura Gunya development was opened in September 2016.

The Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2015–18 was signed on 23 April 2015 by the Chief Minister, the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, and the Head of the Australian Capital Territory Public Service. The agreement is the overarching document that guides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the ACT over the next three years. The agreement aims to build strong families by focusing on seven key focus areas: cultural identity; healthy mind, healthy body; feeling safe; connecting the community; employment and economic independence; education; and leadership. An implementation plan for the agreement is currently being developed.

The Australian Capital Territory Government launched *Reconciliation – Keeping it Alive 2016–2018* in 2016. The Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group developed the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan concept of *Reconciliation – Keeping it Alive 2016–2018* as the theme of the Directorates third reconciliation action plan. The Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan is communicated through a suite of tools including the Reconciliation Postcard which engages with questions relating to reconciliation and the Directorates Cultural Integrity Framework, and Keeping it Alive, a cultural object in the form of a double-sided poster.

In 2016, the Australian Capital Territory Government’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Network (Staff Network) commenced meeting with the senior executive team to progress the strategic priorities of the network; to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff; and to provide mentoring and career development opportunities. The Staff Network co-designed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mentoring Program with the Directorate and identified potential mentors and types of mentoring options that suit the needs of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.



Appendix A

National Principles



Under section 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act), the Australian Government provides financial assistance for local government purposes by means of grants to the states and self-governing territories for the purpose of improving:

- the financial capacity of local governing bodies;
- the capacity of local governing bodies to provide their residents with an equitable level of services;
- the certainty of funding for local governing bodies;
- the efficiency and effectiveness of local governing bodies; and
- the provision, by local governing bodies, of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In determining allocations, local government grant commissions are required to make their recommendations in line with the National Principles. The National Principles are set out in Figure 5 and Figure 6. Figure 7 describes the horizontal equalisation National Principle in detail.

The main objective of having National Principles is to establish a nationally-consistent basis for distributing financial assistance to local government under the Act. The Act includes a requirement (section 6(1)) for the Australian Government Minister responsible for local government to formulate National Principles after consulting with jurisdictions and local government.

The formulated National Principles are a disallowable instrument under the Act. As such, any amendments, including establishment of new principles, must be tabled in both Houses of the Australian Parliament before they can come into effect. Members and senators then have 15 sitting days in which to lodge a disallowance motion. If such a motion is lodged, the respective House has 15 sitting days in which to put and defeat the disallowance motion. If the disallowance motion is defeated, the amendment stands. If the disallowance motion is passed, the amendment will be deemed to be disallowed.

Figure 5 National Principles governing allocation by states and the Northern Territory among local governing bodies – general purpose

A. General purpose

The National Principles relating to allocations of the general purpose grant payable under section 9 of the Act among local governing bodies are as follows:

1. Horizontal equalisation

The general purpose component will be allocated to local governing bodies, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis as defined by the Act. This is a basis that ensures each local governing body in the state or territory is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the state or territory. It takes account of differences in the expenditure required by those local governing bodies in the performance of their functions and in the capacity of those local governing bodies to raise revenue.

2. Effort neutrality

An effort or policy neutral approach will be used to assess the expenditure requirements and revenue-raising capacity of each local governing body. This means, as far as practicable, that policies of individual local governing bodies in terms of expenditure and revenue effort will not affect grant determination.

3. Minimum grant

The minimum general purpose allocation for a local governing body in a year will be not less than the amount to which the local governing body would be entitled if 30 per cent of the total amount of the general purpose grant to which the state or territory is entitled under section 9 of the Act in respect of the year, were allocated among local governing bodies in the state or territory on a per capita basis.

4. Other grant support

Other relevant grant support provided to local governing bodies to meet any of the expenditure needs assessed should be taken into account using an inclusion approach.

5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Financial assistance shall be allocated to councils in a way that recognises the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within their boundaries.

6. Council amalgamation

Where two or more local governing bodies are amalgamated into a single body, the general purpose grant provided to the new body for each of the four years following amalgamation should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities.

Figure 6 *National principles governing allocation by states and the Northern Territory among local governing bodies – identified local road*

A. Identified local road

The National Principle relating to allocation of the amounts payable under section 12 of the Act (the identified road component of the financial assistance grant program) among local governing bodies is as follows:

1. Identified road component

The identified road component of the financial assistance grant should be allocated to local governing bodies as far as practicable on the basis of the relative needs of each local governing body for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. In assessing road needs, relevant considerations include length, type and use of roads in each local governing area.

Figure 7 *What is horizontal equalisation?*

Horizontal equalisation would be achieved if every council in a state or territory, by means of reasonable revenue-raising effort, were able to afford to provide a similar range and quality of services. The Australian Government pursues a policy of horizontal equalisation when it distributes goods and services tax revenue to state and territory governments.

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) requires the Minister, in formulating the National Principles, to have regard to the need to ensure the funds are allocated, as far as is practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis. Section 6(3) of the Act defines horizontal equalisation as being an allocation of funds that:

- ensures each local governing body in a state is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the state
- takes account of differences in the expenditure required to be incurred by local governing bodies in the performance of their functions and in their capacity to raise revenue.

Distribution on the basis of horizontal equalisation is determined by estimating the costs each council would incur in providing a normal range and standard of services and by estimating the revenue each council could obtain through the normal range and standard of rates and charges. The allocation is then altered to compensate for variations in expenditure and revenue to bring all councils up to the same level of financial capacity.

This means councils that would incur higher relative costs in providing normal services—for example in remote areas (where transport costs are higher) or areas with a higher proportion of elderly or pre-school aged people (where there will be more demand for specific services)—will receive relatively more grant money. Similarly, councils with a strong rate base (highly valued residential properties, high proportion of industrial and/or commercial property) will tend to receive relatively less grant money.



Appendix B

Jurisdictional submissions

This appendix contains the submissions from state and territory governments and local government associations. Headings have been standardised and minor edits made to achieve consistency in the report.

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) requires that the relevant state and territory minister and bodies representative of local government be consulted when preparing this report.

All state and territory governments and local government associations were invited to make submissions. Local Government New South Wales did not provide a submission. A joint submission was provided by South Australia. Individual submissions were received from the Australian Local Government Association; the governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and the Northern Territory; and the local government associations of Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Report from the New South Wales Government

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission methodology has not changed significantly since last year. The two grant components are distributed on the basis of principles developed in consultation with local government and consistent with the National Principles of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth).

General purpose component

The general purpose component of the grant attempts to equalise the financial capacity of councils. The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission uses the direct assessment method. The approach taken considers cost disabilities in service provision on the one hand (expenditure allowances) and an assessment of councils' relative capacity to raise revenue on the other (revenue allowances).

Expenditure allowances are calculated for each council for a selected range of council services. The allowances attempt to compensate councils for expected above average costs resulting from issues that are beyond their control. To be consistent with the effort neutral principle, council policy decisions concerning the level of service provided, or if there is a service provided at all, are not considered.

Expenditure allowances are calculated for twenty-one council services. These services are: general administration and governance, aerodromes, services for aged and disabled, building control, public cemeteries, services for children, general community services, cultural amenities, control of dogs and other animals, fire control and emergency services, general health services, library services, noxious plants and pest control, town planning control,

recreational services, stormwater drainage and national report flood mitigation, street and gutter cleaning, street lighting, and maintenance of urban local roads, sealed rural local roads, and unsealed rural local roads.

An additional allowance is calculated for councils outside the Sydney statistical division that recognises their isolation. The general formula for calculating expenditure allowances is: the number of units multiplied by the standard cost multiplied by the disability factor, where:

- the number of units is the measure of use for the service for the council. For most services the number of units is the population, for others it may be the number of properties or the length of roads.
- the standard cost represents the state average cost for each of the twenty-one selected services. The calculation is based on a state-wide average of councils' net costs, excluding extreme values, using selected items from Special Schedule 1 of councils' financial reports, averaged over five years.
- the disability factor is the measure of disadvantage for the council.

A disability factor is the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission's estimate of the additional cost, expressed as a percentage, of providing a standard service due to inherent characteristics that are beyond a council's control. For example, the disability factor would be twenty per cent if it was estimated to cost a council 20 per cent more than the standard for a library service, because of issues such as: non-resident borrowers, aged population, student numbers, non-English speaking community, and population distribution. Consistent with the effort neutral principle, the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission does not compensate councils for cost differences that arise due to policy decisions of the council, management performance or accounting differences.

For each service, the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission has identified a number of variables that are considered to be the most significant in influencing a council's expenditure on that particular service. These variables are termed 'disabilities'. A council may have a disability due to inherent factors such as topography, climate, traffic, or service duplication. In addition to disabilities identified by the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission, 'other' disabilities relating to individual councils may be determined. These may arise where unique circumstances have been identified as a result of council visits or special submissions.

The general approach to calculating a disability factor is to take each disability relating to a service and to apply the following formula: disability factor equals (council measure divided by the standard measure - 1) multiplied by 100 multiplied by the weighting, where:

- the council measure is the individual council's measure for the disability being assessed (for example, population growth)
- the standard measure is the state standard (generally the average) measure for the disability being assessed
- the weighting is meant to reflect the significance of the measure in terms of the expected additional cost. The weightings have generally been determined by establishing a factor for the maximum disability based on a sample of councils or through discussion with appropriate peak organisations.

Negative scores are not generally calculated. That is, if the council score is less than the standard, a factor of zero is substituted. The factors calculated for each disability are then added together to give a total disability factor for the service.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission uses the inclusion approach in the treatment of specific purpose grants for library services and local roads. This means the disability allowance is discounted by the specific purpose grant as a proportion of the standardised expenditure.

The deduction approach is used for services where the level of specific purpose payment assistance is related to council effort. This method deducts specific purpose grant amounts from all council expenditure before standard costs are calculated. The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission considers the deduction approach to be more consistent with the 'effort neutral' requirement specified in the National Principles.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission also calculates an allowance for additional costs associated with isolation. The isolation allowance is calculated using a regression analysis model based on the additional costs of isolation and distances from Sydney and major regional centres. Only councils outside the greater Sydney statistical area are included. Details of the formula are shown later in this section. An additional component of the isolation allowance is included that specifically recognises the additional industrial relations obligations of councils in western New South Wales.

A pensioner rebate allowance is calculated which recognises that a council's share of pensioner rebates is an additional cost. Councils with high proportions of ratepayers that qualify for eligible pensioner rebates are considered to be more disadvantaged than those with a lower proportion.

Revenue allowances attempt to compensate councils for their relative lack of revenue-raising capacity. Property values are used to assess revenue-raising capacity because rates, based on property values, are the principal source of a council's income. Importantly, property values are also considered to be a useful indicator of the relative economic strength of local areas.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission's methodology compares land values per property for the council to a state standard value and multiplies the result by a state standard rate-in-the-dollar. For comparative purposes, the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission purchases valuation data that has been calculated to a common base date for all councils by the NSW Valuer-General. To reduce seasonal and market fluctuations in the property market, the valuations are averaged over three years. In the revenue allowance calculation, councils with low values per property are assessed as being disadvantaged and are brought up to the average (positive allowances), while councils with high values per property are assessed as being advantaged and are brought down to the average (negative allowances). That is, the theoretical revenue-raising capacity of each council is equalised against the state standard. The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission's approach excludes the rating policies of individual councils (effort neutral).

Separate calculations are made for urban and non-urban properties. Non-rateable properties are excluded from the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission's calculations because the calculations deal with relativities between councils, based on the theoretical revenue-raising capacity of each rateable property.

In developing the methodology, the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission was concerned that the use of natural weighting would exaggerate the redistributive effect of the average revenue standards. That is, the revenue allowances are substantially more significant than the expenditure allowances. This issue was discussed with the Australian Government and the agreed principles provide that *'revenue allowances may be discounted to achieve equilibrium with the expenditure allowances'* (see Principles on page 66). As a result, both allowances are given equal weight.

The discounting helps reduce the distortion caused to the revenue calculations as a result of the property values in the Sydney metropolitan area.

The objective approach to discounting revenue allowances reduces the extreme positives and negatives calculated, yet maintains the relativities between councils established in the initial calculation.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission does not specifically consider rate pegging, which applies in New South Wales. The property-based calculations are essentially dealing with relativities between councils and rate pegging affects all councils.

Movements in the grants are generally caused by annual variations in property valuations, standard costs, road and bridge length, disability measures and population.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission, because of the practical and theoretical problems involved, does not consider the requirements of councils for capital expenditure. In order to assess capital expenditure requirements, the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission would have to undertake a survey of each council's infrastructure needs and then assess the individual projects for which capital assistance is sought. This would undermine council autonomy, because the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission, rather than the council, would determine which projects were worthwhile. Further, councils that had failed to adequately maintain their assets could be rewarded at the expense of those that did maintain them.

The issue of funding for local water and sewerage undertakings was examined during the consultation process between the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission, the then Local Government and Shires Associations, and local government generally.

The Associations and local government recommended to the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission that water and sewerage services should not be included in the distribution principles for funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program because:

- not all general purpose councils in New South Wales perform such services
- the level of funds available for other council services would be significantly diminished if such services were considered
- inclusion would result in a reduced and distorted distribution of funds to general purpose councils
- the state government makes other sources of funds and subsidies available to councils for such services.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission agreed and accordingly, water and sewerage services are excluded from the distribution formula.

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission views income from council business activities as a policy decision and, therefore, does not consider it in the grant calculations (effort neutral). Similarly, losses are not considered either.

Debt servicing is related to council policy and is therefore excluded from the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission's calculations. In the same way, the consequences of poor past council decisions are not considered.

Generally the levels of a council's expenditure on a particular service does not affect grants. Use of a council's expenditure is generally limited to determining a state standard cost for each selected service. The standard costs for these services are then applied to all councils when calculating their grants. What an individual council may actually spend on a service has very little bearing on the standard cost or its grant.

Efficient councils are rewarded by the effort neutrality approach to the calculations. To illustrate this, two councils with similar populations, road networks, property values, and disability measures would receive similar grants. The efficient council can use its grant funds to provide better facilities for its ratepayers. The inefficient council cannot provide additional services to its ratepayers. Therefore, the efficient council will benefit from its efficiency.

Council categories have no bearing on the grants. Categories simply provide a convenient method of grouping councils for analysis purposes.

Effective from 1 July 2006, the National Principles embodied an amalgamation principle that states:

Where two or more local governing bodies are amalgamated into a single body, the general purpose grant provided to the new body for each of the four years following amalgamation should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities.

In May 2016, the then New South Wales Premier, the Hon Mike Baird, and the Hon Paul Toole MP, the then Minister for Local Government, announced the creation of 19 new, stronger and more efficient councils in metropolitan and regional New South Wales. With the subsequent creation of Bayside Council, the number of New South Wales councils has reduced from 152 to 128.

No New South Wales councils required protection under this provision in 2015–16 as a result of the mergers due to the timing of the announcement.

Local road component

The method of allocating the local road component is based on a simple formula developed by the New South Wales roads authority. The formula uses a council's proportion of the state's population, local road length and bridge length.

Formulae

The formulae used to calculate expenditure and revenue allowances of the general purpose component follows.

Expenditure allowances – general

Allowances for most services are calculated on the following general formula: $A_c = N_c \times E_s \times D_c$ (where: A_c = allowance for the council for the expenditure service; N_c = number of units to be serviced by council; E_s = standard expenditure per unit for the service; and D_c = disability for the council for service in percentage terms).

Expenditure allowances – road length allowances

In addition to the disability allowances, road length allowances are calculated for each road type based on the following formula:

$$A_c = N_c \times E_s \times \frac{L_c}{N_c} - \frac{L_s}{N_s}$$

Where:

A_c = allowance for road length

N_c = number of relevant properties for the council

E_s = standard cost per kilometre

$\frac{L_c}{N_c}$ = council's relevant length of road per relevant property

$\frac{L_s}{N_s}$ = standard relevant length of road per relevant property

Isolation allowances

Isolation allowances are calculated for all non-metropolitan councils based on the formula:

$$A_c = P_c \times ([D_{sc} \times K_1] + [D_{nc} \times K_2] + I_c).$$

Where: A_c = the isolation allowance for each council; P_c = the adjusted population for each council; D_{sc} = the distance from each council's administrative centre to Sydney; D_{nc} = the distance from each council's administrative centre to the nearest major regional centre (a population centre of more than 20 000); I_c = the additional per capita allowance due to industrial award obligations (if applicable); and K_1 and K_2 are constants derived from regression analysis.

Specific purpose payments

Allowances for services are discounted where appropriate to recognise the contribution of specific purpose grants. The discount factor that generally applies is:

$$1 - \frac{G_c}{(N_c \times E_s) + A_c}$$

Where: G_c = the specific purpose grant received by the council for the expenditure service; N_c = number of units to be serviced by council; E_s = standard expenditure per unit for the service; and A_c = allowance for the council for the expenditure service.

Revenue allowances – general

The general formula for calculating revenue allowances is: $Ac = Nc \times ts \times (Ts - Tc)$.

Where: Ac = revenue allowance for the council; Nc = number of properties (assessments); ts = standard tax rate (rate in the dollar); Ts = standard value per property; and Tc = council's value per property.

The standard value per property (Ts) is calculated as follows:

$$Ts = \frac{\text{sum of rateable values for all councils}}{\text{sum of number of properties for all councils}}$$

The standard tax rate (ts) is calculated as follows:

$$ts = \frac{\text{sum of net rates levied for all councils}}{\text{sum of rateable values for all councils}}$$

Revenue allowances – pensioner rebate allowances

The general formula for the allowance to recognise the differential impact of compulsory pensioner rates rebates is: $Ac = Rc \times Nc \times (Pc - Ps)$.

Where: Ac = the allowance for the council; Rc = the standardised rebate per property for the council; Nc = the number of residential properties; Pc = the proportion of eligible pensioner assessments for the council; and Ps = the proportion of eligible pensioner assessments for all councils.

The standardised rebate for the council (Rc) is: $Rc = 0.25 \times Tc \times ts$.

Where: Tc = the average value per residential property in the council and ts = the standard tax rate (rate in the dollar) for residential properties. The maximum value for Rc is set at \$125. Tc and ts are calculated as for the revenue allowances except only residential properties are used.

Principles – general purpose (equalisation) component

These principles, consistent with the National Principles of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth), are based on an extensive program of consultation with local government. The agreed principles are:

1. General purpose grants to local governing bodies will be allocated as far as practicable on a full equalisation basis as defined in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth); that is a basis which attempts to compensate local governing bodies for differences in expenditure required in the performance of their functions and in their capacity to raise revenue.
2. The assessment of revenue and expenditure allowances of local governing bodies will, as far as is practicable, be independent of the policy or practices of those bodies in raising revenue and the provision of services.
3. Revenue-raising capacity will primarily be determined on the basis of property values; positive and negative allowances relative to average standards may be calculated.
4. Revenue allowances may be discounted to achieve equilibrium with expenditure allowances.

5. Generally for each expenditure function an allowance will be determined using recurrent cost; both positive and negative allowances relative to average standards may be calculated.
6. Expenditure allowances will be discounted to take account of specific purpose grants.
7. Additional costs associated with non-resident use of services and facilities will be recognised in determining expenditure allowances.

Principles – local road component

Financial assistance, which is made available as an identified local road component of local government financial assistance, shall be allocated so as to provide Aboriginal communities equitable treatment in regard to their access and internal local road needs. The distribution principles are as follows:

1. Urban [metropolitan] area – Urban area means an area designated as an urban area: (a) the Sydney Statistical Division; (b) the Newcastle Statistical District; and (c) the Wollongong Statistical District.
2. Rural [non-metropolitan] area – rural area means an area not designated as an urban area.
3. Initial distribution of 27.54 per cent to local roads in urban areas and 72.46 per cent to local roads in rural areas.
4. Local road grant in urban areas. Funds will be allocated:
 - a. five per cent distributed to individual councils on the basis of bridge length
 - b. 95 per cent distributed to councils on the basis of (i) 60 per cent distributed on length of roads, and (ii) 40 per cent distributed on population.
5. Local road grant in rural areas. Funds will be allocated: (a) Seven per cent distributed to individual councils on the basis of bridge length; and (b) 93 per cent distributed to councils on the basis of (i) 80 per cent distributed on length of roads, and (ii) 20 per cent distributed on population.
6. Data
 - a. Population is based on the most up-to-date estimated resident population figures available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
 - b. Road length is based on the most up-to-date data available to the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission for formed roads, which are councils' financial responsibility.
 - c. Bridge length is based on the most up-to-date data available to the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission for major bridges and culverts six metres and over in length, measured along the centre line of the carriageway, which are councils' financial responsibility.
 - d. The method of application of the statistics shall be agreed to between representatives of the Local Government Grants Commission of New South Wales and the Local Government Association of New South Wales.

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding for 2015–16 from 2014–15

In 2013–14, the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission put strategies in place to deliver improved outcomes to smaller rural communities, generally those with resident populations below 10 000. This decision, which resulted from the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission's observations during their rounds of public hearings, was consistent with the New South Wales Independent Local Government Review Panel's findings.

The strategies included:

- applying a weighting to the standard cost for unsealed local roads in the general purpose component of the grant on the basis that the standard cost did not reflect the inability of small rural councils to adequately fund these roads
- a reassessment of a small number of other discretionary disability factors in the administration and governance function
- removal of the urban density measure from the recreation function.

In addition, the long-standing upper capping limit that had applied to movements in the general purpose component grant was relaxed to more quickly move funds to the smaller rural remote councils.

To help minimise the budgetary impact of sudden and unexpected grant reductions the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission continued the long-standing arrangement of a lower limit on grant movements for the general purpose component.

These strategies were extended for the 2015–16 year to help reduce the impact for councils most reliant on grant funding caused by the Australian Government's decision to pause indexation. The strategies for 2015–16 included:

- weighting the standard cost for unsealed local roads in the general purpose component
- replacing the population growth measure with a measure for below average population growth in the administration function
- increasing weighting that applies to economies of scale
- an ongoing review of a number of other disability factors across a range of expenditure functions
- relaxing the upper capping limit to facilitate the effect of the grant changes to rural remote councils.

When compared to 2014–15, the 2015–16 general purpose component grant outcomes resulted in:

- reduced grants to metropolitan councils by 1.9 per cent on average
- increased grants to non-metropolitan councils by 0.6 per cent The top five general purpose component increases were for: Byron (10.5 per cent), Brewarrina (9.7 per cent), Carrathool (8.6 per cent), Central Darling (8.3 per cent) and Balranald (8.0 per cent)
- eight councils being protected by a capped lower limit of a five per cent reduction – Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Canterbury, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Marrickville and Queanbeyan
- an increase in minimum grant councils by two to twenty-six, which represents 31 per cent of the state's population.

In addition to general purpose councils, Lord Howe Island and the unincorporated areas of Silverton and Tibooburra were also recipients of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program. In 2015-16, Lord Howe Island received a 1.7 per cent increase, and Silverton and Tibooburra both received a 0.1 per cent increase.

Developments in relation to the use of long term financial and asset management plans for 2015-16

Local councils in New South Wales report under an integrated planning and reporting framework. This is designed to improve councils' strategic community planning, including long-term financial and asset management planning, and streamline reporting to the community.

The integrated planning and reporting framework requires councils to prepare the following plans:

- community engagement strategy;
- community strategic plan – 10+ year timeframe
- delivery program – four year timeframe
- operational plan – one year timeframe
- resourcing strategy – including a long-term financial plan (10+ years), asset management policy, strategy and plans (10+ years), and workforce management strategy (four years).

The framework is designed to ensure that councils approach investing in infrastructure and economic development in a sustainable way, with a view to the future and to delivering outcomes for the community.

All New South Wales councils (including county councils) have planned and reported under the integrated planning and reporting framework since 1 July 2012. The New South Wales Office of Local Government supports implementation of this framework through resources, workshops and advice.

For 2015-16, the New South Wales Office of Local Government continued to provide oversight and support for councils developing and implementing long-term financial and asset management plans. As part of the New South Wales Government's current Fit for the Future reform program to create stronger and more effective local councils, councils were required to submit Fit for the Future proposals. These included an assessment of how well councils currently meet asset management and financial sustainability benchmarks and what their plans are to continue to meet those benchmarks into the future.

This has given councils a solid basis to continually review and improve their financial and asset management plans to ensure they are effectively implemented as an integrated part of council's operations.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures for 2015–16

Local government performance indicators

The publication of the New South Wales Office of Local Government's Your council 2014–15 time series data marks the 25th year of the publication of data on New South Wales local government councils. This data enables a range of performance indicators to be compared between councils and over time.

Data sources include council financial reports, rating records and Australian Bureau of Statistics' population data. The information collected has also been used to calculate funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program, analyse councils' financial health and check rate collection compliance.

To promote use, transparency and accountability, the New South Wales Office of Local Government continues to make comparative data publications and time series data freely accessible via the internet.

As part of the New South Wales Government's current Fit for the Future reform program, the New South Wales Government has also been developing a new local government performance measurement framework.

In 2013, a discussion paper was issued as part of the first stage of council and public consultation on a new performance measurement approach. Since then, the New South Wales Office of Local Government has continued to work collaboratively with councils to develop a set of core, consistent performance indicators.

This work considers the New South Wales Government's Fit for the Future criteria addressed by councils in proposals assessed by the New South Wales Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) during 2015–16, in relation to how well councils meet the current and future needs of their communities. The Fit for the Future criteria included: scale and capacity, financial sustainability, infrastructure, and service management and efficiency. IPART's assessments informed the New South Wales Government's decisions in relation to the structural reform of local government during 2015–16.

This work will build on a range of existing financial and other performance data to capture measures for a council's overall efficiency and effectiveness and give councils a solid basis to continually review and improve their performance. This will enable councils to drive their own improvement over time, provide a picture of overall council performance, enhance accountability and help the New South Wales Government and others to better understand and support local council performance.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16

In 2015–16, the New South Wales Government implemented a number of key initiatives in its comprehensive package of Fit for the Future reforms to strengthen and revitalise local councils and their communities. These included council mergers to create stronger councils, progressing other structural reforms and improving systems that support councils.

Strengthening councils through mergers and other structural reforms

In May 2016, the New South Wales Government formed 19 new, stronger and more efficient councils in metropolitan and regional New South Wales. With the subsequent creation of Bayside Council, the number of New South Wales councils has reduced from 152 to 128.

This followed a comprehensive consultation and assessment by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in late 2015 of councils' Fit for the Future proposals for how well they would meet the current and future needs of their communities.

New councils received up to \$15 million to invest in community projects and up to \$10 million to streamline administrative processes and cut red tape. Ratepayers in new council areas are protected against future rate increases for the next four years.

In regional New South Wales, the New South Wales Government also collaborated with councils through a pilot program and sector-wide consultation to develop new regional joint organisations. Joint organisations will provide a forum for councils, state agencies and others to work together in defined regions to deliver shared priorities, such as jobs, education, housing, infrastructure and services that regional and rural communities need.

Recognising the unique issues and needs of the state's far west, the New South Wales Government also consulted with councils and communities in the region to determine how best to develop a structural model to meet their needs.

Strengthening council systems

In 2015-16, the New South Wales Government began implementing a significant number of new reforms to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government in New South Wales. A number of initiatives are underway or have already been delivered. These include:

- **a new Local Government Act** – the first in a series of amendment Bills were passed to modernise the Act
- **a new TCorp borrowing facility** – the Treasury Corporation has established a new state borrowing facility to help Fit for the Future councils to access cheaper finance. This will help to provide new local infrastructure
- **an independent review of regulatory and compliance burden** – the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has undertaken a review and provided recommendations to the New South Wales Government on opportunities to avoid duplication and eliminate red tape for local government and provide practical recommendations on improving the system
- **an independent review of the local government rating system** – the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has undertaken a review of the current rating system and provided recommendations to the New South Wales Government to address specific equity issues while ensuring that ratepayers are protected from unfair rate rises and pensioner concessions are maintained
- **improving accountability** – the New South Wales Government has committed to a series of legislative and administrative changes to ensure councils manage their finances responsibly and are accountable to the community for their performance. These changes include regular sustainability assessments and support to improve more rigorous revenue policies, and a new role for the New South Wales Auditor General in overseeing local council performance
- **considering Financial Assistance Grant program funding distribution** – including opportunities to redirect Financial Assistance Grant program funding to communities with the greatest need to help smaller rural and remote communities to address some of the challenges of the future.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local government to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for 2015–16

All New South Wales councils are required to prepare integrated planning and reporting plans to facilitate community strategic planning and delivery of council services to best meet community needs. The integrated planning and reporting framework recognises that most communities share similar aspirations, such as opportunities for social interaction, liveable places, opportunities for employment, reliable services and infrastructure, and a sustainable environment. The difference lies in how each council and community responds to their own particular needs.

The integrated planning and reporting framework allows councils and communities to respond flexibly to local need. The integrated planning and reporting guidelines require a community strategic plan to be developed in consultation with groups within the local community and based on principles of social justice. Councils must also develop a community engagement strategy which includes how they will engage with hard-to-reach groups. The strategy should ensure that all groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have an opportunity to be heard.

This then informs the council's community strategic plan which identifies the community's main goals and strategies. Through this process, councils also consider New South Wales Government plans and other relevant plans.

In this way, integrated planning and reporting helps councils to work in partnership with the New South Wales Government and others to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in New South Wales.

Local government reform actions including deregulation and legislative changes during 2015–16

During 2015–16, the New South Wales Government consulted widely on a number of proposed amendments to modernise and streamline the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) to ensure that local government legislation continues to meet the current and future needs of the community and local government in New South Wales.

The amendments consider the recommendations of the Local Government Acts Taskforce appointed to review the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and *City of Sydney Act 1988* (NSW). The amendments will occur in phases, with the first phase focusing on improving council governance and strategic business planning.

Local Government Amendment (Councillor Misconduct and Poor Performance) Act 2015 (NSW)

Amendments to the *Local Government Amendment (Councillor Misconduct and Poor Performance) Act 2015* (NSW) commenced in November 2015. These aim to promote confidence in the integrity of local government and councillors and:

- ensure that councillors who have previously been suspended on two or more occasions will be automatically disqualified from holding office in a council for five years if they are suspended on a further occasion
- expand the definition of misconduct to include acts or omissions by councillors that are intended to prevent the proper or effective functioning of a council or a committee of a council (for example by disrupting decision making)
- ensure that councillors will no longer be permitted to participate in the consideration of the making, amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of their local government area they have pecuniary interests in unless the only interests affected by the changes are the interests they or their relatives have in their principal places of residence, and they have made a special disclosure of the affected interests.

Report from the Victorian Government

Victoria Grants Commission methodology – 2015–16 grant allocation

The Victoria Grants Commission allocates general purpose and local roads grants in accordance with the National Principles formulated under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth).

Methodology for general purpose grants

A raw grant is obtained for each council, which is calculated by subtracting the council's standardised revenue from its standardised expenditure.

The available general purpose grants pool is then allocated in proportion to each council's raw grant, taking into account the requirement of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) and associated national distribution principles to provide a minimum grant to each council. Increases and decreases in general purpose grant outcomes have been capped (as outlined later), which also affects the relationship between raw grants and actual grants.

Specific grants are allocated to a small number of councils each year in the form of natural disaster assistance. These grants are funded from the general purpose grants pool and so reduce the amount allocated on a formula basis. Details of natural disaster assistance grants allocated for 2015–16 are found at the end of this section.

Standardised expenditure

Under the Victoria Grants Commission's general purpose grants methodology, standardised expenditure is calculated for each council on the basis of nine expenditure functions. Between them, these expenditure functions include all council recurrent expenditure.

The structure of the model ensures that the gross standardised expenditure for each function equals aggregate actual expenditure by councils, thus ensuring that the relative importance of each of the nine expenditure functions in the Victoria Grants Commission's model matches the pattern of actual council expenditure.

The total recurrent expenditure across all Victorian councils in 2013–14 was \$7.2 billion. Under the Victoria Grants Commission's methodology, the gross standardised expenditure in the allocation model for 2015–16 therefore also equals \$7.2 billion, with each of the nine expenditure functions assuming the same share of both actual expenditure and standardised expenditure.

For each function, with the exception of local roads and bridges, gross standardised expenditure is obtained by multiplying the relevant major cost driver by: the average Victorian council expenditure on that function per unit of need, and a composite cost adjustor which takes account of factors that make service provision cost more or less than the state average for individual councils.

Major cost drivers (units of need)

The major cost drivers and average expenditures per unit for each expenditure function, with the exception of local roads and bridges, are shown in Table 16.

Table 16 Victoria's major cost drivers and average expenditures

Expenditure function	Major cost driver	Average expenditure per unit (\$)
Governance	Population (adjusted)	58.50
Family and community services	Population	137.79
Aged and disabled services	Population >60 + disability pensioners + carer's allowance recipients	415.81
Recreation and culture	Population	270.96
Waste management	Number of dwellings	311.07
Traffic and street management	Population	123.11
Environment	Population (adjusted)	61.52
Business and economic services	Population (adjusted)	167.18

Several different major cost drivers are used. These are viewed by the Victoria Grants Commission as being the most significant determinant of a council's expenditure need for a particular function.

For three expenditure functions (governance, environment, and business and economic services), an adjusted population is used as the major cost driver to recognise the fixed costs associated with certain functional areas.

The major cost drivers used to assess relative expenditure needs for these functions take account of high rates of vacant dwellings at the time of the census. Councils with a vacancy rate above the state average are assumed to have a population higher than the census-based estimate. For the governance function, councils with an actual population of less than 20 000 are deemed to have a population of 20 000. For the environment function, councils with a population less than 15 000 are assumed to have a population double that amount, to a maximum of 15 000.

Cost adjustors

A number of cost adjustors are used in various combinations against each function. These allow the Victoria Grants Commission to take account of an individual council's particular characteristics, which impact on the cost of service provision on a comparable basis. Each cost adjustor has been based around a state-weighted average of one, with a 1:2 ratio between the minimum and maximum values, to maintain the relative importance of each expenditure function in the model.

The 12 cost adjustors used to calculate the 2015-16 general purpose grants are: aged pensioners, population growth, economies of scale, population less than six years, environmental risk, regional significance, Indigenous population, remoteness, language, socio-economic, population dispersion and tourism.

As some factors represented by cost adjustors impact more on costs than others, different weightings have been used for the cost adjustors applied to each expenditure function.

The Victoria Grants Commission removed both the population density and urban roads cost adjustors for 2015–16. The Victoria Grants Commission has removed both of these cost adjustors as their ongoing relevance could not be adequately demonstrated and it appeared that, to some extent, they worked in a counterproductive manner to some of the other 12 adjustors.

This has resulted in the adjustments to the cost adjustor weightings for the 2015–16 allocation for waste management—10 per cent reallocated from population density to tourism; and traffic and street management—15 per cent reallocated from urban roads to population dispersion and 10 per cent to economies of scale. In addition, the previous ‘scale’ cost adjustor has been retitled ‘economies of scale’ and the previous ‘English proficiency’ cost adjustor has been renamed ‘language’.

Net standardised expenditure

Net standardised expenditure has been obtained for each function by subtracting standardised grant support (calculated on an average per unit basis) from gross standardised expenditure. This ensures that other grant support is treated on an inclusion basis.

Average grant revenue on a per unit basis (based on actual grants received by local government in 2013–14) is shown Table 17.

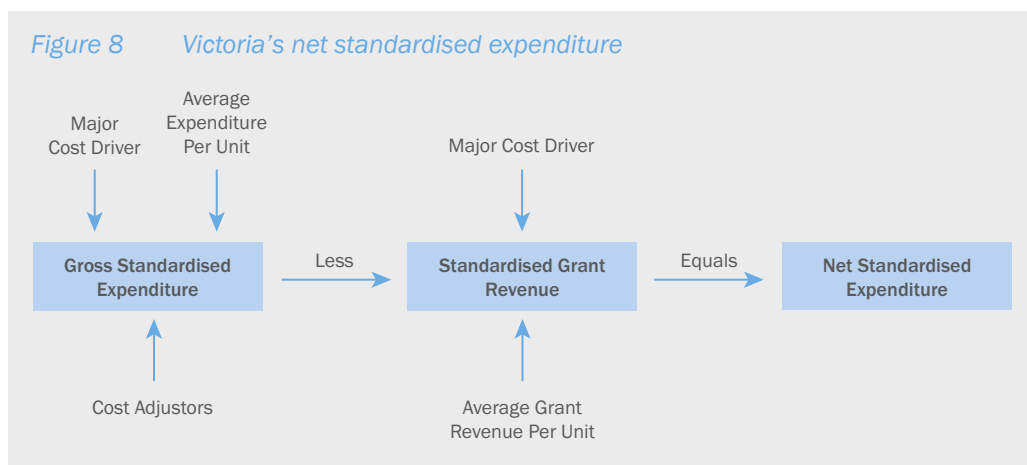
Table 17 Victoria’s average grant revenue

Expenditure function	Major cost driver	Average grants per unit (\$)
Governance	Population (adjusted)	1.15
Family and community services	Population	36.59
Aged and disabled services	Population > 60 + disability pensioners + carer’s allowance recipients	188.57
Recreation and culture	Population	6.27
Waste management	Number of dwellings	0.25
Traffic and street management	Population	2.03
Environment	Population (adjusted)	1.14
Business and economic services	Population (adjusted)	2.31

Net standardised expenditure (for each function)

The calculation of net standardised expenditure for each expenditure function is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8 Victoria's net standardised expenditure



Standardised expenditure for the local roads and bridges expenditure function within the general purpose grants model is based on the grant outcomes for each council under the Victoria Grants Commission's local roads grants model. As outlined later, this incorporates a number of cost modifiers (similar to cost adjustors) to take account of differences between councils. Net standardised expenditure for this function for each council is calculated by subtracting other grant support (based on actual identified local roads grants and a proportion of Roads to Recovery program grants) from gross standardised expenditure.

The total standardised expenditure for each council is the sum of the standardised expenditure calculated for each of the nine expenditure functions.

Standardised revenue

A council's standardised revenue is intended to reflect its capacity to raise revenue from its community.

Relative capacity to raise rate revenue, or standardised rate revenue, is calculated for each council by multiplying its valuation base (on a capital improved value basis) by the average rate across all Victorian councils over three years. The payments in lieu of rates received by some councils for major facilities, such as power generating plants and airports, have been added to their standardised revenue to ensure that all councils are treated equally.

Rate revenue raising capacity is calculated separately for each of the three major property classes (residential, commercial/industrial/other and farm) using a three year average of valuation data.

The derivation of the average rates for each property class is shown in Table 18.

Table 18 Victorian property classes average rates

Category	Total average valuations (\$ billion)	Total rate revenue (\$ billion)	Average rate (\$)
Residential	1 060.312	3.100	0.00292
Commercial/industrial/ other	205.161	0.747	0.00364
Farm	77.792	0.247	0.00318

The Victoria Grants Commission constrains increases in each council's assessed revenue capacity to improve the stability of grant outcomes. The constraint for each council has been set at the state-wide average increase in standardised revenue, adjusted by the council's own rate of population growth to reflect growth in the property base.

A council's relative capacity to raise revenue from user fees and charges, or standardised fees and charges revenue, also forms part of the standardised revenue calculation.

For each council and each of the nine functional areas, the relevant driver (such as population) is multiplied by the adjusted state median revenue from user fees and charges (adjusted to remove the skewing effect of large outliers in the data). For some functions, this is then modified by a series of 'revenue adjustors' to account for differences between municipalities in their capacity to generate fees and charges.

The standard fees and charges used for each function (based on adjusted median actual revenues generated by local government in 2015–16) are shown in Table 19 along with the revenue adjustors.

Table 19 Victorian standard fees and charges

Expenditure function	Major driver (units)	Standard fees and charges per unit (\$)	Revenue adjustors
Governance	Population	13.83	Nil
Family and community services	Population	12.14	Socio-economic
Aged and disabled services	Population > 60 + disability pensioners + carer's allowance recipients	49.15	Household income
Recreation and culture	Population	24.86	Valuations (per cent commercial)
Waste management	Number of dwellings	26.97	Nil
Traffic and street management	Population	8.41	Valuations (per cent commercial)
Environment	Population	1.26	Nil
Business and economic services	Population	28.69	Tourism + value of development
Local roads and bridges	Population	2.07	Nil

The assessed capacity to generate user fees and charges for each council is added to its standardised rate revenue to produce total standardised revenue.

Variable capping

The Victoria Grants Commission loosened its variable capping regime in 2015–16 to prepare for the conclusion of the Australian Government's 'pause' on indexation under the Financial Assistance Grant program.

For general purpose grants, the 2015–16 grants were limited to:

- 3.0 per cent for increases, except for minimum grant councils
- –4.0 per cent decreases for metropolitan and regional centre councils
- –2.0 per cent decreases for rural councils.

Methodology changes

In preparing its estimates of general purpose grants, the Victoria Grants Commission gave careful consideration to specific issues raised by councils through five written submissions and the individual and the regional meetings held throughout the year.

All data used by the Victoria Grants Commission to allocate the general purpose component has been updated where possible. The main updates used for the 2015–16 allocation have been population estimates, valuations data and council expenditure and revenue information.

Aside from changes previously mentioned—the deletion of the population density and urban roads cost adjustors and loosening of the variable capping—there were no further changes to the general purpose grant methodology in 2015–16.

Minimum grants

The available general purpose component for Victorian councils represents, on average, \$67.58 per head of population (using Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates as at 30 June 2014). The minimum grant national distribution principle requires that no council may receive a general purpose grant that is less than 30 per cent of the per capita average (or \$20.27 for 2015–16).

Without the application of this principle, 2015–16 general purpose grants for 13 councils—Bayside, Boroondara, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Manningham, Melbourne, Monash, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse and Yarra—would have been below the \$20.27 per capita level. The minimum grant principle increased the general purpose grants to these councils to that level.

Estimated entitlements 2015–16

A summary of the changes in estimated general purpose component allocations from 2014–15 to 2015–16 is shown in Table 20.

Table 20 Victorian changes from 2014–15 to 2015–16 for estimated general purpose

Change in general purpose grant	Number of councils
Increase of more than three per cent*	1
Increase of three per cent (capped)	5
Increase of zero per cent to <3 per cent	34
Decrease of zero per cent to <-1 per cent (rural)	18
Decrease of zero per cent to <-2 per cent (metro, regional centres)	12
Decrease of -1 per cent (capped) (rural)	1
Decrease of -2 per cent (capped) (metro, regional centres)	8
Total	79

*Increase exceeds three per cent due to the City of Melbourne's minimum grant council status.

Natural disaster assistance

The Victoria Grants Commission provides funds from the general purpose grants pool to councils which have incurred expenditure resulting from natural disasters. Grants of up to \$35 000 per council per eligible event are provided to help with repairs and restoration work. This funding is taken from the available general purpose grants pool prior to the allocation.

Thirty grants to 16 councils were allocated in 2015–16, totalling \$970 153. More grants were made in this year than the previous year (23 grants in 2014–15).

Recommended natural disaster assistance grants from the 2015–16 allocation are outlined in Table 21.

Table 21 Victorian natural disaster assistance grants

Natural disaster assistance for 2015–16		\$
Baw Baw	Flood, bushfire and storm (three events)	105 000
Colac Otway	Storm	35 000
Glenelg	Flood	35 000
Greater Geelong	Storm	25 940
Hepburn	Floods (three events)	105 000
Hobsons Bay	Flood	35 000
Horsham	Bushfire	35 000
Hume	Bushfire	35 000
Latrobe	Flood and storm (two events)	48 981
Mansfield	Flood	35 000
Moorabool	Flood	35 000
Mornington Peninsula	Floods (four events)	122 183
Northern Grampians	Bushfire	35 000
South Gippsland	Floods and storm (four events)	108 049
Wellington	Flood	35 000
Yarra Ranges	Flood and storms (four events)	140 000
Total		970 153

Methodology for local roads funding

The Victoria Grants Commission's formula for allocating local roads grants is based on each council's road length (for all surface types) and traffic volumes, using the average annual preservation costs for given traffic volume ranges. The methodology also includes a set of five cost modifiers for freight loading, climate, materials, sub-grade conditions and strategic routes, and takes into account the deck area of bridges on local roads.

The formula is designed to reflect the relative needs of Victorian councils in relation to local roads funding consistent with the National Principle relating to the allocation of local roads funding.

Road and traffic volume data

The allocation of local roads grants for 2015-16 was based on traffic volume data reported by all councils for the 12 months to June 2014.

Similar to previous years, councils were asked to categorise their local road networks according to nine broad traffic volume ranges—four for urban roads and five for rural roads.

Victorian councils reported a total of 130 549 kilometres of local roads as at 30 June 2014, an increase of 668 kilometres, or 0.5 per cent more than the length reported 12 months earlier. This is a result of growth on Melbourne's urban fringes as well as councils' ongoing review of their road networks. Variations in local road length is summarised in Table 22.

Table 22 Variations in Victoria's local road length

<i>Change in length of local roads</i>	<i>Number of councils</i>
Increase of more than five per cent	1
Increase of one per cent to five per cent	9
Increase of up to one per cent	38
No change	23
Decrease of up to one per cent	7
Decrease of one per cent to five per cent	1
Decrease of more than five per cent	0
Total	79

Asset preservation costs

Average annual preservation costs for each traffic volume range are used in the allocation model to reflect the cost of local road maintenance and renewal.

The asset preservation costs were doubled for the 2015-16 allocations to better reflect councils' aggregate actual expenditure on road maintenance. However, this change had no impact on the distribution of local roads grants. The asset preservation costs used for the 2015-16 allocations are shown in Table 23.

Table 23 Victorian asset preservation costs

<i>Local road type</i>	<i>Daily traffic volume range</i>	<i>Annual asset preservation cost \$/km</i>
Urban	<500	7 200
	500–<1 000	9 800
	1 000–<5 000	13 200
	5 000+	21 400
Rural	Natural surface	700
	<100	5 000
	100–<500	10 400
	500–<1 000	11 600
	1 000+	13 200
Timber bridge		200/square metre
Concrete bridge		120/square metre

Cost modifiers

The allocation model uses a series of five cost modifiers to reflect differences in circumstances between councils in relation to: the volume of freight loading carried within each council; climate; the availability of road-making materials; sub-grade conditions; and strategic routes.

Cost modifiers are applied to the average annual preservation costs for each traffic volume range for each council to reflect the council's need relative to others. Relatively high cost modifiers add to the network cost calculated for each council, and so increase its local roads grant outcome. Additional information on the cost modifiers used in the local roads allocation model is provided at the end of this section. No changes were made to the cost modifiers for the 2015–16 allocation.

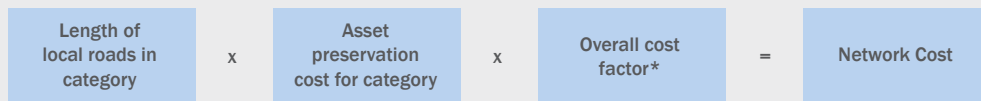
Grant calculation

The Victoria Grants Commission calculates a total network cost for each council's local roads. This represents the relative annual costs faced by the council to maintain its local road and bridge networks, based on average annual preservation costs and taking into account local conditions using cost modifiers.

The network cost is calculated using traffic volume data for each council; standard asset preservation costs for each traffic volume range; and cost modifiers for freight carriage, climate, materials availability, sub-grade conditions and strategic route lengths. The deck area of bridges on local roads is included in the network cost at a rate of \$120 per square metre for concrete bridges and \$200 per square metre for timber bridges.

The calculation of the network cost for a single traffic volume range for a council is illustrated in Figure 9.

Figure 9 Victorian calculation of the network cost for a single traffic volume range



* Overall cost modifier is calculated by multiplying the cost modifier for freight, climate, materials, reactive sub-grades and strategic routes.

The actual local roads grant is then determined by applying the available funds in proportion to each council's calculated network cost.

Variable capping

The Victoria Grants Commission loosened its variable capping regime in 2015-16 to prepare for the conclusion of the Australian Government's 'pause' on indexation under the Financial Assistance Grant program. For local roads grants, the 2015-16 grants were limited to a:

- three per cent increase for all councils
- -4 per cent decrease for metropolitan and regional centre councils
- -2 per cent decrease for rural councils.

Estimated entitlements 2015-16

In general, where a significant change occurred in a council's local roads grant for 2015-16, this was due to a combination of: the significant changes made to the allocation model in 2013-14 still flowing through into the 2015-16 allocation; and changes in traffic volume data supplied by the council to the Victoria Grants Commission.

A summary of the changes in estimated local roads grant entitlements from 2014-15 to 2015-16 is shown in Table 24.

Table 24 Victorian changes in estimated local roads grant entitlements

Change in local roads grant	Number of councils
Increase of three per cent (capped)	14
Increase of zero per cent to <3 per cent	24
Decrease of zero per cent to <-2 per cent (rural)	15
Decrease of zero per cent to <-4 per cent (metro, regional centres)	16
Decrease of -2 per cent (capped) (rural)	9
Decrease of -4 per cent (capped) (metro, regional centres)	1
Total	79

Victorian Ministerial Statement on local government.

In 2015–16 progress continued to be made on implementing the *Victorian Ministerial statement on local government*. The major focus for the year was on sector reforms to strengthen integrity and good governance; improve capacity and performance reporting; and ensure that councils continue to deliver for their communities.

Developments in the use of long term financial and asset management plans by local government

Financial reporting and asset management practices in Victorian councils were further improved by two initiatives that targeted strengthening data analysis, reporting, and providing financial support to individual and groups of councils.

Financial reporting guidance

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 introduced greater standardisation in the financial planning and reporting of Victorian councils. Key strategic documents such as the annual budget, strategic resource plan and statutory financial statements must now be presented in accordance with the *Local government model financial report*. This model report is updated and issued annually. Four-year capital works programs were included, including funding sources, and works were classified into renewal, upgrade, expansion and new capital works, to further enhance the long term financial planning of councils. A move towards greater integration with planned state infrastructure programs has also been enhanced through this capital works reporting and analysis approach.

Improved alignment between long term financial plans and asset management plans and strategies remains a government priority with expenditure of \$8.9 billion forecast by the Victorian local government sector over the next four years.

Local Government Victoria issued a revised *Best practice guidance in asset management practices* in 2015–16. Key features of this guidance are its alignment with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's *Asset infrastructure financial management manual* and its commitment to participate in national benchmarking via the National Assessment Framework.

Collaboration and shared services

The Victorian Government continues to support the uptake of collaborative activities by groups of councils. It supports joint procurement of services such as road resealing, line marking and waste management. Significant and measurable savings have been realised by partnering councils.

Procurement networks across the state are also beginning to trial shared procurement and contract management services, such as the co-locating staff in an effort to improve services and reduce costs.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and the Know your council website

In November 2015, the Victorian Minister for Local Government launched the *Know your council* (www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au) website, which is designed to improve council transparency and accountability and to make it easy for the community to access and compare council performance.

The website, based on Victoria's Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, requires all Victorian councils to collect performance data and report against 66 performance indicators each year across 12 different service areas, including finance, roads, waste and libraries. The framework also includes a checklist of 24 items considered essential for supporting good governance and management in local government.

A new year of data was launched online in November 2016, which allows users to begin to see trends in council performance, as well as compare councils and how they perform year-on-year. The data is often accompanied by a narrative provided by councils, which gives context to readers.

The website has been nominated for a number of national awards. In 2016, the site was awarded Runner Up of the Government 2.0 category at the Australian Government ICT Awards in Sydney, and shortlisted for the Institute of Public Affairs Australia Prime Minister's Awards in Canberra. The *Know your council* website is a popular resource, with more than 150 000 unique users visiting the site in the first year alone and several other jurisdictions around Australia and overseas showing interest in developing a similar resource.

In 2015-16, seven additional indicators were transitioned into the framework. Conversely 2016-17 will see all six home and community care indicators removed, following the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Commonwealth Home Support Program. Continuous improvement of the framework and website is being governed by a local government steering committee with representation from peak local government bodies, Ratepayers Victoria and representative council chief executive officers.

In addition to comparative reporting and benchmarking, the *Know your council* website has important profile information about each council, including population data, councillor details, grant funding and geographic information. A news page, council directory and a guide to councils, with information on how councils work and their range of services, are also available on the site which makes it a one-stop-shop for information on the local government sector in Victoria.

Reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Several major projects were undertaken in 2015–16 which led to improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the sector. These were focused on: standardising and analysing strategic resource plans; improving natural disaster and emergency management response arrangements; implementing the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System; continuing to focus on reductions in red tape reporting; implementing legislative reform; and implementing and monitoring arrangements under the Victorian State–Local Government Agreement.

Strategic resource plans

Under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic), Victorian councils must prepare a four-year strategic resource plan. The strategic resource plan must take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by a council and contain statements describing the required financial and non-financial resources. An analysis of council 2015–16 strategic resource plans indicates that Victorian councils collectively expect to spend over \$8.9 billion on capital works over the next four years. Further analysis indicates that 67 per cent of this expenditure is committed to asset renewal and upgrade.

Natural disaster and emergency management response

Councils have a critical role in the planning and delivery of emergency management activities, particularly in supporting local communities. Local Government Victoria works in partnership with other departments and emergency management agencies to ensure local councils can effectively and sustainably meet their emergency management obligations.

As part of this role, the Victorian Government provides secretariat support for municipal emergency management enhancement groups which link councils at state and regional levels to collectively strengthen emergency management capability and capacity. Municipal emergency management enhancement groups are recognised as part of the Victorian emergency management and planning committee structure. The *Municipal emergency management enhancement groups strategic plan 2015–20* sets the direction for greater understanding, collaboration and knowledge sharing across councils and within the emergency management sector.

The Victorian Government provides funding through the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program to help rural, regional and peri-urban councils ensure they have the staff and resources they need to prepare and support their communities before, during and after emergencies. The Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program helps councils to prepare for and respond to emergency events and it has supported changes, in response to recommendations made by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and the 2011 Victorian Floods Review, and activities to support vulnerable people in emergencies.

A total of \$4.6 million in funding was shared between 64 councils within Country Fire Authority districts in 2015–16 through the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program. An independent evaluation of the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program was undertaken in 2015, and continued funding to all councils currently funded through the program was announced by the Minister for Local Government in September 2015.

The Victorian Government is also leading a three-year project aimed at enhancing the capacity and capability of local government in emergency management. The project was identified as a key priority in the Victorian emergency management strategic action plan 2015–2018.

Fair Go Rates System

In response to unsustainable rate rises over the last decade, the Fair Go Rates System was developed by the Victorian government in 2015-16 to cap future rate rises based on the consumer price index. The policy enhances transparency and accountability in the services that councils provide, the management of council assets and the way in which councils raise revenue to pay for services and infrastructure.

The Fair Go Rates System will facilitate more opportunities for community engagement in prioritising a council's work, so that Victorians can be assured that their councils are pursuing greater value and they can better understand the work performed by councils. Sufficient flexibility has been built into the Fair Go Rates System to ensure that the financial sustainability of councils is not compromised and councils can continue to exercise their authority in responding to the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.

The *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)* has been amended to apply the Fair Go Rates System from 1 July 2016.

Reducing the local government reporting burden

An initiative is underway to reduce the reporting burden on Victorian councils and help them focus on delivering services important to their communities and improve efficiency.

Local Government Victoria is leading the work through a local government inter-departmental network to identify opportunities to streamline or reduce the reporting burden on councils across all departments.

Reducing the reporting burden is also a key feature of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and Know your council website. The website aims to bring performance information together in one place and facilitate streamlined collection and reporting of data by councils.

For the 2015-16 year, the two major reforms to reduce the local government reporting burden included:

- implementing the Victorian Common Funding Agreement – all Victorian State Government departments now use the agreement when funding local councils for services and projects, including specified capital works. The agreement reduces red tape and simplifies funding arrangements by establishing a standardised funding management approach across all state government departments
- considering the local government impacts in Cabinet submissions – policy and legislative proposals that go to Cabinet must take better account of potential administrative and financial impacts on councils and local communities. If impacts are identified, departments must outline how councils will be supported in order to reduce any potential burden.

Legislative reform

The *Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015*, which amends the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)*, passed both houses of the Victorian Parliament in October 2015. Its purpose is to lift the standard of behaviour in the local government sector, improve the framework for dealing with councillor misbehaviour and strengthen the integrity of council elections. It followed a series of governance issues over the previous two years, which led to an extensive review of the previous councillor conduct framework. The review was informed by extensive consultation with the local government sector and its peak bodies. Over 200 submissions were received.

Amendments to the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)* have become operational in stages. The first amendments provided greater clarity to the role of Councillor, Mayor and CEO; abolished ward funds; and required councils to establish an election period policy for the October 2016 council general elections. These changes also made the Victorian Electoral Commission the statutory election service provider for council elections and strengthened how candidate qualifications are reviewed and enforced. Further amendments were introduced in the first half of 2016. These provide an improved framework for dealing with councillor conduct, including stronger powers for the Chief Municipal Inspector and provisions for the Minister to appoint monitors, issue governance orders and stand down individual councillors. Guidance material was prepared to advise councils of all the relevant changes.

A comprehensive review of the *Local Government Act 1989* has progressed significantly over the past year. In September 2015, the Government released a discussion paper and then commissioned ten background papers; established eight technical working groups; conducted extensive face-to-face consultations across the state; and analysed over 300 submissions in response to the discussion paper.

In June 2016, on the basis of this foundational work, the Victorian Government released a directions paper – *Act for the future*. The detailed directions paper outlined 157 proposed government directions dealing with all aspects of a new local government Act. The reforms proposed in the directions paper aim to:

- revitalise local democracy, by ensuring that the role of councils as democratically-elected bodies is better understood
- drive micro-economic reform, by boosting council financial efficiency, strengthening the role of the Mayor, and embracing innovation and collaborative arrangements
- establish a clearer and more accessible legislative framework.

The project has been supported by an interactive website designed to facilitate continuous engagement with the local government sector and the community throughout the project www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

A number of initiatives were undertaken in 2015–16 which focused on improving partnership and service delivery arrangements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Action Plan

The Victorian Government is working to build a community of practice within the Victorian local government sector which supports councils to actively advance the interests of Aboriginal. To underpin this commitment the Victorian Government has committed to develop and implement an Aboriginal local government action plan under its *Ministerial Statement on Local Government*.

The action plan will capture and showcase best practice case studies and will be an important resource for councils across the state. It will recognise, celebrate and share good practice, and will present a practical framework to help councils:

- improve relationships with Aboriginal communities
- promote reconciliation
- engage Aboriginal people in planning, decision-making, employment, programs and services.

The action plan will be developed as a resource for councils, showcasing successful case studies; providing a list of resources, contacts and reference material; and providing a framework to help councils and Aboriginal communities' progress locally-driven initiatives. Many Victorian councils continue to undertake good work to advance reconciliation and improve service delivery to Aboriginal Victorians.

To support the plan's implementation and uptake, the Victorian Government continued to fund the *Maggolee* website (www.maggolee.org.au), hosted by Reconciliation Victoria. *Maggolee's* objective is to be a platform to celebrate excellence and support improved practice among Victorian local governments to engage Aboriginal communities and advance reconciliation.

Maggolee continues to be a successful resource for reconciliation and engagement, and a vehicle for councils to showcase examples of good practice in the way they engage with Aboriginal communities. This may include policy and programs, information on protocols and cultural awareness, key contact information, relevant local data, news, and events, among other information.

Dja Dja Wurrung and Gunai Kurnai Local Government Engagement Strategy

The Victorian Government is facilitating the implementation of the Local Government Engagement Strategy of the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Gunai Kurnai Recognition and Settlement Agreement.

Twelve local government boundaries overlap Dja Dja Wurrung Country and nine overlap in Gunai Kurnai Country, according to the native title determinations under the *Victorian Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*.

The Victorian Government has responsibility for the local government engagement strategy of both the Recognition and Settlement Agreements. It has facilitated workshops and training sessions for local governments involved in the Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement to increase engagement in, and facilitate actions under, the Recognition and Settlement Agreement. Local Government Victoria will expand this approach to local governments involved in the Gunai Kurnai Recognition and Settlement Agreement in 2016–17.

Aboriginal service delivery – Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

Uptake of maternal and child health services is a key indicator in the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. Including this indicator in the Local Government Performance Framework enables service delivery to be benchmarked in this key indicator for young Aboriginal children.

Report from the Municipal Association of Victoria

The Municipal Association of Victoria notes that the major issue of relevance to Victorian local government in 2015–16 was the implementation of the Fair Go Rates System policy by the Victorian Government. This instituted a rate-capping system for the state’s councils, commencing 1 July 2016. This policy will have profound consequences for local government, with some consequences relevant to the National Report, as the sector sought to prepare itself for a period of significant fiscal constraint.

Developments in the use of long-term financial plans and asset management plans

The rate-capping framework includes the capacity for councils to apply for a variation, to increase a rate above the cap. This variation process will be undertaken by the Essential Services Commission, which is the pricing regulator in Victoria. The Essential Services Commission assesses the financial requirements of councils for a rate increase above the cap. As part of this determination, the Essential Services Commission reviews councils’ long-term financial and asset management plans to determine the capacity of these organisations to meet their planned activities.

We expect that over time, with the Essential Services Commission assessing the councils’ financial and asset management capacity, these documents will be subject to further external assurance processes, which we believe will show their robustness.

Given the significant reforms to Victorian councils’ asset management planning and long-term financial planning over the last 20 years, this process—while not necessarily driving further improvement per se—will demonstrate the strength of these documents across Victorian councils.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between jurisdictions

A comprehensive system of performance reporting in Victorian local government has been in place following the implementation of the performance reporting project pursuant to the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2014. In line with previous advice to the Commonwealth Government, these regulations mandate the reporting of performance information for the 24 governance checklist items and 52 performance measures. These measures include performance data across a broad range of council functions.

In addition to the performance reporting framework, the Municipal Association of Victoria has worked with its members to implement an open data toolkit. It is designed to help people in all council business areas to understand how they can contribute to and benefit from publishing open data. The toolkit also allows users to see how many councils are already publishing open data and how many datasets they have released. Following the completion of this work, Victorian councils became the most prolific publishers of open data.

Reforms undertaken in 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local government service delivery

Local Government Digital Transformation Taskforce

The Local Government Digital Transformation Task Force was formed in March 2016 to improve community outcomes by establishing a strategic direction for the local government sector. The taskforce aims to enable simpler, faster, valued and engaging community interactions with local government through digital transformation.

Work is being done in conjunction with the Australian and Victorian Governments, civic representatives and the private sector. The whole-of-sector approach to digital transformation aims to: reduce fixed costs for each council; increase the capacity for all councils; enable specialist skills to be secured and shared; improve capacity to address more issues simultaneously; provide access to funding that was otherwise unavailable; and enhance collaborative opportunities with the federal, state and private sectors.

To date, the Local Government Digital Transformation Task Force has:

- established an agreed vision and strategy for digital transformation of local government
- established a fact base through council survey results
- identified key areas for targeted activity through working groups
- recommended the application of the Digital Transformation Agency's Digital Service Standard to local government digital transformation activities
- endorsed a number of recommendations to be implemented over coming months, including establishing a knowledge centre of council case studies, tools, research and other resources.

Child Development Information System

Following an initial pilot with Banyule City Council, four more councils have transitioned to a new Maternal and Child Health Data Management system. More than 200 000 client records have been successfully migrated into the Child Development Information System across the five councils, equating to approximately 3.5 per cent of the Victorian population.

The training and implementation of councils will continue as the system is rolled-out to the 59 councils and regional health services that are participating in the project.

The project will increase the security of family data; provide a holistic picture of the needs of a child and its family; and will give more reliable and consistent information to support service development and targeted programs.

Local Government Funding Vehicle

In mid-2016 the Local Government Funding Vehicle successfully completed the second bond issuance of \$100 million into wholesale debt capital markets on behalf of 16 councils.

There was immediate strong demand from local and global institutional investors eager to purchase the secure, long-term assets. This high level of interest helped to drive down the final interest rate achieved for participating councils: 3.97 per cent 10-year fixed rate, interest only loans.

This issuance continued the innovative funding mechanism that has been implemented in the Victorian local government sector and reflects best-practice debt procurement.

Patchwork

The *Patchwork* tool (<http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/children-families/Pages/patchwork.aspx>) operates at the majority of Victorian councils with support from the Municipal Association of Victoria, in partnership with FutureGov. The online tool connects health practitioners from different local services who have clients in common within a geographic area. The idea behind *Patchwork* is that professionals are able to provide better services to a client when they know and can communicate with the client's whole team.

Report from the Queensland Government

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government for 2015–16

Local roads component

This component of the Financial Assistance Grant is allocated as far as practicable on the basis of relative need of each local government for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets.

In the opinion of the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission, a formula based on road length and population best meets this National Principle for Queensland. In this formula:

- 62.85 per cent is allocated according to road length
- 37.15 per cent is allocated according to population.

General purpose component

A new methodology was implemented for the general purpose component in 2011–12 and this continues to be used. The new methodology complies with the National Principles and no further changes were made for the 2015–16 grant allocation.

As in previous years, every local governing body in the state is entitled to a minimum grant under the National Principles. This minimum grant is equivalent to a per capita distribution of 30 per cent of the general purpose component. In 2015–16, this amount equated to \$20.26 per capita. The remaining 70 per cent of the general purpose component is distributed according to relative need, according to the National Principles.

To determine relative need, the methodology derives averages for revenue raising and expenditure on service provision that are applied to all local governments within the state. Since 2013–14, data has been collected from all Indigenous councils, resulting in a more complete dataset and more accurate averages.

After these averages are applied, the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission uses various cost adjustors, which allow for factors outside a council's control that affect its ability to raise revenue or provide services—again in keeping with the National Principles.

Assessing revenue

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission uses the revenue categories of: rates, other grants and subsidies, garbage charges, and fees and charges.

The rating assessment is still based on: the total Queensland rate revenue divided by the total Queensland land valuation, to derive a cent in the dollar average, which is then multiplied by each council's total land valuation. Both the Queensland total and individual council valuation figures below are an average of ten years, to avoid excessive fluctuations. This assessment is illustrated in Figure 10.

Figure 10 Queensland rating assessment

$$\frac{\text{State total rate revenue}}{\text{State total valuation (10 year average)}} = \text{cent in the dollar average} \times \text{council total valuation (10 year average)}$$

This is then adjusted to allow for each council's capacity to raise rates, using an Australian Bureau of Statistics product, the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas. The methodology uses three of the indices: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 2); Index of Economic Resources (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 3); and Index of Education and Occupation (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 4).

Because Indigenous councils do not generally levy rates, 20 per cent of their Queensland Government Financial Aid allocation is used as a proxy for rate revenue.

Fees and charges are averaged on a per capita basis. Garbage revenue is averaged on the basis of the number of bins serviced for each local governing body.

In accordance with the National Principle for Other Grant Support, grants relevant to the expenditure categories considered by the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission are included as revenue according to the actual amounts received by council. Three grants are included by the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission: previous year's local roads component (50 per cent); Queensland Government Financial Aid (Indigenous councils only – 20 per cent); and the minimum grant component of the previous year's general purpose component of the Financial Assistance Grant program (100 per cent). Table 25 provides a summary of the Queensland revenue assessment model.

Table 25 Queensland revenue assessment model

Revenue category	Revenue driver(s)	Unit of measure (state average)
Rates	Total valuations	Average cent in dollar rates: \$0.009
Garbage charges	Number of bins serviced	\$497 per bin serviced
Fees and charges	Population	\$247 per capita
Other grants	Actual grants received	Identified road grant component of the Financial Assistance Grant program (50 per cent used) Queensland Government Financial Aid (20 per cent) Minimum grant component of the general purpose component of the Financial Assistance Grant program (100 per cent)

Assessing expenditure

With regards to the expenditure assessment, the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission includes nine service categories: administration; public order and safety; education, health, welfare and housing; garbage and recycling; community amenities, recreation, culture and libraries; building control and town planning; business and industry development; and roads and environment.

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission considers that the suite of cost adjusters are applied to service categories. Table 26 outlines the expenditure categories, the units of measure and the cost adjusters applied to assess the cost of service provision.

Table 26 Outline of expenditure assessment 2015–16

Service expenditure category	2015–16 unit of measure	Services cost adjustors				Scale
		Location	Demography – Indigenous	Demography –age	Demography – Indigenous/age	
Administration	Actual remuneration category + \$377 per capita + \$380 per property/\$126 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Public order and safety	\$31 per capita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education, health, welfare and housing	\$24 per capita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garbage and recycling	\$325 per bin/\$100 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Community amenities, recreation, culture and libraries	\$197 per capita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Building control and town planning	\$153 per residential property/\$47 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Business and industry development	\$35 per capita	✓				✓
Environment	\$98 per residential property/\$32 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Roads	Road expenditure assessment	✓				✓

Roads expenditure

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission uses an asset preservation model to assess road expenditure and estimate the cost to maintain a council's road network, including bridges and hydraulics. Table 27 provides the dollar values allocated on the basis of traffic volumes and applied cost adjustors.

Table 27 Queensland road expenditure assessment model

		Cost adjustors (per cent)										
		Climate		Soil sub-grade			Locality on-cost		Terrain			
	Traffic volume range (adjusted vehicles per day)	Base cost (\$/km)	Favourable (TI <-50)	Adverse (TI >100)	Good (CBR >10)	Poor (CBR <5)	MR Reactive	<1.0p/km ²	<0.1p/km ²	Undulating	Hilly	Mountainous
Rural	Unformed	309	0	25	0	0	0	5	10	2	5	0
	<40	618	0	20	0	0	0	5	10	2	5	0
	40-150	2 953	0	20	0	10	10	5	10	2	5	0
	150-250	5 366	-10	15	-5	10	10	2.5	5	2	5	10
	250-1000	7 576	-7.5	10	-5	10	10	2.5	2.5	2	5	10
	1 000-3 000	9 593	-7.5	10	-5	10	10	2.5	2.5	2	5	10
	>3 000	13 213	-7.5	10	-5	10	10	2.5	2.5	2	5	10
Urban	<500	10 556	-7.5	10	-2.5	5	5	2.5	2.5	0	2	5
	500-1 000	16 416	-7.5	10	-2.5	5	5	2.5	2.5	0	2	5
	1 000-5 000	26 096	-7.5	10	-5	10	10	2.5	2.5	0	2	5
	5 000-10 000	47 333	-7.5	10	-5	10	10	2.5	2.5	0	2	5
	>10 000	80 898	-7.5	10	-5	10	10	2.5	2.5	0	2	5

Notes: TI = Thornthwaite Index
 CBR = California Bearing Ratio
 MR = Main Roads

Allowances are given for heavy vehicles which increase the road usage and increase a council's road expenditure. These are outlined in Table 28.

Table 28 Queensland allowances given for heavy vehicles

Vehicle type	Equivalent number of vehicles
Light to medium trucks, two axles	= 1 vehicle
Heavy rigid and/or twin steer tandem	= 2 vehicles
Semi-trailers	= 3 vehicles
B-doubles	= 4 vehicles
Road trains	= 5 vehicles

Cost adjustors

Cost adjustors are indices applied to expenditure categories to account for factors outside a council's control that impact on the cost of providing services to its community. The current methodology uses the following cost adjustors:

- location – represents the additional costs in providing services related to the council location, and this is based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index for Areas
- scale – recognises economies of scale and is based on a sliding scale from one to two, with any council with a higher population than the average having a cost adjustor of one and the smallest council in Queensland with an adjustor of two
- demography – represents the additional use of facilities and increased service requirements due to the composition of the population according to age and Indigenous descent. These are calculated on a sliding scale from one to two, reflecting the proportion of residents who are aged, young, Indigenous, and Indigenous people over 50 years of age.

Table 26 identifies which cost adjustors are applied to the service categories.

Scaling back

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission again used an equal weighting of proportional and equalisation scaling to ensure that each council received an equitable allocation, as the aggregate assessed need exceeded the quantum of the available funding for 2015–16.

Application of the minimum grant principle

In 2015–16, the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission determined, on the basis of the methodology, that the following councils were to receive the minimum grant component of the general purpose component only: Brisbane City Council; Gold Coast City Council; Ipswich City Council; Logan City Council; Redland City Council; Moreton Bay Regional Council; Sunshine Coast Regional Council; Cairns Regional Council; and Noosa Shire Council.

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant program for 2015–16 from that used in 2014–15.

There were no changes to the methodology in 2015–16.

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government

All Queensland local governments are required to have long-term financial forecasts, covering at least 10 years, and to update the forecasts annually. To assist local governments comply with this requirement, Queensland Treasury Corporation maintains the Local Government Forecast Model which includes five years of historical data and ten years of forecasts.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

The provision of information by the Queensland Government to the community through the *Queensland local government comparative information report continued in 2015-16*. This report helps local governments in their endeavours to develop new and more effective ways to deliver their services by providing an effective tool by which they can monitor trends over time and benchmark services performance both internally and against other councils.

Reforms undertaken during 2015-16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Following the quadrennial local government elections in March 2016, the Queensland Government conducted councillor training sessions to help elected councillors understand their roles, responsibilities and statutory responsibilities. These sessions were conducted in 67 local government areas across the state and 590 councillors attended.

The Queensland Government also sponsored 64 local government employees and councillors to undertake the nationally-accredited Diploma in Local Government Program, in both administration and asset management.

Following the Queensland Auditor-General's Report on *Fraud management in local government* in June 2015, the Queensland Government amended the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) and the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (Qld) to require local governments to report fraud losses to both the Auditor-General and the Minister for Local Government. In addition, local governments are now required to keep written records of alleged and proven fraud-related losses.

These changes provide consistency with the state reporting requirements under the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009. They enable the Queensland Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the Queensland Audit Office to monitor reported fraud losses from local governments and identify possible training or support needs for those local governments disclosing large losses or numbers of losses.

In addition to this legislative reform, the Queensland Government engaged the Local Government Association of Queensland to develop a range of resources, templates and support services to particularly help smaller councils implement a fraud management regime. These resources are available online and were supported by 12 workshops conducted throughout the state which were attended by 123 officers from 38 local governments.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Queensland Government continued to provide funding to Indigenous local governments to support the provision of local government services to their communities. In 2015-16, the funding pool for the State Government Financial Aid program was \$30.3 million for the state's 16 Indigenous councils. Each council received an allocation, in lieu of rates, to help them deliver local government services such as community and town planning, urban storm water management, roads, environment and transport, and water and sewerage.

Other funding provided by the Queensland Government to Indigenous councils in 2015–16 included \$3.5 million under the Revenue Replacement Program—an initiative under the state’s alcohol-related harm reduction strategy—to nine Indigenous local governments which compulsorily surrendered their council-held liquor licences in 2009. Funding was provided under this program to help councils to maintain community services previously funded by the profits from alcohol sales.

Under the Indigenous Economic Development Grant program, Queensland continued its commitment to support Indigenous councils to employ municipal services staff. Each eligible council received \$80 000 to support 1.6 full-time equivalent positions, except for Yarrabah and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councils and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, which each received \$160 000 to support 3.2 full-time equivalent positions.

In 2015–16 the Queensland Government undertook a \$2.5 million upgrade to the drinking water infrastructure at Pormpuraaw, a \$242 000 upgrade to the wastewater infrastructure at Palm Island, and an \$89 000 upgrade to the wastewater infrastructure at Cherbourg.

The Queensland Government continues to provide practical capacity-building support to Indigenous councils to improve their ability to provide safe and secure drinking water and wastewater services to their communities.

Any local government reform activities including deregulation and legislative changes by your jurisdiction during the reporting period

The Queensland Government and the Local Government Association of Queensland, on behalf of Queensland local governments, signed the Partners in Government Agreement on 14 October 2015. The agreement details the key principles underlying the relationship between the state and local government and establishes an ongoing process of negotiation and engagement.

Report from the Local Government Association of Queensland

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government

The Queensland Audit Office report, *Forecasting long-term sustainability of local government*, highlighted the ongoing need for local governments to improve their long-term financial forecasts and asset management plans.

During the reporting period, the Local Government Association of Queensland provided training and advisory support to councils to develop capability across a range of skills, including financial and asset management. In 2015–16, the Local Government Association of Queensland's Total Solutions courses have provided training in financial management related skills to 389 council officers and elected members.

The Local Government Association of Queensland's *2015 Digital productivity report* showed that an increasing number of councils are planning to invest in smart solutions, including smart lighting, smart meters, drones, asset management solutions and advanced business analytics to obtain productivity benefits (available at <http://lgaq.asn.au/reports>).

The Local Government Association of Queensland is currently surveying councils to collect and examine a range of qualitative matters relating to councils' financial sustainability strategies. These results will be shared with councils at the 2017 Finance Summit.

In response to Local Government Association of Queensland advocacy, the Queensland Government implemented important reform to local government grants and subsidies. They consolidated three separate funding programs and streamlined the application process to allow councils to better plan, fund and maintain infrastructure over the forward years. Reforming these processes will better align funding and decision-making cycles to improve longer term asset management. The Local Government Association of Queensland looks forward to expanding this work across Queensland Government departments, and commencing a conversation with the Australian Government to do the same consolidation and streamlining process.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

At the October 2014 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference, Queensland councils committed to the establishment of the Better Councils, Better Communities campaign. This Queensland-wide campaign aimed to focus attention on productivity, efficiency and innovation, as drivers of improved financial sustainability. Three supporting initiatives were subsequently launched by the association to assist member councils:

- performance benchmarking service – called Ready.Set.Go
- best practice portal – showcasing global, domestic and local case studies of local government innovation
- #77 Stories – a public website to celebrate the many innovative and exciting initiatives being implemented by councils across the state to deliver better services and better value for money for the community.

The Ready.Set.Go. performance benchmarking service provides Queensland councils with access to key performance indicators covering statutory performance ratios, financial sustainability, revenue sources, service levels, and measures of efficiency along with socio-economic data. Following workshops and consultations across Queensland, the Ready. Set. Go. performance benchmarking tool now boasts 48 key performance indicators that have been created from our members' contributions.

The service allows individual councils to compare their own performance over time (trend identification) and it provides access to a range of simple visualisation tools that can be used to compare performance. Performance assessments within the service can be made with neighbouring councils, other Queensland councils of similar size or characteristics, and if required, with almost any other council in Queensland.

An additional benefit of the service is the ability to view multiple key performance indicators together. This helps to identify correlations and relationships between different performance measures and aids comprehension. Key performance indicators that lead to improved understanding and identification of asset management performance; changes in council revenues; and changing socio-economic trends have been a particular focus of the project.

The Ready.Set.Go. performance benchmarking platform has been made available to all elected members and staff via the Local Government Association of Queensland's state-wide local government portal LG Online. The Local Government Association of Queensland has also been working with both individual councils, and regional groupings of councils, on a number of satellite performance measurement and benchmarking projects aimed at further strengthening the collection and analysis of local government data. Over the past year, the performance benchmarking platform has been used to induct new councillors, help planning activities, and drive the efforts of council working groups and regional organisations across Queensland.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Queensland councils continue to participate in large scale shared service arrangements primarily set up by the Local Government Association of Queensland as subsidiary companies. Independent analysis has shown these subsidiary businesses continue to save participating councils \$100 million per annum (conservatively). They are:

- Local Government Infrastructure Services – an infrastructure advisory and innovation company
- Total Solutions – fee-for-service tailored business solutions and training for councils
- Propel Partnerships – a special purpose vehicle joint venture specifically created in 2006 to partner with public sector organisations to drive efficiency and productivity primarily through customer services and support services led transformation programs
- Local Buy – this procurement business was set up in 2001 to aggregate the buying power of local government, shorten procurement timeframes and streamline the interaction of business and councils
- Queensland Local Government Mutual – this is Queensland local government's legal liability and assets self-insurance scheme, which operates with the sole objective of delivering benefits to councils and local government-controlled entities
- Local Government Workcare – a workers compensation self-insurance scheme jointly driven by Queensland councils, council-controlled entities and the Local Government Association of Queensland.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils continued to expand on the breadth and quality of services provided to their communities. This directly reflects the expansion of these councils' aspirations and capability and their ongoing maturation. There has been a significant improvement in the number of local people employed to deliver community services and complete government infrastructure projects, but there is still a lot of work for the other levels of government to do in this area.

Following the March 2016 local government elections, which saw a significant turnover of elected representatives in these councils, two Indigenous Leaders Forums were convened. These forums included mayors, councillors and senior council officers of the 17 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils (including Torres Shire Council). The forums served to establish effective networks between newly-elected members; identify collective strategies for addressing common issues; and provide an opportunity for quality dialogue between council representatives and relevant Ministers from the Queensland and Australian Governments.

An additional forum was convened in late 2016 to discuss ongoing public housing issues for their communities. A blueprint for a submission on the future of public and community housing arose out of this forum and was subsequently submitted to the Australian Government.

A third annual summit between Queensland Police and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils was convened and attended by the Queensland Police Commissioner to discuss key policing issues. This collaborative approach between the Police Commissioner and councils has proven to be very productive in improving police and community relations, and policing generally in the community.

Other key areas of focus for councils during 2016-17 included:

- seeking funding similar to the Roads to Recovery program to address travel infrastructure for island communities
- reforming the Job Service Providers program to make it more relevant and appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities
- improving the percentage of money from government investment into Indigenous communities that is actually spent on-country
- maximising the use of local knowledge and capability in crocodile management
- improving health outcomes for communities through greater community involvement in health delivery
- mitigating biosecurity risks for communities due to current border security arrangements
- improving connectivity technically within remote communities.

The partnership between the local government sector and the Queensland Department of Education and Training continues to reap very significant dividends. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander council staff who were enrolled in designated training programs; completed prescribed training; and successfully gained and retained employment now exceeds 90 per cent.

Local government reform activities including deregulation and legislative changes

The Queensland Parliament passed a new *Planning Act 2016* (Qld) which will, after a transition period, replace the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (Qld) and establish a new planning and development assessment system for Queensland. The new Act is the culmination of many years of planning reform discussions. While not supportive of all elements of the new Act, the Local Government Association of Queensland appreciates the consultation undertaken when the new legislation was developed and the improvements it's made. The Local Government Association of Queensland will continue to work with the Queensland Government regarding the availability of funding and assistance for councils to transition to the new Act.

Following calls from the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Government initiated independent reviews of the councillor complaints system and the conduct of the 2016 local government election. These are both expected to lead to significant reform in the next reporting period.

Report from the Western Australian Government

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government for 2015-16

2015-16 general purpose grant allocations

In 2015-16, 31 local governments received the minimum grant entitlement which equated to \$20.26 per capita. Local governments that received a minimum grant in 2015-16 had their grant calculated on a per capita basis, in accordance with the minimum grant principle established under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth). Collectively, the local governments receiving the minimum grant accounted for \$39.480 million (22.7 per cent) of the total general purpose component, while containing 75.7 per cent of Western Australia's population.

In 2015-16, there were still some local governments receiving significantly less than their calculated equalisation requirement. The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission has continued to phase-in increases and decreases to lessen the impact on local governments. Using this method, increases on the previous year's allocations were between zero per cent and nine per cent. A maximum decrease of 15.81 per cent was applied for those with declining general purpose funding.

Detailed calculations and explanations are made available to local governments through the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission's website. Publications include: *Balanced budget; Quarterly grant schedule; Schedule of financial assistance grants; Principles and methods of distribution of financial assistance grants; and Annual report.*

Local road grant funding

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission recommends the distribution of the local road component using the asset preservation model, which has been in place since 1992.

Under the arrangements approved for Western Australia, seven per cent of the funds provided for local roads are allocated for special projects (one-third for roads servicing remote Indigenous communities and two-thirds for bridges). The remaining 93 per cent is distributed in accordance with road preservation needs, as determined by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission's Asset Preservation Model. The model assesses the average annual costs of maintaining each local government's road network and has the capacity to equalise road standards through the application of minimum standards. These standards help local governments that have not been able to develop their road systems to the same standard as more affluent local governments.

Main Roads Western Australia contributes an additional third of the cost of special projects funded under this program. The amounts involved for 2015-16 are provided in Table 29.

Table 29 Allocations for special projects in Western Australia

Special projects component	Amount (\$)
Roads servicing Aboriginal communities	2 507 481
Bridges	5 014 961
Distributed according to the asset preservation model	100 027 206
Total	107 549 648

Special projects – roads servicing remote Indigenous communities

In 2015–16, the special projects funds for Indigenous access roads totalled \$3 761 221. Further information is provided in Table 30.

Table 30 Western Australian special projects funds for Indigenous access roads

Special projects	Amount (\$)
Special project funds from the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission	2 507 481
State funds from Main Roads Western Australia	1 253 740
Total	3 761 221

The Indigenous Roads Committee advises the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission on procedures and priorities for determining the allocations of Commonwealth road funds for roads servicing remote Indigenous communities, and recommends the allocations that are made each year. The Indigenous Roads Committee is made up of representatives from each of the following organisations: Western Australia Local Government Grants Commission; Western Australian Local Government Association; Main Roads Western Australia; Western Australia Department of Aboriginal Affairs; Western Australia Department of Local Government and Communities; and the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Indigenous Roads Committee has established funding criteria based on factors including the number of Indigenous people serviced by a road; the distance of a community from a sealed road; the condition of the road; the proportion of traffic servicing Indigenous communities; and the availability of alternative access. These criteria have provided a rational method of assessing priorities in developing a five year program.

The Indigenous Roads Committee's recommendations are submitted to the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission for endorsement.

Special projects – bridges

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission's policy for allocating funds for bridges recognises that there are many bridges in poor condition, and preservation of these bridges must be given a high priority.

The special project funds for bridges are only allocated to preservation type projects, which may include some upgrading, and replacement projects, when the existing bridge has reached the end of its economic life. Details on the 2015–16 special project funds for the preservation of bridges is provided in Table 31.

Table 31 Western Australia 2015–16 special projects for bridges

<i>Special projects – bridges</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>
Special project funds from Commission	5 014 961
State funds from Main Roads	2 507 481
Total	7 522 442

A Bridge Committee advises the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission on priorities for allocating funds for bridges. Membership of the Committee is made up of representatives from the following organisations: Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission; Western Australian Local Government Association; and Main Roads Western Australia.

The Bridge Committee regularly receives recommendations from Main Roads Western Australia on funding priorities for bridges. Main Roads Western Australia inspects and evaluates the condition of local government bridges and has the expertise to assess priorities and make recommendations on remedial measures. As part of the process, local governments apply to the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission for bridge funding each year.

The Bridge Committee's recommendations are submitted to the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission for endorsement.

Methodology review

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission completed a comprehensive review of its general purpose component methodology in 2012. This methodology has been applied to each grant determination in subsequent years.

General purpose grants

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission continues to use the balanced budget method for allocating the general purpose component. The balanced budget approach to horizontal equalisation applies to all 138 local governments in Western Australia and is primarily based on the formula: assessed expenditure need – assessed revenue capacity = assessed equalisation requirement.

Calculation of assessed revenue capacity is based on standardised mathematical formulae updated annually. It involves assessing the revenue-raising capacity of each local government in the categories of: residential, commercial and industrial rates; agricultural rates; pastoral rates; mining rates; and investment earnings.

Assessed expenditure need is also based on standardised mathematical formulae updated annually. It involves the assessing each local government's operating expenditures in the provision of core services and facilities under the 'standard' categories of: governance; law, order and public safety; education, health and welfare; community amenities; recreation and culture; and transport. Expenditure standards and the disabilities applied are provided in Table 32.

Table 32 Western Australian disabilities applied to expenditure standards

Expenditure standard	Disabilities applied to expenditure standard
Governance	Location, socio-economic disadvantage, Indigenous, regional centres
Law, order and public safety	Location, socio-economic disadvantage, population dispersion, terrain, cyclone, special needs
Education, health and welfare	Location, socio-economic disadvantage, population dispersion, medical facilities
Community amenities	Location, socio-economic disadvantage, growth, population dispersion, regional centres, off-road drainage, special needs
Recreation and culture	Location, socio-economic disadvantage, growth, population dispersion, climate, regional centres
Transport	Not applicable

Disabilities

Disabilities are determined through a combination of data specific to the disability as well as a population component. As a number of small and remote local governments have higher (more disadvantaged) disability specific data scores, a population weighting in the disabilities ensures that local governments with small populations are not compensated excessively.

The 12 disabilities as determined by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission are as follows, in order of significance: location; socio-economic disadvantage; growth; population dispersion; climate; Indigenous; regional centres; terrain; off-road drainage; medical; cyclone; and special needs.

Data from a wide range of sources is used to calculate the disabilities applied to the expenditure standards. Wherever possible, data is collected from independent sources such as the Australia Bureau of Statistics. Data sources are provided in Table 33.

Table 33 Data sources used by Western Australia

Data Type	Source
Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+)	National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information System
Socio-Economic Indexes of Areas	Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue: 2033.0.55.001
Population, population forecasts	Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue: 3218.0 as at 3 April 2014, Western Australia Department of Planning – Tomorrow: Population Report Number 7 2006–26
Population dispersion	Australian Bureau of Statistics QuickStats for Townsite Populations
Regional centres	Determined by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission
Indigenous population	Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue: 3238.0.55.001 Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011
Terrain	Western Australia Department of Home Affairs and Environment – Biophysical Attributes of Local Government
Cyclone	Australian Building Standards for Cyclone Prone Areas (Australian Building Code Board)
Off-road drainage data	Road Information Returns, Main Roads Western Australia
Interest expenditure/investment revenue	Western Australia Treasury Corporation, Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission Information Returns
Valuations, area assessments	Landgate (Valuer-General)
Residential, commercial and industrial rates, agricultural rates, pastoral rates, mining rates	Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission Information Returns
Climate	Bureau of Meteorology

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant program for 2015–16 from that used in 2014–15

Expenditure and revenue standards were calculated in the same way as 2014–15, but equations were updated to reflect the new input data.

Disability data sets have been updated to reflect new data where it was available, including an updated estimated resident population as at 31 March 2015.

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission calculates the allocation of the general purpose grants each year in accordance with the National Principles. It publishes an updated methodology guide at the conclusion of the process. In 2015–16, there were a number of refinements, including: medical disability; Aboriginality; location disability; population dispersion; growth disability; socio-economic disadvantage disability; shire of Gingin equalisation adjustment; and equalisation averaging.

Medical disability

The medical disability was updated so that a flat percentage was applied to the expenditure of all local governments, with a maximum allowance of \$75 000. The total value of the disability was increased by \$685 000 to \$2 million.

Aboriginality

Updated Aboriginal population data was sourced for 2015–16. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has published a more accurate data set capturing more people than the previous data set (3238.0.55.001 Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011).

Location disability

The location disability data set has been updated from ARIA+ to ARIA++. This resulted in a number of changes in scores for local governments. A local government can now receive a maximum score of 18, compared to 15 in the past. This is a result of the inclusion of a 6th band of population centres in the ARIA++ data. The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission has elected to use the administration centre ARIA++ score (as was done with the ARIA+ score), however the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale has been excluded on the basis that it is classified as a metropolitan local government by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission.

Population dispersion

The only significant change was a correction to the Shire of Dandaragan, where the administration centre was previously listed as Dandaragan rather than Jurien Bay. This resulted in a significant reduction in their population dispersion disability.

Growth disability

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission introduced a new policy whereby only those local governments with above average growth would receive a disability allowance. A local government would be assessed on each individual growth period—2010–14 (Australian Bureau of Statistics historical data), 2014–18 (*Western Australia tomorrow* growth data) and 2018–22 (*Western Australia tomorrow* growth data). These years were updated to be one year later than those used for the 2014–15 determinations.

Socio-economic disadvantage disability

Rankings within the disability were updated to reflect more detailed Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas scores based on two decimal points. Previously, local governments with the same whole number Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas score could not be separated.

Shire of Gingin equalisation adjustment

Retrospective increases of \$20 000 have been applied to the final equalisation for the Shire of Gingin for the past two years. This is consistent with the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission's policy of rectifying errors that were not the fault of a local government. An increase to the special needs allowance was adopted by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission for the 2013–14 determinations, however this was not previously applied.

Equalisation averaging

Five years of equalisations calculated by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission are now available. For the 2015–16 grant determinations, five-year equalisation averages were implemented. The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission will need to consider whether it reverts to the four year high/low method of averaging in 2016–17. This method averages four of the most recent six years of equalisations after the highest and lowest figures are removed.

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government

In August 2010, the Western Australian Government introduced regulations which established new requirements for the Plan for the Future under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA). Under the regulations, all local governments in Western Australia were required to have developed and adopted two key documents by 30 June 2013: a strategic community plan and a corporate business plan. These were to be supported and informed by resourcing and delivery strategies, including an asset management plan, a long term financial plan and a workforce plan. These all form part of the integrated planning and reporting framework and the advisory standard, which sets out associated performance measures.

Recognising the ongoing challenges for country local governments in balancing demands for a wider range of services, ageing infrastructure and revenue constraints, investments have continued to build capacity supported by Royalties for Regions' Country Local Government Fund funding. The Country Local Government Fund program seeks to help country local governments to overcome ongoing challenges by developing and implementing long term approaches, which integrate strategic planning, asset management, and workforce and financial planning.

Over 2015-16, the Department of Local Government and Communities' capacity building program, supported by Royalties for Regions' Country Local Government Fund, continued to help sixty-four country local governments to:

- assess their asset management maturity and subsequently establish an asset management improvement plan
- assess and update the condition and useful life data of one critical asset class, resulting in a more accurate calculation of their asset renewal funding gap.

This is being achieved by using best practice asset condition assessment methodologies and updating asset management plans and long term financial plans.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local government bodies

In April 2016, the *MyCouncil* comparative website was launched. *MyCouncil* provides a place to find out how local governments are raising, spending and managing their money. *MyCouncil* enables users to compare key demographic and financial information. Data such as council expenditure by program, rates and other revenue and service delivery can be viewed for each council and compared with others.

The financial information presented in the website is provided by local governments to the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities and the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission. Demographic data is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and local governments. *MyCouncil* data is updated annually in the first quarter of the calendar year.

MyCouncil also includes information about each local government's financial health using the financial health indicator. The financial health indicator methodology was developed by the Western Australian Treasury Corporation with input from financial professionals working in local governments across Western Australia. The result is calculated from the seven financial ratios that local governments are required to report annually. The approach awards a score out of 10 for each financial ratio. The weighted average of the ratios is used to calculate the overall result.

Local governments that perform better across the seven areas tend to have greater financial health. A very high or low financial health indicator is a prompt for questions to be asked by the community about a local government's revenue, expenses and service delivery.

The Western Australian Department of Local Government also conducted a desktop review of local government compliance with the legislation that requires local governments to prepare community strategic plans and corporate business plans. This review showed that all local governments in Western Australia have now completed community strategic plans. The review also identified areas where further improvements to specific compliance requirements are necessary. The Western Australian Department of Local Government is working with the sector to achieve best practice in integrated planning and reporting throughout Western Australia.

In October 2016, the Western Australian Department of Local Government was recognised as a winner in the Premier's Award category 'Improving government and reducing red tape'. The award, for the Western Australian Department of Local Government's Strengthening Local Government Accountability Program, recognises the department's work in building capacity, strengthening accountability and increasing public confidence in local government.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government services delivery

In 2015–16, the Western Australian Department of Local Government continued to deliver local government capacity building initiatives.

The Royalties for Regions' Country Local Government Fund, totalling \$1.52 million over four financial years, has delivered training to elected members in non-metropolitan local governments. Since the 2014 pilot program, 324 councillors have attended training. Ninety of 107 country local governments have participated.

Funding of \$1.27 million through Royalties for Regions has been allocated over 2014–17 for the Better Practice Review program. The Better Practice Review program involves a small team of officers from the department assigned to work closely with a local government to review key areas of that local government's activities and operations. These include governance, integrated planning and reporting, planning and regulatory functions, asset and financial management, community, consultation, and workforce planning.

Since completing Better Practice Review program pilots at the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup, Town of Narrogin and Shire of Irwin in 2015, the Western Australian Department of Local Government has undertaken Better Practice Review's at the Shires of Toodyay, Morawa, Northam, Esperance, Wyalkatchem, Broome, Capel and Victoria Plains and the Town of Port Hedland. Commitments for further Better Practice Reviews are in place for the Shires of Gnowangerup, Kojonup and Bruce Rock.

One hundred and eighty participants from more than 70 councils participated in a series of four workshops to review and update the existing integrated planning and reporting framework guidelines first published in 2011.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

In 2014, the Western Australian Government endorsed a policy position for remote Aboriginal communities. This policy framework includes the directions paper, *Towards a sustainable investment strategy for remote Aboriginal communities*. The Western Australian Government, in agreement with the Australian Government, also developed National Principles for Reform of Infrastructure, Municipal and Essential Services.

The Western Australian Government is continuing to deliver a major reform program. With support from Aboriginal people, the Western Australian Government has formed leadership groups across the state, which can work with local governments and service providers on the ground to improve service delivery. This approach will create opportunities to strengthen communities and benefit children and families through better services and investment locally.

Local governments continue to be involved providing high-level strategic advice on, and identifying opportunities for, changes that could be made to government expenditure, policies, programs and governance to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people in its region.

Biennial ordinary local government elections were conducted on 17 October 2015. Prior to the elections, the Western Australian Department of Local Government in conjunction with the Western Australian Electoral Commission ran a campaign to increase voter turnout and increase the diversity of local government representatives.

Any local government reform activities including deregulation and legislative changes

A key focus of Western Australian Government in 2016 has been reducing red tape for the local government sector.

The *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) was amended to introduce a regional subsidiary model allowing two or more local governments to form corporate entities to carry out joint services or activities. This is a low risk, low regulatory burden model where the regional subsidiary is governed by a charter. This allows flexibility to tailor the charter to suit the purpose and function of the entity. The governing body may include non-elected members with expertise and experience relevant to the purposes of the subsidiary.

The legislated procedure for the making of local laws was amended so that these laws are not invalidated if the process set out in the Act has been substantially followed. A number of local governments had previously had local laws disallowed by Parliament for this reason.

The operation of the Standards Panel was streamlined to allow complainants to withdraw complaints and to allow the panel to refuse to deal with a complaint that it considers to be frivolous, trivial, vexatious, misconceived or without substance. This allows the Standards Panel to focus on matters which have more serious consequences for the local government sector and the community.

Changes were made to the declaration of gifts provisions to increase transparency and accountability. Elected members and designated employees are now required to declare gifts within ten days of receipt, with the information to be made available on the local government's website.

The Western Australian Government introduced the *Local Government (Auditing) Bill 2016* (WA) to Parliament which will transfer the responsibility of local government auditing to the Auditor General. This follows recommendations of the Corruption and Crime Commission and the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. This will improve the accountability and transparency of local government.

Report from the Western Australian Local Government Association

Developments in the use of long term financial and asset management plans by local government

Introduction of fair value accounting

The introduction of fair value accounting has provided much needed data to help input meaningful data into asset management plans. Local governments are now moving to true integration in their integrated planning and reporting.

In addition, new evidence has shown that the financial sustainability of local governments in Western Australia has improved in recent times. A report commissioned by the Western Australian Local Government Association this year stated that:

The Western Australian local government sector has made significant headway since 2006 in improving its financial sustainability. It is estimated that councils on average are now generating sufficient operating revenue to offset operating costs.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

Comparative information websites

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and the Communities and Western Australian Local Government Association have initiated websites that include comparative information on councils across a range of different subject areas, such as revenue and expenditure; planning and building; facilities; roads; local laws; and environment and waste.

Regional road groups – key performance indicators

Regional road groups are a collective of local governments that identify and recommend road funding priorities to the Western Australian Government; and monitor the implementation of state-funded road projects within their region. There are nine regional road groups in regional Western Australia and one regional road group in the Perth metropolitan area. Regional road groups operate under the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2011–12 to 2015–16. Under the terms of this agreement, key performance indicators were developed for regional road groups that focus on expenditure performance for the various funding categories; asset management; road safety; and providing road inventory data to Main Roads Western Australia.

The key performance indicators allow the ongoing performance of the critical business of regional road groups to be measured annually and adjusted as required. Key performance indicators provide a benchmark for comparative performance across the different regional road groups.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local government training

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities via their Capacity Building initiatives funded through Royalties for Regions have provided free training for local governments on service delivery review via a series of workshops. Local governments use this knowledge to inform the review of their strategic community plans currently underway.

Metropolitan Local Roads Program Manager

During early 2016, the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee approved a Metropolitan Local Roads Program Manager position to improve delivery outcomes of Black Spot projects and State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement–Road Improvement grant-funded projects. The aim is to improve project delivery and more closely align budget and actual expenditure. The program manager began in July 2016.

eSign and digital signature development, eQuotes sector and local license deployment

The efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery continues to be supported by Western Australian Local Government Association's deployment of technologies to automate processes and improve the timeliness of procurement processes. 'eSign' continues to support a process whereby hundreds of contracts are expedited by removing the need for printing, sending and paper-based file management.

eQuotes has seen thousands of purchasing engagements streamlined to a process of quotation, with auditable and transparent records. Throughout the year a number of local governments have also upgraded their eQuotes platform to enable a more customised approach. This has not only allowed Western Australian Local Government Association's preferred supplier arrangements to be loaded onto the system, but other panel arrangements, such as the council's own contacts, can be loaded onto the system and used in a more compliant manner. The increased use of the eQuotes platform has reduced the potential for non-compliance by the sector by changing the way we engage with industry for the supply of its goods and services.

Sustainable procurement

Many local governments have indicated an interest in sustainable procurement. This sector wide interest has led to the development of a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan by Western Australian Local Government Association that will support sustainable procurement by local government. This has meant providing greater access for more tools and resources to help the local government sector to procure sustainably.

The ability of local government to access both disabled and Indigenous enterprises has been promoted and re-emphasised through a range of mediums, including newsletters and network forums. Consequently, the sector has been working closely with the West Australian Disability Enterprises to carry out work that might have previously been carried out in-house or undertaken by a commercial business. The Western Australian Local Government Association has also been working closely with West Australian Disability Enterprises and has sought their advice on the potential for amendments to relevant contract clauses and evaluation criteria. The Western Australian Local Government Association has also engaged with Supply Nation

about the way it promotes working with Indigenous businesses. The Western Australian Local Government Association is considering how the Supply Nation system would best complement the local government regulation's prescribed method for Indigenous procurement.

In addition to social procurement initiatives, the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan also aims to enhance elements of procurement that includes both environmental and economic (buy local) aspects. For example, the relevant evaluation criteria, or those that have environmental implications, are being enhanced to ensure that the environmental aspects of tenders are considered appropriately. Where appropriate, regional interests are also being addressed through the tender process for new preferred supplier arrangements. Local small businesses are being encouraged, and actively sought, to respond to tenders at the local level. This approach means that regionally-based 'mum and dad' business types, that usually only able to service the immediate community, are increasingly given opportunities to participate and be fairly considered as suppliers to the local council.

Procurement improvement and capacity building initiatives

The Western Australian Local Government Association continues to deliver procurement review services to the Western Australian local government sector. This service reviews the local government's procurement function from an organisation-wide perspective, examining the structuring and resourcing of its procurement activities; determining the effectiveness of the procurement framework and associated processes; and the adoption of adequate procurement systems and contract management practices. The review delivers a series of findings and recommendations (through an implementation roadmap) to help the local government optimise its compliance and value outcomes from its procurement practices.

Building capacity in the sector to improve procurement standards and practices is an ongoing and considerable undertaking by Western Australian Local Government Association. The service usually involves customised workshops that incorporate the local government's own policies and processes as well as case studies relating to their area and practices that outline how a different approach may have been adopted to ensure compliance and procurement best practice. As an alternative to the customised workshop, a more generic procurement training package can also be delivered to the local government sector. Throughout the year, a significant number of local governments have availed themselves of either or both of these services.

Sharing building data

Work has continued to facilitate the sharing of information about building licences between state and local agencies. The City of Cockburn has been developing and trialling the automatic reporting of building data. This automatic reporting occurs on a daily basis, sharing information with the Building Commission, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Landgate, Valuer-General and Worksafe. The system will ultimately replace the monthly spreadsheets being submitted by some local governments and result in far more efficient sharing of data between government agencies.

LG Risk Vision

LG Risk Vision is an online software system developed by the Western Australian Local Government Association to help local government officers conduct emergency management risk assessment activities for their local government. LG Risk Vision incorporates the risk management requirements of the *National emergency risk management guide 2015* and the *Western Australian emergency risk management guide*. LG Risk Vision allows the user to enter, manage, track and report on local government risk management activities. The software is being rolled out to Western Australian local governments throughout 2017.

Other local government reform activities

Regional subsidiaries

The Western Australian Government has amended the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) to enable local governments to establish regional subsidiaries.

The Western Australian Local Government Association has advocated for local governments to be empowered to establish regional subsidiaries for many years. Regional subsidiaries will provide a more flexible model for local governments to collaborate and deliver shared services.

The Western Australian Local Government Association has developed a model charter that will be available for local governments seeking to establish a subsidiary to help implement the transition seamlessly.

Amendments to Road Traffic Code 2000 to allow cyclists of all ages on footpaths

Previously, the *Road Traffic Code 2000* (WA) enacted: 'The rider of a bicycle who is 12 years of age or older shall not ride on a footpath, that is not a shared path or a separated footpath.' The Western Australian Local Government Association developed the *Cycling on footpaths* discussion paper to help local governments consider the implications of amending the legislation to allow cyclists of all ages to ride on footpaths. At its July 2015 meeting, the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council resolved to support amending the *Road Traffic Code 2000* (WA) to allow all ages to cycle on footpaths. In early 2016, the Western Australian Government amended the *Road Traffic Code 2000* (WA) and from 26 April 2016 this allowed cyclists of all ages to cycle on footpaths throughout all Western Australian local government jurisdictions.

Waste local law

Over the course of 2015–16, local governments in Western Australia have commenced the introduction of waste local laws. This process will allow for greater consistency between local governments. The Western Australian Local Government Association, with funding from the Waste Authority through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account, has developed a template local law to help with this process, which was reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. This means that any waste local law put through based on the template, will be consistent and contemporary in language and scope and have an increased chance of being acceptable to the Western Australian Parliament.

Public Health Act 2016 (WA)

The development and introduction of the *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) is a major public health initiative for Western Australia. The *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) replaces the *Health Act 1911* (WA), and will be implemented over a three-year period. The *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) will provide local government with a greater focus on public health when protecting and planning for their communities' health priorities.

Local governments will now be required to develop public health plans, which are used to plan for the health and wellbeing of a local community, and establish health priorities and strategies for a three-year period. The public health plans aim to ensure that the health of the community is included in overall planning, and that this aligns with the state public health plan. The new public health plan will replace the current public health reporting requirements contained in the *Health Act 1911* (WA). It is intended that the provisions within the *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) will complement the integrated planning processes required under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA).

Report from the South Australian Government and the Local Government Association of South Australia

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government for 2015–16

General purpose grant

The methodology used to assess the general purpose component of funding under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cwth) is intended to achieve an allocation of grants to local governing bodies in South Australia consistent with the National Principles. The over-riding principle is one of horizontal fiscal equalisation, which is constrained by a requirement that each local governing body must receive a minimum entitlement per head of population as prescribed in the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cwth).

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission uses a direct assessment approach to the calculations. This involves the separate estimation of a component revenue grant and a component expenditure grant for each council, which are aggregated to determine each council's overall equalisation need.

Available funds are distributed in accordance with the relativities established through this process and adjustments are made as necessary to ensure the per capita minimum entitlement is met for each council. For local governing bodies outside the incorporated areas (the Outback Communities Authority and five Aboriginal communities) allocations are made on a per capita basis.

A standard formula is used as a basis for both the revenue and expenditure component grants.

Formulae

General financial assistance

The formula for the calculation of the raw revenue grants can be expressed as:

$$G = P_c \times S \times \left[\left(\frac{U_s}{P_s} \times RRI_s \right) - \left(\frac{U_c}{P_c} \times RRI_c \right) \right]$$

Similarly, the formula for the calculation of the raw expenditure grants can be expressed as:

$$G = P_c \times S \times \left[\left(\frac{U_c}{P_c} \times CRI_c \right) - \left(\frac{U_s}{P_s} \times CRI_s \right) \right]$$

Subscripts of s or c are used to describe whether it applies to the state or a particular council.

G = council's calculated relative need assessment

P = population

U = unit of measure – some units of measure are multiplied by a weight

S = standard, be it cost or revenue = $\frac{\text{expenditure or income}}{U}$

RRI = revenue relativity index. *CRI* = cost relativity index (also known as a disability factor). They are centred around 1.00, i.e. *RRIs* or *CRIs* equals 1.00. If more than one cost relativity index exists for any function then they are multiplied together to give an overall cost relativity index for that function.

In the revenue calculations for both residential and rural assessments, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has calculated a revenue relativity index based on the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Index of Economic Resources (from the Australian Bureau of Statistics). Where no revenue relativity index exists the *RR/c* = 1.0. Currently, in all expenditure calculations with the exception of roads and stormwater, there are no disability factors applied and consequently, *CR/c* = 1.0.

The raw grants, calculated for all functions using the above formulae, both on the revenue and expenditure sides, are then totalled to give each council's total raw grant. Any council whose raw calculation per head is less than the per capita grant, (\$20.18 for 2015-16), then has the per capita grant applied. The remaining balance of the allocated grant is then apportioned to the remaining councils based on their calculated proportion of the raw grant. The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission determined limits are then applied to minimise the impact on council's budgetary processes.

In the calculation of the 2015-16 grants, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission constrained changes to council's grants to between -4 and 0.5 per cent. Changes in grant for the majority of councils were in the range of -1 per cent and 0.5 per cent.

Grants to three councils were reduced at higher levels of -4 and 2 per cent as part of a process of decreasing grants in a manageable way for these councils. No council received an increase in grants above 0.5 per cent. An iterative process is then undertaken until the full allocation is determined.

The constraints applied by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission for the 2015-16 general purpose component reflect the paused indexation announced as part of the 2014-15 Federal Budget. South Australia received a decrease of \$1.1 million for 2015-16 due to a reducing share of the national population.

Component revenue grants

Component revenue grants compensate or penalise councils according to whether their capacity to raise revenue from rates is less than or greater than the State average. Councils with below average capacity to raise revenue receive positive component revenue grants and councils with above average capacity receive negative component revenue grants.

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission estimates each council's component revenue grant by applying the South Australian average rate in the dollar to the difference between the council's improved capital values per capita multiplied by the *RR/c* and those for South Australia as a whole, and multiplying this back by the council's population.

South Australia's average rate in the dollar is the ratio of total rate revenue to total improved capital values of rateable property. The result shows how much less (or more) rate revenue a council would be able to raise than the average for South Australia as a whole if it applied the South Australian average rate in the dollar to the capital values of its rateable properties.

This calculation is repeated for each of five land use categories: residential; commercial; industrial; rural; and other.

Valuations, rate revenue and population are averaged over three years to overcome fluctuations in the base data. Revenue relativity indices (*RR/c*) are only applied to the calculations for residential and rural land use categories.

Subsidies

Subsidies that are of the type that most councils receive and are not dependent upon their own special effort (i.e. they are effort neutral) are treated by the 'inclusion approach'. That is, subsidies such as those for library services and roads are included as a revenue function.

For 2015–16, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission reintroduced library subsidies and the libraries expenditure function to the assessment process. Previous concerns over data were overcome by replacing the unit of measure previously used (library visitors) with estimated resident population.

Component expenditure grants

Component expenditure grants compensate or penalise councils according to whether the costs of providing a standard range of local government services can be expected to be greater than or less than the average cost for the state as a whole, due to factors outside the control of councils. The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission assesses expenditure needs and a component expenditure grant for each of a range of functions and these are aggregated to give a total component expenditure grant for each council.

The methodology compares each council per capita against the South Australian average. This enables consistent and like-with-like comparisons.

A main driver or unit of measure is identified for each function. This is divided into the net expenditure on the function for the state as a whole to determine the average or standard cost for the particular function. For example, in the case of the expenditure function built-up sealed roads, 'kilometres of built-up sealed roads' is the unit of measure.

Using this example, the length of built-up sealed roads per capita for each council is compared with South Australia's length of built-up sealed road per capita. The difference, be it positive, negative or zero, is then multiplied by the average cost per kilometre for construction and maintenance of built-up sealed roads for South Australia as a whole (standard cost). This in turn is multiplied back by the council's population to give the component expenditure grant for the function. This grant can be positive, negative or zero.

In addition, it is recognised that there may be other factors beyond a council's control which require it to spend more (or less) per unit of measure than the South Australian average—to reconstruct or maintain a kilometre of road in this example. Accordingly, the methodology allows for a cost relativity index (CRI), to be determined for each expenditure function, for each council. Indices are centred around 1.0, and are used to inflate or deflate the component expenditure grant for each council. In the case of roads, CRIs measure the relative cost of factors such as material haulage, soil type, rainfall and drainage.

To overcome fluctuations in the base data, inputs into the expenditure assessments (with the exception of the newly revised road lengths) are averaged over three years. Table 34 details the approach taken to expenditure functions included in the methodology.

Table 34 South Australia's expenditure functions included in the methodology

Expenditure function	Standard cost	Units of measure
Waste management	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of residential properties, rural and commercial (shop) properties
Aged care services	Reported expenditures ¹	Population aged 65+ per Australian Bureau of Statistics Census and estimated resident population
Services to families and children	Reported expenditures ¹	Population aged 0-14 years per Australian Bureau of Statistics Census and estimated resident population
Health inspection	Reported expenditures ¹	Establishments to inspect
Libraries	Reported expenditures ¹	Estimated Resident Population
Sport and recreation	Reported expenditures ¹	Population aged 5–49 years as per Australian Bureau of Statistics census and estimated resident population
Sealed roads – built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of built-up sealed road as reported in General Information Return
Sealed roads – non-built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of non-built-up sealed road as reported in General Information Return
Sealed roads – footpaths	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of built-up sealed road as reported in General Information Return
Unsealed roads – built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of built-up unsealed road as reported in General Information Return
Unsealed roads – non-built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of non-built-up unsealed road as reported in General Information Return
Unformed roads ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of unformed road as reported in General Information Return
Stormwater drainage maintenance ^{2,3}	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of urban properties ⁴
Community support	Reported expenditures ¹	Three year average population modified by the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Advantage/Disadvantage cost relativity index
Jetties and wharves	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of jetties and wharves
Public order and safety	Reported expenditures ¹	Total number of properties
Planning and building control	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of new developments and additions
Bridges	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of bridges
Other needs assessments	Set at 1.00	Based on South Australian Local Government Grants Commission determined relative expenditure needs in a number of areas ⁶

¹ Council's net expenditure reported in the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission' Supplementary returns.

² Includes both construction and maintenance activities.

³ The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has also decided, for these functions, to use CRIs based on the results of a previous consultancy by BC Tonkin and Associates.

⁴ Urban properties = sum [residential properties, commercial properties, industrial properties, exempt residential properties, exempt commercial properties, exempt industrial properties].

⁵ The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has for these functions, used CRIs based on the results of a consultancy led by Emcorp and Associates, in association with PPK Environment and Infrastructure. Tonkin Consulting has since refined the results.

⁶ Comprises South Australian Local Government Grants Commission determined relative expenditure needs with respect to the following:

- non-resident use/tourism/regional centre – assessed to be high, medium or low
- duplication of facilities – identified by the number of urban centres and localities (as determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics)

- isolation – measured as distance from the GPO to the main service centre for the council (as published in the South Australian Local Government Directory; Local Government Association of South Australia)
- additional recognition of needs of councils with respect to Aboriginal people – identified by the proportion of the population identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- unemployment – identified by the proportion of the population unemployed
- capital city status – gives recognition to such things as the ability of the council to raise revenue from sources other than rates (i.e. car parking and the Wingfield dump), and their extraordinary expenditure need (i.e. due to the requirement that they maintain the entire road network within the city), and due to the daily influx of non-resident population
- environment and coastal protection – assessed to be high, medium or low
- The provision of cultural and tourist facilities – assessed to be high, medium or low.

Note: The final factor Other Needs Assessment (also known as Function 50) originates from awareness by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission that there are many non-quantifiable factors which may influence a council's expenditure, and that it is not always possible to determine objectively the extent to which a council's expenditure is affected by these factors. Therefore, in determining units of measure and cost relativity indices, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission must exercise its judgement based on experience, the evidence submitted to the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission, and the knowledge gained by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission during visits to council areas and as a result of discussions with elected members and staff.

Table 35 South Australia's calculated standards by function

Total population = 1 685 714

<i>Function</i>	<i>Standard (\$)</i>	<i>Unit of measure per capita</i>	<i>Total units of measure</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>
<i>Expenditure functions</i>				
Waste management	186.92	0.43600	725 105	Number of residential, rural and commercial (shop) properties
Aged care services	178.12	0.16774	278 971	Population aged more than 65
Services to families and children	70.69	0.17673	293 915	Population aged 0 to 14
Health inspection	357.57	0.01192	19 822	Establishments to inspect
Libraries	59.02	1.00924	1 678 458	Estimated resident population
Sport and recreation	181.64	0.77233	1 284 449	Population aged 5 to 49
Sealed roads – built-up	11 879.32	0.00640	10 650	Kilometres of sealed built-up
Sealed roads – non-built-up	11 879.32	0.00456	7 581	Kilometres of sealed non-built-up
Sealed roads – footpaths	16 505.92	0.00640	10 650	Kilometres of sealed built-up
Unsealed roads – built-up	1 742.06	0.00043	720	Kilometres of formed and surfaced, and natural surface-formed built-up road
Unsealed roads – non-built-up	1 742.06	0.02849	47 389	Kilometres of formed and surfaced, and natural surface-formed non-built-up road
Roads – unformed	104.32	0.00519	8 624	Kilometres of natural surfaced unformed road
Stormwater drainage - maintenance	82.28	0.45212	751 912	Number of urban, industrial and commercial properties including exempt
Community support	49.04	0.99989	1 662 906	Three year average population modified by the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Advantage Disadvantage Cost Relativity Index
Jetties and wharves	16 314.54	0.00005	78	Number of jetties and wharves
Public order and safety	25.76	0.56151	933 848	Total number of properties
Planning and building control	1 758.35	0.02605	43 324	Number of new developments and additions
Bridges	8 343.83	0.00052	863	Number of bridges
Other special needs	1.00	29.57290	49 182 500	Total of dollars attributed
<i>Revenue functions</i>				
Rates – residential	0.0035	147 270	244 660 796 466	Valuation of residential
– commercial	0.0063	19 649	32 678 835 593	Valuation of commercial
– industrial	0.0085	2 952	4 908 941 496	Valuation of industrial
– rural	0.0031	20 469	33 545 071 066	Valuation of rural
– other	0.0033	8 883	14 773 159 181	Valuation of other
Subsidies	1.00	26.48519	44 047 349	The total of the subsidies

Calculated standards by function

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission uses Table 35 to enable it to calculate a council's raw grant for each of the given functions. To do this the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission calculates each individual council's unit of measure per capita, compares it with the similar figure from the table and then multiplies the difference by the standard from the table and its own population. If CRIs are applicable, then they must be included as a multiplier against the council's unit of measure per capita.

It must be stressed that this only allows the calculation of the raw grant for the individual function, not the estimated grant. The calculation of the estimated grant is not possible as per capita minimums need to be applied and the total allocation apportioned to the remaining councils.

Aggregated revenue and expenditure grants

Component grants for all revenue categories and expenditure functions, calculated for each council using the method outlined above, are aggregated to give each council's total raw grant figure.

Where the raw grant calculation per head of population for a council is less than the per capita minimum established as set out in the Act (\$20.18 for 2015–16), the grant is adjusted to bring it up to the per capita minimum entitlement. The balance of the allocated amount, less the allocation to other local governing bodies outside the incorporated areas, is then apportioned to the remaining councils based on their calculated proportion of the raw grant.

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission determined limits may then be applied to minimise the impact on council's budgetary processes. In the calculation of the 2015–16 grants, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission constrained changes to councils grants to between –4 and positive 0.5 per cent. An iterative process is then undertaken until the full allocation is determined.

Identified local road grant

In South Australia, the identified local road grants component is divided into formula grants (85 per cent) and special local road grants (15 per cent). The formula component is divided between metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils on the basis of an equal weighting of road length and population.

In the metropolitan area, allocations to individual councils are determined again by an equal weighting of road length and population. In the non-metropolitan area, allocations are made on an equal weighting of road length, population and the area of each council.

Distribution of the special local road grants is based on recommendations from the South Australian Local Government Transport Advisory Panel. This panel is responsible for assessing submissions from regional associations on local road projects of regional significance.

Outback Communities Authority

The Outback Communities Authority was established in July 2010 under legislation of the South Australian Parliament and is prescribed as a local governing body for the purposes of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission's recommendations for funding distribution under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) 1995* (Cwth).

The Outback Communities Authority has broad responsibility for management and local governance of the unincorporated areas of South Australia. The Outback Communities Authority has a particular emphasis on helping provide local government-type services that are normally undertaken by local councils elsewhere in South Australia.

Due to the lack of comparable data, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission is not able to calculate the grant to the Outback Communities Authority in the same manner as grants to other local governing bodies. Rather, a per capita grant has been established. The 2015-16 per capita grant was \$377.89.

General purpose grant funding to the Outback Communities Authority were held to zero change for 2015-16 in recognition of the pause on indexation to funding under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) 1995* (Cwth).

Aboriginal communities

Since 1994-95, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has allocated grants to five Aboriginal communities recognised as local governing authorities for the purposes of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth). The Aboriginal communities are Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, Gerard Community Council Inc., Maralinga Tjarutja, Nipapanha Community Council Inc., and Yalata Community Council Inc.

Again due to data unavailability, grants for these communities are not calculated in the same manner as grants to other local governing bodies. Initially, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission used the services of Morton Consulting Services, who completed a study on the expenditure needs of the communities and their revenue-raising capacities. Comparisons were made with communities in other states and per capita grants were established.

Grants have gradually been increased in line with the increase in the general purpose component of funding for South Australia since the initial study. For the 2015-16 financial year, the per capita grant varied from \$192.90 for the Gerard Community Council to \$1236.01 for the Maralinga Tjarutja Community.

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant program for 2015-16 from that used in 2014-15

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission made a number of changes to its methodology for 2015-16, including:

- assessment of libraries – following a review of previous data provided by the South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission replaced the unit of measure previously used for the libraries expenditure function (number of visitors) with estimated resident population, reinstating the expenditure assessment into its recommendations. The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission also re-introduced the inclusion of library subsidies into the revenue assessments.
- expenditure function for waste management – based on information provided at council meetings, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission expanded the unit of measure for waste management from the number of residential properties to include the number of rural properties and commercial (shop) properties.

- valuations data – with the introduction of a new information management system for valuation records by the South Australian Government, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission reviewed its business rules for determining valuations for South Australia and each council. Revised business rules (to reflect current rebates and exemptions provided under the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA)) were implemented for 2015–16.

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local governments

Each one of South Australia's 68 local governments is required—by section 122 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA)—to develop and adopt a long-term financial plan and an infrastructure and asset management plan, each covering a period of at least 10 years.

The Local Government Association of South Australia continued to provide advice and assistance to the sector in 2015–16 through its ongoing Financial Sustainability Program.

During the year, resources made available to councils by the Financial Sustainability Program included:

- hands-on expert assistance in asset and infrastructure management and long-term financial management to councils (predominantly small country councils) that as at 30 June 2015 had not yet adopted settings of financial sustainability. Eighteen councils were offered a subsidy of up to \$4000 each
- a report by an Asset Management Advisory Committee recommending future directions to help councils in the areas of: waste management; community wastewater management systems; street lighting; council capacity; advocacy; regional airports; and greater consistency in audit treatment of asset management and long-term financial planning.

The Asset Management Advisory Committee recommendations endorsed then-current (2015) research projects on. This work then led to the approval (in May 2016) of new research project in the areas of: street lighting (alternatives); financial sustainability and rate revenue; shared services analysis and economic modelling; and asset management guidance for small rural councils.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

Comparisons between councils on a wide range of data are now facilitated by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission's annual publication of annual database reports dating back to 1995–95. These reports are available at: http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/LGGC.

Financial indicators

Each year, the Local Government Association of South Australia assembles an update report providing the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector as a whole. The 2016 update report (covering the fourteen-year period from 1 July 2000 until 30 June 2015) included data for the sector as a whole on the: operating surplus (deficit); net financial liabilities ratio; and operating surplus ratio.

In addition, the report compared categories of councils' actual results for their operating surplus ratio and net financial liabilities ratio.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–2016 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery.

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

The Local Government Research and Development Scheme continued as a primary source of funding for research in local government. Funded through tax-equivalent payments by the Local Government Finance Authority and royalties on extractive minerals, it was overseen by an advisory committee comprising three members of the Local Government Association of South Australia Board, a metropolitan Chief Executive, a country Chief Executive, a representative from local government trade unions, a representative from South Australian universities, the South Australian Office of Local Government and the Local Government Association of South Australia Chief Executive.

The scheme has approved a total of 683 projects since its inception in 1997, with \$27.6 million in total approved funding. This has attracted significant matching funds and in-kind support from other sources. Projects approved for funding during 2015–16 were:

- 2015.16 Socio-economic Impacts of Regional Owned and Operated Airports
- 2015.17 One Workforce – Libraries
- 2015.20 Private Sector Auditors Compared to the State Auditor General
- 2015.23 Parks Alive! Program – Refresh and Relaunch
- 2015.24 Helping Disadvantaged Communities through Collective Impact
- 2015.25 Strategic Procurement Risk Management, Compliance, Governance and Reporting Model
- 2015.28 Leadership Competency Framework Development
- 2015.33 Why Local Government Matters in South Australia
- 2015.37 Managing Mutual Obligation Volunteers
- 2015.38 Implications of Capital Investment for Licensed Council Water retailers
- 2015.39 MOU and Road Reserve Reinstatement Work Quality and Intervention Standard
- 2015.41 Evaluating the Business Case for Urban Trees
- 2015.44 Hoarding and Squalor Website Development and Training Materials
- 2015.45 Infrastructure Guidelines
- 2015.50 Review of the Better Practice Model, Financial Internal Controls
- 2015.52 GST Review of Local Government Fees and Charges
- 2015.54 Annual Revision of Model Financial Statements 2016–18
- 2015.55 Local Government Awareness Raising 2016
- 2016.01 Street Lighting (alternatives)
- 2016.02 Review of Arrangements for Code of Conduct Complaints
- 2016.03 Reform Implementation program
- 2016.04 Supporting Local Government Reform
- 2016.05 Audit Committee
- 2016.06 LG Workforce Alignment

- 2016.07 Financial Sustainability and Rate Revenue
- 2016.08 Schemes Review
- 2016.09 Governance
- 2016.10 Rubble Royalties
- 2016.12 Human Services Reform and Funding
- 2016.13 Flexible Learning Delivery
- 2016.14 Local Government Association Outreach Services
- 2016.15 Shared Services Analysis and Economic Modelling
- 2016.16 State Emergency Management Plan – Change Implementation and Resources
- 2016.17 Business Analyst Business Case
- 2016.18 Asset Management Guidance for Small Rural Councils
- 2016.19 Strategic Region-based Investment Attraction
- 2016.20 i-Responda Resource and Contact Management System
- 2016.21 i-Responda – app
- 2016.22 Development of a Local Government Strategic Procurement Policy
- 2016.23 Alternative Funding Mechanisms for Adaptation Activities
- 2016.24 Social Media 2.0
- 2016.26 Building Upgrade Finance Implementation
- 2016.27 Enhanced Climate Risk Assessment and Decision Making
- 2016.28 Feasibility Study for Low Emissions Investment
- 2016.29 Review of the Food Regulations 2002

Guidelines and model policies

The Local Government Association of South Australia continued to provide a range of material to help councils meet their governance obligations. These materials include model policies and procedures, guidelines, information papers and codes of practice. Those published or updated in 2015–16 included:

- *Model financial statements* (May 2016)
- *Annual report guidelines 2016*
- *Child safe environments guidelines* (July 2015)
- *Confidentiality guidelines* (May 2016)
- *Governance legislation self- audit tool* (June 2016)
- *Guidelines and template for publication of council member details on the council website* (November 2015)
- *Internal review of a council decision: model policy and procedure* (October 2015)
- *Model guidelines for outdoor dining* (January 2016)
- *Guidelines for primary and ordinary returns for council members* (June 2016)
- *Guidelines for primary and ordinary returns for council officers* (June 2016)
- *Public consultation policy – model policy* (February 2016)
- *Receipt and assessment of unsolicited proposals – model guidelines* (May 2016)

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

With the support and encouragement of the Local Government Association of South Australia, 25 councils have signed Indigenous Land Use Agreements with the Kurna people. Actions are now underway to facilitate formal agreements through Native Title Services. The Local Government Association of South Australia also drafted its own reconciliation action plan.

In April 2015, the South Australian Government secured \$15 million from the Australian Government to provide municipal services to Aboriginal communities outside of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara.

Over 2015-16, \$2.7 million was provided to deliver municipal services including waste management, dog control and environmental health, road maintenance and water provision.

Of the 17 service providers funded, four are local councils or a similar body, including:

- Berri Barmera Council which provides services to Gerard
- District Council of Yorke Peninsula which provides services to Point Pearce
- District Council of Coober Pedy which provides services to Umoona
- Outback Communities Authority which provides services to Dunjiba.

This funding will continue to be provided to communities over 2016-17 to support these vital services.

Legislative reforms

During 2015-16, the South Australian Office of Local Government finalised amendments to the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) to strengthen requirements for council accountability and governance through a range of improvements, including improved management of conflicts of interest and a more open approach to informal meetings and discussions.

The South Australian Office of Local Government also progressed work to reform the legislative provisions that govern how council boundaries can be changed under the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA). The proposed legislative framework will deliver a simpler and more flexible legislative framework to debate and decide potential council boundary changes and structural reform.

Any local government reform activities including deregulation and legislative changes by your jurisdiction during the reporting period.

Work commenced with the South Australian Office of Local Government and the South Australian Electoral Commission on proposals for the amendment bill for the Local Government Elections Act.

Report from the Government of Tasmania

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government for 2015–16 by the Tasmanian State Grants Commission

In arriving at its distribution recommendations, the Tasmanian State Grants Commission takes into account the requirements of the National Principles issued under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) namely horizontal fiscal equalisation (effort neutrality, minimum grant, other grant support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and council amalgamation for the base grant allocations) and asset preservation for the road grant allocations.

Methodology used for calculating base grants allocations

The base grant is distributed on the basis of a two pool approach, by firstly allocating the per capita grant (30 per cent of total base grant) on the basis of council population shares, and then distributing the remainder (70 per cent of total base grant) on a relative needs or equalisation basis. This is seen as the simplest and most transparent means of giving effect to the minimum grant National Principle (National Principle 3).

The equalisation model calculates a distribution of the relative needs pool using a balanced budget approach. That is, each council's relative needs grant entitlement is derived from the difference between the council's expenditure requirement necessary to provide services to a common standard with all other councils, and the council's revenue capacity, as calculated by the Tasmanian State Grants Commission.

Councils that are assessed to have a negative standardised deficit (a surplus where revenue capacity is greater than expenditure requirement) do not receive a relative needs grant component. These councils only receive a population share of the per capita minimum grant portion of the base grant component. Each year the relative needs component portion of the base grant is allocated amongst those councils assessed as having a positive standardised deficit (a deficit where expenditure requirement is greater than revenue capacity). The relative needs portion of funding is allocated in proportion to those standardised deficits.

The basic equalisation calculation is: revenue capacity less expenditure requirement equals assessed surplus divided by assessed deficit.

Revenue capacity is calculated using three-year averages of:

- the revenue a council would raise by applying the state-wide average rate in the dollar to all its rateable properties (standardised revenue)
- the council's per capita grant allocation
- certain other financial support payments.

Expenditure requirement is calculated as follows:

- a three-year average of the expenditure required to provide a common range of services (standardised expenditure)
- any allowances for additional support provided by councils for either doctors' practices or airports
- the Budget Result Term which enables a balanced budget at a state level.

Standardised expenditure is calculated as follows:

1. calculate total state-wide spending for each expenditure category
2. share the total expenditure between councils on a per capita basis (standard expenditure)
3. apply cost adjustors to standard expenditure to reflect inherent cost advantages/disadvantages faced by individual councils in providing services.

Tasmania's base grant model cost adjustors include: absentee population; scale (admin); climate; scale (other); dispersion; tourism; isolation; unemployment; population decline; worker influx and regional responsibility.

Methodology used for calculating road grant allocations

The road preservation model used by the Tasmanian State Grants Commission determines the allocation of the road grant according to council shares of the modelled asset preservation costs of council bridge (bridge and culvert assets) and road assets in Tasmania.

The road preservation model uses dimensions of the average Tasmanian road, as well as average costs and maintenance schedules, to calculate the state average cost per kilometre per annum for councils to maintain their road networks. Three road types are included within the assessment: urban sealed, rural sealed and unsealed roads.

Cost adjustors and an allowance are applied within the model to account for relative cost advantages or disadvantages faced by councils in road maintenance. These cost adjustors include rainfall, terrain, traffic and remoteness. An urbanisation allowance is also applied to road lengths in recognised urban areas.

The model calculates an assessed cost for each council to maintain its road network. The available road grant funds are then distributed to councils based on their share of the total state-wide assessed costs.

Grant stability

The Tasmanian State Grants Commission is aware of councils' preference for grant stability. In finalising the base grants each year, the Tasmanian State Grants Commission applies a 15 per cent cap and a 10 per cent collar to the base grant allocations. In determining the final base grant allocations for 2015-16, the 15 per cent cap did not affect any councils. The 10 per cent collar affected three councils. Caps and collars are not used in the road preservation model.

Triennium reviews

The Tasmanian State Grants Commission monitors council practices to ensure that its methods for distributing both the base and road grants are contemporary and equitable across councils. The Tasmanian State Grants Commission also monitors developments in local council policies, with a view to ensuring that the Tasmanian State Grants Commission's modelling reflects standard council policies.

In this context, the Tasmanian State Grants Commission operates a triennial review policy whereby major methodological changes are incorporated into its assessments every three years, with data updates and minor revisions to the methodology incorporated each year. This policy is designed to balance the conflict between grant stability and the desire to update the Tasmanian State Grants Commission's modelling to best reflect horizontal fiscal equalisation principles and developments in council practices.

Data sources

The Tasmanian State Grants Commission models are primarily data driven, which means that significant changes in data can influence calculated grant shares. The Tasmanian State Grants Commission takes the accuracy and consistency of data seriously and actively seeks to increase the integrity of the data used within the assessments. The Tasmanian State Grants Commission uses data from many sources to inform its models and decisions, including data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Valuer-General, Tourism Research Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, various state and Australian Government departments, engineering advice, and data sourced from councils either directly or through the Tasmanian Government's annual consolidated data collection process.

The main datasets sourced by the Tasmanian State Grants Commission to inform its models are detailed in Table 36.

Table 36 *Tasmanian data sources*

Data used	Source
Population, population dispersion, workforce movements, place of usual residence, dwellings, unoccupied to total dwellings as per Census night survey	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Assessed annual values data by municipality	Office of the Valuer-General
Domestic day tripper data	Tourism Research Australia (Australian Government)
Bed capacity data	Tiger Tours (Tourism Tasmania)
Unemployment, labour force data	Department of Employment (Australian Government)
Rainfall data	Bureau of Meteorology (Australian Government)
General practice, airport costing data	Affected councils
Car parking operations	Local Government Division (Department of Premier and Cabinet)'s Consolidated Data Collection Returns (Tasmania)
All council revenue and expenditure by function/expense category, grant and other financial support receipts, and road lengths and type	Local Government Division (Department of Premier and Cabinet)'s Consolidated Data Collection Returns (Tasmania)
Roads to Recovery program funding	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Australian Government)
Tasmanian Freight Survey – freight task by council road network by road type	Department of State Growth (Tasmania)
Road component construction costs, road and bridge construction index	Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors Australian Bureau of Statistics Consultant engineers Councils
Geographic information system (GIS) rainfall and terrain data broken down by road type and road slope	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tasmania)
Bridge and culvert asset inventory, including location, dimensions and construction type	Tasmanian State Grants Commission Council Bridge Data Returns

For comprehensive details on the Tasmanian State Grants Commission's methodology for determining the distribution of the 2015-16 funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program (both base grants and road grants), please refer to the *Tasmanian State Grants Commission financial assistance distribution methodology paper*, the *State Grants Commission annual report*, including *2015-16 Financial assistance grant recommendations* (Report # 39), and the *State Grants Commission 2015-16 Financial assistance grants data tables*, which are available on the publications page of the Tasmanian State Grants Commission website at <http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/>.

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant program for 2015-16 from that used in 2014-15

In 2015-16, the Tasmanian State Grants Commission implemented both data updates and methodology changes that it deemed appropriate over the period of the triennium.

2015-16 triennium methodology changes

In arriving at the 2015-16 recommendations, the Tasmanian State Grants Commission implemented the following methodology changes to the base grant model:

- Recognised returns to councils from waste management authorities. Previously, these returns were treated as an offset against expenditure. The change in methodology results in these returns now being recognised as a component of total assessed revenue of all councils.
- Excluded car parking expenditure from the assessment of council expenditure to align with the exclusion of car parking revenue.
- Altered the population decline cost adjustor from being based on five years of population data to three years of population data.

The Tasmanian State Grants Commission made no methodology changes to the road preservation model as a result of the triennium review.

Legislative change

There were no changes made to the State Grants Commission Act 1976 (Tas) during 2015-16.

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government

The Local Government (Content of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014 outlines the minimum requirements of a council's financial and asset management plans, strategies and policies, including the classes of assets for which council asset management plans and strategies must apply. At 30 June 2016, 27 of Tasmania's 29 councils were fully compliant with the Plans and Strategies Order. The remaining two councils partially complied with the order down from eight in the previous year.

According to analysis undertaken by the Tasmanian Auditor-General, there appears to be a steady improvement in councils' performance in terms of financial and asset management, which suggests that the requirements around long-term financial and asset management planning are having a positive impact.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

The Tasmanian Auditor-General undertakes an annual assessment of councils' financial sustainability and operational efficiency. The financial sustainability of councils is analysed using five selected indicators: operating surplus ratio, asset sustainability ratio, asset renewal funding ratio, road asset consumption ratio, and net financial liabilities ratio. The operational efficiency of councils is analysed using the following ratios: rates per rateable property, rates per head of population, operating costs per rateable property, average staff costs per full time equivalent employees and full time equivalent employees per head of population.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

In the 2015–16, the Tasmanian State Budget allocated \$400 000 to assist councils in the development of feasibility studies for local government reform. A further \$200 000 was allocated in 2016–17 to enable all willing councils to participate in investigations.

Initially, two memoranda of understanding were signed between the Tasmanian Government and councils in Tasmania's south. The agreements outlined proposals to conduct feasibility studies into local government reform opportunities including voluntary amalgamations, strategic shared services and resource sharing options for greater Hobart councils (Hobart City, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and Kingborough Councils) and south-east councils (comprising the Clarence City, Sorell, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman Councils [and as a subset of this: Clarence City, Sorell and Tasman Councils; Sorell and Tasman Councils; and Sorell, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman Councils]).

Subsequently, two memoranda of understanding to undertake feasibility studies into strategic shared services were signed with councils in the north-west and a separate memorandum of understanding was signed with councils in the north. The studies in the north and north-west will identify opportunities for councils to work more collaboratively through enhanced shared services or strategic resource sharing arrangements to deliver local government services in the north-west and north. After signing the memoranda of understandings, councils engaged consultants to undertake the feasibility studies. Reform options are required to meet the following objectives:

- be in the best interests of ratepayers
- improve the level of services for communities
- preserve and maintain local representation
- ensure the financial status of councils is strengthened.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities

The Flinders Council is the only Tasmanian council to undertake initiatives specifically for, or provide specific services to, Aboriginal communities.

The Flinders Council works in partnership with the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated to deliver the Furneaux Festival, which is a three-day event that celebrates the Islands' musical heritage, shared culture and history. The event is designed to include and acknowledge the Aboriginal community over the Australia Day long weekend.

Flinders Council also delivers an annual school holiday program with the support of the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated. The program is delivered four times a year and has included arts-based activities, rock climbing, abseiling, learn-to-surf school, performing arts and comedy, tennis clinics, DJ workshops and dance.

Local government reform activities including de-regulation and legislative changes

Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Act 2015 (Tas)

The *Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Act 2015*, which incorporates a number of amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), commenced on 13 April 2016. The amendments provide a new local government code of conduct framework for Tasmanian councillors. The key aspects of the new code of conduct framework include:

- the Model Code of Conduct (made by order of the Tasmanian Minister for Planning and Local Government) which prescribes the standard of behaviour that all Tasmanian councillors are required to meet when performing their role
- the Tasmanian Minister's independent Local Government Code of Conduct Panel which is responsible for the investigation and determination of code of conduct complaints
- that code of conduct complaints are lodged with the general manager of the relevant council, and can be made within six months of the councillor allegedly contravening the code of conduct
- the new powers of the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel to suspend councillors for serious breaches of the code of conduct
- a new ability for the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel to dismiss frivolous and vexatious complaints
- a new power for the Tasmanian Minister to remove a councillor from office if they have received a suspension sanction for three code of conduct breaches during one term of office or two consecutive terms of office
- a new offence provision providing that if a councillor fails to comply with a sanction imposed by the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel, that councillor may face a penalty or a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units, which currently equates to \$7700
- an appeal right from a Local Government Code of Conduct Panel determination to the Tasmanian Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) on the basis that the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel failed to comply with the rules of natural justice.

Councils are also now required to report, in their annual report, the number of code of conduct complaints that were upheld by the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel during the preceding financial year and the total costs met by the council during the preceding financial year in respect to all code of conduct complaints.

Targeted review of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

In December 2015, the Tasmanian Premier's Local Government Council endorsed Terms of Reference for a targeted review of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas). The aim of the targeted review is to ensure that the legislative framework for local government is effective and efficient, with a focus on improving governance. An effective and efficient legislative framework that promotes good governance enables local government to work strategically, in partnership with the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Government, to deliver improved services to communities in a manner that reflects the community values of acting fairly, transparently, inclusively and responsibly in the public interest.

The Terms of Reference established a steering committee to oversee the review. The steering committee considered the following aspects of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas), and made recommendations to the Minister in relation to:

- the functions of mayors, deputy mayors and elected members
- the appointment, functions and powers of the general manager
- financial management and reporting
- the functions and powers of the Director of Local Government of the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet
- the functions, powers and procedures of the Local Government Board
- the functions, powers and procedures of a board of inquiry
- local government elections – electoral rolls, funding and advertising
- the reduction of unnecessary administrative requirements.

Report from the Local Government Association of Tasmania

Developments in the use of long term financial and asset management plans by local government

Long term financial and asset management practices have been a significant focus for the Tasmanian local government sector in recent years. Since 2011, the Local Government Association of Tasmania has been integrally involved in several projects designed to better understand and improve practices in relation to strategic asset management and its link to long term financial planning.

Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project

The Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project commenced in 2011 and was funded by the Australian Government's former Local Government Reform Fund. Tasmania received the sum of \$870 000 to develop an integrated framework for long-term financial and asset management planning. The project was managed by the Local Government Association of Tasmania, with input from the Tasmanian Government, and involved developing long-term financial and asset management planning templates and implementing their usage across all Tasmanian councils.

Specific outcomes for this project relating to asset management have included:

- an improved ability of Tasmanian councils to plan and manage assets effectively for their communities
- development of the Tasmanian Local Government Asset Management Policy, which provided the policy framework for councils to develop their own policies and strategies for sustainable long-term asset management
- asset management plans for major asset classes in all Tasmanian councils.

Legislative framework

In February 2014, Ministerial Orders were gazetted requiring councils to develop long-term financial and asset management strategies and report sustainability indicators in the notes to annual financial statements.

Financial and asset management practice summaries

In 2015, the Local Government Association of Tasmania published 17 practice summaries to provide guidance on a range of long-term financial and asset management planning. These practice summaries are a quick reference guide for practitioners on the best approaches to a range of asset and financial management practices. They promote consistency and efficiency and respond to the current legislative requirements in relation to local government asset management planning.

In 2016, the Local Government Association of Tasmania developed a strategic asset management plan template for use by Tasmanian councils. This document aimed to be a combination of an asset management strategy and a summary asset management plan and meets the Tasmanian legislative requirements for a strategic asset management plan. The aim was to simplify the requirements of having an asset management strategy and strategic asset management plan by combining them into one document.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

Continuous improvement framework

In 2015, Tasmanian State and Local Governments agreed to the development of a continuous improvement framework. The aim of the continuous improvement framework is to provide councils with tools to promote continuous improvement. The continuous improvement framework will involve the development of new and targeted resources such as case studies, best practice guides, templates, and training to support performance improvements.

The continuous improvement framework concept was developed following a 2014 evaluation of the previously established joint Tasmanian State–Local Government Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project.

Sustainability and objectives indicators

In December 2011, the Local Government Division and the Local Government Association of Tasmania established 17 sustainability and objectives indicators. This occurred after extensive consultation with the local government sector and stakeholders to measure local government performance in the following four key local government areas: financial management; asset management; land-use planning; and community satisfaction.

Five of the indicators have associated benchmarks against which council performance can be assessed. For the remaining 12 indicators, targets or benchmarks may be set in the future.

A detailed summary of the indicators is available from the Tasmanian State Government's Local Government Division website at <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au>.

Auditor-General annual performance assessments

The Tasmanian Auditor-General assesses the financial sustainability and operational efficiency of councils annually. The financial sustainability indicator ratios are: operating surplus; asset sustainability; asset renewal funding; road asset consumption; and net financial liabilities.

The operational efficiency indicator ratios are: rates per rateable property; rates per head of population; operating costs per rateable property; average staff costs per full time equivalent employees; and full time equivalent per head of population.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Review of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

The Tasmanian Government released a discussion paper for consultation in April 2016, outlining a targeted review of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas). The targeted review of the Act is aimed at improving governance arrangements within councils. The review will ensure the legislative framework for local government is effective and efficient. The matters being considered were described on page 148. It is expected that any necessary amendments to the Act emanating from the review will be introduced to Parliament by May 2017.

Local government reform opportunities

Most Tasmanian councils are working with the Tasmanian Government to explore sectoral reform options, with the foundational objective of building a strong and resilient local government sector and improving the service delivery outcomes for Tasmanian communities.

The Tasmanian Government and participating councils have established four memoranda of understanding to conduct feasibility studies for 24 of Tasmania's 29 councils. The memoranda of understanding outline the terms of reference for each study; joint funding arrangements; and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

The four studies will consider various reform opportunities for: four greater Hobart councils; four south-east councils; nine Cradle Coast councils; and eight northern councils.

Each study will incorporate reliable evidence upon which councils, in close consultation with their communities, can make informed local government reform decisions. The studies represent some of the largest and most thorough examinations of reform options for various groups of councils ever undertaken in Tasmania. They will consider the potential for, and possible savings from, voluntary amalgamations; shared services; fee for service; and other reform models considered appropriate.

Four reform principles must be met in order for any of the reform proposals to be considered further. Namely, proposals must: be in the interest of ratepayers; improve the level of services for communities; preserve and maintain local representation; and ensure that the financial status of the entities is strengthened.

The Tasmanian Government, in partnership with councils, has funded the development of feasibility studies of proposed amalgamations and strategic shared services. The four studies are at various stages of development.

The first draft report into the four south-east councils was issued during October 2016, with the remainder of the studies are expected to be finalised in early 2017.

In 2016, four north-west councils independently engaged the Centre for Local Government from the University of Technology Sydney to assess the savings and other impacts delivered through resource sharing. The evidence demonstrated considerable financial efficiency and service improvement outcomes through the arrangements in place.

Development of a good governance guide for local government

The *Good governance guide* was produced in May 2016 by the Tasmanian Government, working closely with the Local Government Association of Tasmania. The guide acts as a resource for Tasmanian local government elected members to help build a better understanding of, promote, and enhance good governance in local government.

Initiatives undertake and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

There were no specific local government initiatives undertaken in 2015-16 in Tasmania in relation to service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. However, at its 2016 July general meeting the Local Government Association of Tasmania resolved to support the proposed amendment to the Tasmanian Constitution to provide for constitutional recognition of Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Report from the Northern Territory Government

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government for 2015–16

The Northern Territory Grants Commission's methodology conforms to the requirement for horizontal equalisation as set out in section 6 (3) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth). The Northern Territory Grants Commission, in assessing relative need for allocating general purpose funding, uses the balanced budget approach to horizontally equalise, based on the formula: assessed expenditure need minus assessed revenue capacity equals assessed equalisation requirement.

The methodology calculates standards by applying cost adjustors and average weightings to assess each local government's revenue raising capacity and expenditure need. The assessment is the Northern Territory Grants Commission's measure of each local government's ability to function at the average standard in accordance with the National Principles.

Population

For the 2008–09 allocations, the Northern Territory Grants Commission resolved to use the latest estimated resident population figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and then adjust the figures to align with the population total advised to Canberra from the Northern Territory Treasury. The Northern Territory's funding is based on this total population figure. The same rationale was used for the 2015–16 calculations. The 2011 census data was able to provide Indigenous population statistics on a shire basis for the first time. It was noted that these statistics on a percentage of population basis were significantly lower than those used to determine the previous Aboriginality cost adjustor for the new shires in 2008.

Revenue raising capacity

As the ownership of the land on which many communities are located is vested in land trusts established pursuant to the *Aboriginal Lands Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cwth), it is not, for all intents and purposes, feasible to use a land valuation system solely as the means for assessing revenue raising capacity.

The collection of actual accurate financial data through the Northern Territory Grants Commission's annual returns enabled a number of revenue categories to be introduced, including municipal and shire rates, domestic waste and interest.

In addition, to accord with the National Principles, other grant support to local governing bodies by way of the Roads to Recovery program, library grants and local roads grants are recognised in the revenue component of the methodology. In the case of recipients of the Roads to Recovery program grants, 50 per cent of the grant was included. Library grant and local roads grant recipients had the total amount of the grant included.

The Northern Territory Grants Commission considers that, given unique circumstances within the Territory, this overall revenue raising capacity approach provides a reasonable indication of a council's revenue raising capacity. For the 2015–16 allocations, financial data from 2013–14 was used.

Expenditure needs

The assessment of standard expenditure is based on the Northern Territory average per capita expenditure within the expenditure categories, to which cost adjustors are applied that reflect the assessed disadvantage of each local government.

The Northern Territory Grants Commission currently uses the nine expenditure categories in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Local Government Purpose Classifications. In the 2012-13 grant calculations an additional expenditure category was created (regional centre recognition) to acknowledge the financial drains on municipal councils caused by urban drift. This expenditure category has been used in all subsequent grant calculations.

Cost adjustors

The Northern Territory Grants Commission uses cost adjustors to reflect a local government's demographics, geographical location, external access, and the area over which it is required to provide local government services. All of these influence the cost of service delivery. The cost adjustors used by the Northern Territory Grants Commission for 2015-16 are in Schedule 2 of the Northern Territory Grants Commission Annual Report 2014-15. There are three cost adjustors: location, dispersion and Aboriginality.

Minimum grants

For most local governments, the assessed expenditure needs exceed the assessed revenue capacity, meaning there is an assessed need. In five cases, assessed revenue capacity was greater than assessed expenditure need, meaning that there was no assessed need. However, as the legislation requires that local governments cannot get less than 30 per cent of what they would have been allocated had the funding been distributed solely on the basis of population, five local government councils still receive a grant, or what is referred to as the minimum grant.

Formula – revenue component

For all councils:

Assessed revenue raising capacity	= total identified local government revenue
Total local government revenue	= assessed Northern Territory average revenue plus other grant support plus budget term

Where

Revenue category	= domestic waste, garbage, general rates, general rates other, special rates parking, special rates other, fines and interest
Domestic waste	= per capita
Garbage other	= actual
General rates	= average rate
Service charges	= per capita
Interest	= actual
State income by revenue category 2013–14	= actual state local government gross income
Actual state local government gross income 2013–14	= \$146 928 598
Other grant support	= Roads to Recovery program grant 2014–15, (50 per cent), library grant 2014–15, and roads grant 2014–15
Budget term	= Population x per capita amount
Total local government revenue for 2015–16 allocations	= \$316 049 893

Formulae – expenditure components

Total local government expenditure of \$316 049 893 apportioned over each expenditure component.

- a. General public services (\$101 649 224)

Community population/Northern Territory population x general public services expenditure x Aboriginality

- b. Public order and safety (\$18 270 579)

Community population/Northern Territory population x public order and safety expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

- c. Economic affairs (\$45 548 487)

Community population/Northern Territory population x economic affairs expenditure x (location + dispersion)

- d. Environmental protection (\$17 654 392)

Community population/Northern Territory population x environmental protection expenditure

- e. Housing and community amenities (\$50 449 997)

Community population/Northern Territory population x housing and community amenities expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

f. Health (\$2 189 229)

Community population/Northern Territory population x health expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

g. Recreation, culture and religion (\$49 725 157)

Community population/Northern Territory population x recreation, culture and religion expenditure x (location + dispersion)

h. Education (\$3 129 840)

Community population/Northern Territory population x education expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

i. Social protection (\$23 797 988)

Community population/Northern Territory population x social protection expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

j. Regional centre allowance (\$3 635 000)

Relevant municipal councils x assessed expenditure impact

Local road grant funding

To determine the local road grant, the Northern Territory Grants Commission applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are: 27 for sealed, 12 for gravel, 10 for cycle paths, seven for formed and one for unformed. The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local governments under the Financial Assistance Grant program for 2015-16 from that used in 2014-15

During the course of 2015-16, the methodology remained unchanged from the previous year. The usual data refreshment was undertaken upon receipt of the annual Northern Territory Grants Commission financial and roads returns.

Developments in the use of long term financial and asset management plans by local governments

In 2014–15, the former Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Community Services, now part of Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development, entered into a three-year agreement with the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory to provide a range of support services to the Northern Territory local government sector. One of the initiatives included under that agreement was for the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory to help provide best practice asset management guidance to councils.

In 2015–16, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory continued to provide advice and assistance to councils regarding asset management practices. Specifically, during the year the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory visited Barkly Regional Council, Alice Springs Town Council and Litchfield Council to help with councils' long term financial and asset management planning.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies.

In 2014–15, a Model Financial Statements Working Group was established with members from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development, and council staff, to develop an annual financial reporting framework for the Northern Territory local government sector. The model financial statements aim to include three standard ratios which will enable financial performance to be compared across the sector.

For this year, model financial statements were agreed and made available for local government councils to use for 2015–16 reporting. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory has been tasked with reviewing the take-up and use of these model financial statements for future reflection and improvement.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local authorities were established in 63 remote communities within nine regional councils across the Northern Territory. They comprise between six to 14 members, including community-nominated and regional council-elected members. Local authority meetings are held at least four times per year and discuss a range of issues such as council planning, budgeting, employment and the monitoring of service delivery within their respective communities.

A review of local authorities for 2015–16 indicated that local authorities were delivering on their objectives to deliver a stronger local voice and greater accountability for service delivery. There are 600 members of local authorities, 522 of whom are Indigenous (87 per cent), and 246 of whom are women (41 per cent). In 2015–16, local authorities held 400 meetings, of which 288 (72 per cent) successfully reached a quorum.

The Northern Territory Government endorsed broadening the activities of local authorities as the preferred body for the government's engagement with remote communities across all portfolio areas. This included either replacing or scheduling adjoining meetings with housing reference groups, community safety committees, health forums and school councils. New processes and arrangements have been developed to support the broader activities of local authorities and they include the Northern Territory Government establishing a coordination role.

The coordination role coordinates requests from Northern Territory Government agencies to attend local authority meetings. This process helps regional councils to manage the volume of requests from Northern Territory Government agencies and encourages the agencies to take a coordinated approach to engagement that includes sharing resources, coordinating travel and logistics, considering the use of Aboriginal interpreters and minimising unnecessary visits when alternative approaches might deliver the intended outcomes.

The coordination role also coordinates requests from local authorities or regional councils for information or a presentation from Northern Territory Government agencies. A process has been developed to enable the recording, tracking and following-up of local authorities and regional councils' requests for information from Northern Territory Government agencies. The ability to request information and coordinate responses helps keep remote communities better informed and up-to-date about the services and issues that affect them.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local government to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Local authorities were established in 63 remote communities across the Northern Territory. Of the 600 members of local authorities, 522 members are Indigenous (87 per cent) and 246 members are women (41 per cent). In addition to delivering a stronger local voice and greater accountability for service delivery, one of the functions of local authorities is to determine local projects that reflect the needs and priorities of the local community.

In 2015-16, the 63 local authorities approved 391 local projects for their communities with 353 of them (90 per cent) having either been completed or in progress. Examples to date include community amenities, playgrounds, water parks, sporting facilities, community lighting, community festivals and public toilets. Regional councils receive funding of \$5.1 million per year for local authority projects, which is allocated through a methodology that is consistent with the methodology used for distributing Financial Assistance Grant program funding.

In 2015-16, the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development provided \$7.9 million in Indigenous Jobs Development Funding to nine regional councils and one shire council to help subsidise 50 per cent of the cost of employing Indigenous staff within their councils. The grant provides regional councils with financial assistance for salaries and approved on-costs for Indigenous employees delivering local government services.

Local government reform activities in the areas of deregulation and legislative change

There were no local government reform activities in the areas of deregulation and legislative change undertaken within the department during 2015-16.

Report from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory provided assistance to the following councils with their long term asset and financial planning: Roper Gulf Regional Council; Katherine Town Council; Barkly Regional Council; Alice Springs Town Council; and Litchfield Council. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory continued to encourage all councils to have asset management plans and long term financial projections in place when developing annual budgets and planning for infrastructure renewals.

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory continued to deliver training and support to elected members and council officers on the merits of planning over the longer term, particularly relating to the long-lived infrastructure assets for which councils are responsible.

Most councils have plans, at differing stages of development, in place to meet their long term financial and asset management plan obligations.

Some of the challenges councils face in meeting these obligations are: attracting and retaining staff skilled in asset management and financial planning; and significant financial sustainability challenges and high volatility with government grants, all of which inhibit planning activities to some extent.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

With regard to developing and implementing comparative performance measures between local governing bodies:

- Northern Territory councils adopted a sector-wide standard format for reporting on annual financial performance and position. The standard includes specific financial sustainability indicators that will enable comparison of operations and sustainability between councils of similar size and demographic.
- The inclusion of the financial sustainability indicators was voluntary for the financial year ended 30 June 2016. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory is currently undertaking an analysis to ascertain the number of councils who chose to report using the new format.
- Councils are currently working with the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a wide range of key performance indicators across all aspects of a council's service delivery.

Reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Councils undertook reforms in 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery. Some councils:

- established local authorities in 63 communities with some delegations for decision-making on local projects
- installed solar power on council buildings and LED street lighting to reduce electricity costs
- constructed ramps on public buildings to improve disabled access
- rehabilitated abandoned landfill sites to more appropriate standards using guidelines that were developed during the year to enable them to be closed
- changed rating systems from a flat rate per parcel to unimproved capital value
- adopted master plans for public art
- undertook household waste audits to determine the planning for future waste management strategies
- purchased equipment to safely recycle fluorescent tube lighting
- built soakage pits in ovals to improve drainage
- introduced drone technology in the areas of asset management, mapping and disaster management, tree condition assessments, wetlands assessment and feral animal monitoring
- improved a tourism visitor information centre to make it more usable and welcoming
- upgraded visiting officer accommodation in some remote communities to include more units
- protected public assets against vandalism with the installation of closed-circuit television, improved lighting and fencing
- supported the formation of regional transport groups of councils within the Northern Territory and developed a terms of reference and governance charter for them
- produced a manual for councils with the help of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission so that councils can run their own by-elections
- continued to offer Australia-wide procurement services to councils by enabling them to access local government national procurement network contracts and achieve savings.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

All councils in the Northern Territory undertake initiatives and services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Most service delivery is done by regional councils in whose local government areas the majority of Aboriginal people reside. Apart from the more 'usual' local government programs performed by councils throughout Australia, councils in the Northern Territory also implemented the following:

- developed a range of program-based reporting tools (apps) to facilitate service reporting for remote communities with low levels of literacy. These apps, which include a waste facility audit app, a community safety reporting app and an app targeted at aged care reporting, combine simple pictorial reporting with an intuitive user interface that improves the quality and timeliness of reporting and promotes local Indigenous employment
- implemented learning, literacy and numeracy programs for council employees
- supported school attendance programs to increase attendance and have young adults and parents return to school
- held workshops for employees on mental health first aid
- introduced community messaging services to provide emergency updates, council activities and events, as well as general updates on bin collection schedules, animal management visits and so forth
- operated a community bus service for the town of Wadeye
- provided input to alcohol management plans in local government areas
- completed training for the remote pilots certificate course in drone technology
- operated community radio, Australia Post and Centrelink services for remote communities
- assisted the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development to meet its obligations under the *Residential Tenancy Act 2017* (NT) in remote communities
- ran energy efficiency education programs in conjunction with other agencies to give remote residents the ability to make informed choices about their electricity and water usage
- supported Indigenous women with community and market garden projects
- completed curb and guttering projects on urban roads in some communities for the first time
- installed irrigation systems in council reserves using the workforces of Indigenous corporations
- gained the award of the Northern Territory's Tidiest Town for the town of Mount Liebzig in the MacDonnell Regional Council area
- supported youth boards in some communities and ran youth leadership courses
- provided lifesaver training for employees working in swimming pools
- restored a church, together with community organisations, with recycled materials
- carried out upgrades to essential services infrastructure on outstations under contract with the Northern Territory Government.

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory also provided governance training for members of town-based local authorities and regional and municipal councils.

Local government reform activities including deregulation and legislative changes

Perhaps the singular most significant reform activity undertaken during the year was the one whereby councils reached agreement with the Northern Territory Government to take over the ownership of street lighting assets on local roads from 1 January 2018. The move settles arrangements between councils and the Northern Territory Government's Power and Water Corporation, which for some years were under negotiation and the subject of legal advice. Councils are now left with decisions to make about asset management, including whether to secure the services of the Power and Water Corporation or other entities for the ongoing repairs and maintenance of street lights from 2018.

Throughout the year councils and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory took part in working group meetings with the Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Community Services to consider many proposed amendments to the Local Government Act 2016 (NT).

Report from the Australian Capital Territory Government

The Australian Capital Territory Government administers the Australian Capital Territory as a city–state jurisdiction, unique within the Australian Federation. As a result there is little or no differentiation in Australian Capital Territory Government service provision between ‘state-like’ and ‘local-like’ functions. This is demonstrated by the Australian Capital Territory Government’s engagement with local government through membership of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation and the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, as well as engagement with other jurisdictions through the Council of Australian Governments.

The Australian Capital Territory Government is increasingly focused on enhancing Canberra’s role as the regional centre for south-east New South Wales and the relationships that exist across the Canberra region. The Australian Capital Territory Government works closely with the New South Wales Government and local government in the region to address matters of common interest. The Australian Capital Territory Government also seeks to engage with major cities in Australia to share solutions and advocate on issues faced by Australia’s cities.

Developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by the Australian Capital Territory Government

The Australian Capital Territory Government Infrastructure Plan 2011–21

The Australian Capital Territory Government Infrastructure Plan 2011–21, outlines future strategic objectives of:

- implementing strategic asset management and service planning across government agencies
- exploring strategic opportunities across all agencies to support innovation and quality infrastructure design
- consulting on the need for a climate change vulnerability assessment framework for Australian Capital Territory Government infrastructure
- strengthening strategic infrastructure planning by developing closer links with Government prioritisation processes
- engaging in continuous improvement of the planning and delivery of new infrastructure investment in the Australian Capital Territory.

The Australian Capital Territory Government publishes updates to the infrastructure plan to inform businesses and the community of the current projects being undertaken through its capital works program, while outlining works the Australian Capital Territory Government is considering for future budget processes.

The Capital Framework

During 2015–16, the Australian Capital Territory Government continued to plan, manage and review capital works projects under The Capital Framework. The Capital Framework seeks to improve business case development through better service and asset planning, as well as early project definition and scope.

As part of the Australian Capital Territory Government's commitment to improve the delivery of capital projects, a continuous improvement review of The Capital Framework will be undertaken in 2017 to assess the success of The Capital Framework and any lessons learned since The Capital Framework's introduction in 2013. The outcomes of this review will be used to enhance and refine The Capital Framework.

The Capital Framework facilitated the procurement of major infrastructure projects in the Australian Capital Territory in 2015-16, including two private public partnership projects—the Australian Capital Territory Courts redevelopment and the Light Rail—Stage 1 project. These projects had contractual and financial completion in 2015-16 and have both moved into the construction phase.

The Partnership Framework

During 2015-16 the Australian Capital Territory Government progressed the Partnerships Framework, which establishes the policy for:

- delivering major infrastructure projects under models including design, construct, maintain, operate and public private partnership
- evaluating unsolicited proposals under a structured framework.

Strategic asset management planning

The Australian Capital Territory Government has provided funding support for the development of strategic asset management plans for each of its directorates. This program of investment seeks to foster best practice to enhance the Australian Capital Territory's economic capacity, reduce future costs, and grow the city in a way that meets the changing needs of the Australian Capital Territory demographic and maintains current infrastructure. The Australian Capital Territory Government policy is that all agencies must have robust strategic management plans in place.

Asset improvement

As part of its planning, the Australian Capital Territory Government provides funding for the ongoing improvement of the assets through its Capital Upgrade Program. Investment in the upgrade of assets extends the useful life, or improves the service delivery capacity of existing physical infrastructure. Upgrades are distinct from routine repairs and maintenance, which receive separate funding.

Transport Canberra and city services initiatives

An asset management pilot project was conducted during 2014 which delivered a standard strategic asset management plan template to be used uniformly across the directorate. The major asset owners within the directorate have strategic asset management plans in place that are used to support budget submissions, guide whole-of-life cycle asset management and deliver directorate outputs.

A project also began during 2015-16 to replace and upgrade asset management information systems. These information systems will further enhance the electronic information capability, which will in turn support asset management activities across the directorate.

Actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

The Australian Capital Territory Government does not currently undertake comparative performance measures with other local governments. However, the Australian Capital Territory Government does participate in the Productivity Commission's annual *Report on government services*. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of Government Services in Australia. The report outlines the Australian Capital Territory's performance relative to other state and territory jurisdictions on key government services including: education, health, community services, justice services, emergency management and housing and homelessness.

Australian Capital Territory Government reforms undertaken during 2015–16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery

[Access Canberra](#)

Access Canberra was established to provide a one-stop shop for Australian Capital Territory Government customer and regulatory services and make community access to Australian Capital Territory Government services easier, simpler and faster. The agency actively engages with businesses, community groups and individuals to identify areas to reduce red tape and improve Australian Capital Territory Government services. Access Canberra is often the first point of contact for individuals, organisations and businesses dealing with the Australian Capital Territory Government. The agency provides over 2000 different services through agencies, shopfronts and online services.

During 2015–16, among the many reforms undertaken to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery, Access Canberra:

- installed new touch screen terminals at Access Canberra service centres, enabling citizens to get their business done and get back to their day without having to wait in a queue
- simplified forms, made them more accessible (with 221 services online), and processed more than 1.3 million online transactions
- continued to make it easier to hold events in the Australian Capital Territory, by working with 418 event organisers to approve 351 events and delivering a personalised case management service to coordinate approvals from all regulatory arms of government
- streamlined liquor permit approval processes for pop-up bars and low risk events and streamlined the liquor licence renewal process for licences
- moved the publication of public notices online, removing the requirement to advertise notices in print media and saving business time and money
- redeveloped the public register of licensed construction occupation professionals to make it searchable online
- introduced arrangements for customers to establish and update infringement payment plans for traffic fines over the phone
- continued to lessen the red tape burden for local businesses through implementing legislation, which amongst many other reforms:
 - simplified the licence application process for the security industry

- extended the period for submission of trust account details under the *Agents Act 2003* (ACT) to the Fair Trading Commissioner, providing greater flexibility to licensed real estate businesses and stock and station agents during the busy time of setting up a new business.

In addition, Access Canberra continued to coordinate joint engagement and education inspection programs across a variety of industry sectors to enhance compliance and community safety. Joint inspections give business owners more time to provide services to their customers by reducing the amount of time they need to set aside to deal with government to gain approvals.

Australian Capital Territory Government initiatives undertaken in relation to service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Older Persons Housing Project – Jenke Circuit Kambah

In 2013–14, the Australian Capital Territory Government committed \$1.5 million for the construction of culturally-specific accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older persons to ‘age in place’.

In 2016, the Australian Capital Territory Government, in collaboration with the Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, delivered Mura Gunya—meaning ‘Pathway to Home’—a development of five, two-bedroom units designed specifically for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Mura Gunya project represents a true partnership between the Australian Capital Territory Housing and Community Services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. From the beginning there was an explicit acknowledgement of the importance of culture to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their connections to country and kinship that inform how community members choose to live. An understanding of these connections guided and informed the project’s design, development and construction.

The Australian Capital Territory Government worked closely with the Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in selecting a suitable site in Kambah for the older persons units. It then engaged Architecture for Humanity, which has a proven record in delivering culturally-appropriate projects, to work with the Australian Capital Territory Government, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and the principal architect to develop the functional brief and design. Two simple examples of the consideration and thought that went into the development are the inclusion of native plants in the landscaped grounds, and a gathering space complete with a fire pit for ceremonial and cultural events.

Initiatives, including traditional ceremonies at key stages of the construction works, were incorporated into the project. A Smoking Ceremony was held to cleanse the site prior to the commencement of construction with the ashes from the ceremony retained and placed into the foundations of the covered communal area. The broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was also invited to nominate potential names for the development to encourage a sense of ownership and connection to the new development. The chosen name—Mura Gunya meaning ‘Pathway to Home’—was suggested by a local community member and has been warmly embraced by all tenants and the wider Canberra community.

The project also used 'social procurement' requirements to promote the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be employed in the project. This helped to build community capacity and promote the benefits of social inclusion. The requirement to use, employ or train Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, contractors and suppliers to deliver the project also generated employment opportunities and promoted social inclusion for community members.

Mura Gunya was designed to a minimum six star energy efficiency rating, making it environmentally and economically sustainable. The units are cheap to maintain and operate, incorporating good solar orientation as well as energy efficient and water saving appliances. Each unit is designed to support residents to 'age in place', further fostering connections and networks in the community.

The design of Mura Gunya responds explicitly to the importance of community and family for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The units are clustered around a landscaped central communal area which includes a covered barbecue area and fire pit for social and cultural ceremonies. The units' design promotes strong links between the interior and exterior spaces, including the communal area. Each has a large covered veranda-like space that allows residents to accommodate larger family gatherings. Separate private courtyards are also provided for privacy.

The use of native plants throughout the development provides a strong connection to the local landscape with native grasses, shrubs and trees featuring prominently. The landscaping also includes medicinal and bush tucker plants, which enables residents to maintain cultural traditions and provides an opportunity to pass them down to others.

The Mura Gunya development was officially opened in September 2016.

The Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2015–18

The Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2015–18 was signed on 23 April 2015 by the Chief Minister, the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, and the Head of the Australian Capital Territory Public Service.

The agreement is the overarching document that will guide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in the Australian Capital Territory over the next three years. The agreement leads the way for the Government to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to fully participate in and enjoy the social, economic and wellbeing benefits of living in the Australian Capital Territory.

The agreement aims to build strong families by focusing on seven key focus areas: cultural identity; healthy mind, healthy body; feeling safe; connecting the community; employment and economic independence; education; and leadership. An implementation plan for the Agreement is currently being developed.

The Education Directorate is committed to achieving more equitable educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Education Directorate has a range of existing programs aimed at meeting the academic, social, emotional and physical learning needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Canberra's public schools. These include supporting personalised learning pathways; leadership and mentoring programs; improving attendance; and ongoing work to implement the Australian Capital Territory Whole of Government Agreement.

Reconciliation – Keeping It Alive 2016–18

The Education Directorate launched *Reconciliation – Keeping it Alive 2016–2018* in May 2016. The Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group developed the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan concept of *Reconciliation – Keeping it Alive 2016–2018* as the theme of the Directorates third reconciliation action plan. The working group included cross-directorate membership and stakeholder representation from the Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Group, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, and the Education Directorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Network. The Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan is communicated through a suite of tools:

- Reconciliation Postcard – the postcard engages with questions relating to reconciliation and the Directorates Cultural Integrity Framework
- Keeping it Alive – a cultural object in the form of a double-sided poster.

Development of the poster and postcard occurred through a thorough review of the Directorate’s previous reconciliation action plans, consultation and feedback from key stakeholders, including the Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and the Wreck Bay community.

Australian Capital Territory Education Directorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Network and Mentoring Program

In 2016, the Education Directorate’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Network commenced meeting with the senior executive team to progress the strategic priorities of the network—to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and to provide mentoring and career development opportunities.

The staff network co-designed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mentoring Program with the Directorate. The program guidelines are based on, and developed as a result of, a workshop held by the Education Directorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Network in 2015. At this workshop the staff network identified potential mentors within the Education Directorate and the skills and types of mentoring options that suit the needs of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.

Student Aspirations Program

The Student Aspirations Program employs student coordinators to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from year five to year 12 who show high academic achievement, engagement in school, and strong leadership potential. The program supports them through their schooling and into further study post year 12. In 2015–16, 150 students participated in the program. In term one of 2016, five schools with approximately 40 students participated in school-directed enrichment activities, including attending the Halogen Youth Leadership Day for Primary Schools and learning activities at Questacon.

Schools for All Program

The *Schools for All Children and Young People – Report of the Expert Panel on students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour* was released on 18 November 2016. The expert panel recognised that while the Australian Capital Territory has excellent school systems and achieves outstanding results on many measures, there are challenges for schools in supporting students with complex needs and challenging behaviours. The panel made fifty

recommendations to address the issues and challenges they identified through extensive consultations. The Schools for All Program is driving system reform across the following four themes:

1. *Be effective and efficient through evidence* – children and young people achieve learning and wellbeing outcomes within a student-centred, innovative, effective and efficient education system
2. *Be informed* – children and young people, parents/carers, and schools are empowered and know where to go to get what they need, so they can make the right decisions at the right time to achieve student outcomes
3. *Collaborate with partners* – children and young people, families, and schools commit to a shared responsibility and mutual trust in the care of all students to achieve learning and wellbeing outcomes
4. *Build capability* – all education staff are looked after; equipped and empowered to respond; teach to the needs of all students; draw meaning from their work; and know they make a difference to children, young people and the Canberra community.

Community Yarns

The Community Yarns project was developed as part of the directorate's *Connection collaboration careers leadership: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment action plan 2014-2017*. The aim of the program is to engage members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community who are interested in employment opportunities within the directorate, including casual employment. Community Yarns are delivered across each of the four networks once a term, providing an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to network with directorate staff and hear about employment opportunities and staff experiences working in the education system.

Koori Preschool

The Australian Capital Territory Government's Koori Preschool program provides targeted early childhood education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for two days per week, for a total of nine hours during school terms. There are five Koori Preschools that provide a program strong in language, numeracy and cultural understanding for up to 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from birth to five years of age. In February 2016, there were 78 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled across the five schools, an increase from 69 students in 2012. Koori Preschools are located at: Ngunnawal Primary School (Gungahlin); Wanniasa School (Tuggeranong); Richardson Primary School (Tuggeranong); Narrabundah Early Childhood School (Inner South); and Kingsford Smith School (Belconnen).

Deregulation and legislative change

Deregulation reforms

In terms of significant regulatory reform initiatives, in January 2015 the Australian Capital Territory Government announced a review of the taxi industry to examine the potential use of new technologies for the local industry. During 2015–16, the Australian Capital Territory announced and commenced nation-leading industry reforms, which included the introduction of rideshare services to the territory; the reduction of fees and charges for taxi industry participants (in October 2015); and the introduction of legislative amendments for a second phase of reforms (which commenced in August 2016).

The Australian Capital Territory developed a model single licensing framework for fair trading. *The Traders (Licensing) Act 2016* (ACT) streamlined and consolidated the licensing requirements of four fair trading Acts into a single Act. The move incorporates the licensing sections of the *Sale of Motor Vehicles Act 1977* (ACT), *Fair Trading (Motor Vehicle Repair Industry) Act 2010* (ACT), *Second-hand Dealers Act 1906* (ACT), and *Pawnbrokers Act 1902* (ACT).

Licence applications, renewals and transfers will be easier, faster and simpler for licence holders or new applicants under the new legislation, with the capture of information only required once by Access Canberra. The new legislation, developed in close consultation with industry members, strikes a balance between reducing the administrative burden on licence holders or new applicants and the requirement to provide an appropriate level of information to government to ensure consumer protection and public safety. Access Canberra will spend 12 months embedding new processes in order to support the new legislation.

The Australian Capital Territory Government also commenced two annual red tape reduction Bills to complement the government's program of reforms. The omnibus Bills remove specific provisions that have been identified as redundant or as an unnecessary administrative cost to business or government.

The *Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2015* (ACT):

- reduced reporting for employers in the Australian Capital Territory by changing wage declarations for workers' compensation insurance purposes from six months to twelve months
- repealed the *Hawkers Act 2003* (ACT) and license hawkers under the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* (ACT)
- modernised requirements for public notices in the Australian Capital Territory legislation to enable notification of public notices on an Australian Capital Territory Government website
- extended permits under the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* (ACT) from two to three years
- supported the establishment of Access Canberra through internal administrative improvements.

The *Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2016* (ACT):

- eased the burden of operating joint ventures formed by University of Canberra and obtaining approval to undertake campus development and other activities
- streamlined the liquor license renewal processes
- extended the period for submission of reports by agents regarding their new trust accounts
- reduced reporting burdens related to charitable collection activities
- removed the requirement for producing signed statutory declarations from several Acts
- simplified the submission of complaints to the Australian Capital Territory Government
- simplified the licence application process for the security industry
- enabled certain advertising of lotteries, including exempt lotteries
- modernised fair trading legislation for motor vehicle sales.

Report from the Australian Local Government Association

Financial Assistance Grant program distribution methodology

The Australian Local Government Association highlighted in its submission to the Australian Government Budget, and in broader discussions around tax reform, a number of issues in relation to the fundamental components of the Financial Assistance Grant program, namely their insufficient quantum and the failure of the indexation methodology to reflect the actual cost increases faced by councils.

Developments in relation to local government's use of long-term financial and asset management plans

Local government confronts a significant asset management task. Its infrastructure renewals backlog was estimated, in a 2006 PricewaterhouseCoopers report commissioned by the Australian Local Government Association, to be \$14.5 billion nationally. This number would have grown over the last decade. To address this backlog, the Australian Local Government Association identified a two-pronged approach. This involved advocating for a better funding model from the Australian Government, complemented by the need for internal local government reforms to ensure local community infrastructure could be better managed over the lifecycle.

The Australian Government has shown its commitment to working with local government to achieve real and meaningful outcomes for local and regional communities. The Australian Local Government Association has welcomed the Australian Government's confidence in local government and its ability to deliver infrastructure projects in order to support local communities. While this was clearly seen through the provision of funding to deliver thousands of large and small 'shovel ready' projects to local and regional communities under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, it continues through other programs today.

The Australian Government's Roads to Recovery program is highly valued by local and regional communities. They benefit directly from the increased utility provided by better local roads and improved road safety. It is a popular program that has the support of all political parties and it has enabled local government to produce value for money outcomes nationally. The Australian Local Government Association believes that the program should be permanently funded at double the current base level to provide certainty to local government, given the ongoing nature of the road asset management task. The Australian Local Government Association believes that the funding should be indexed annually to reflect the relevant cost increases faced by local governments.

The Australian Local Government Association has undertaken an analysis of the current state of local roads networks. That analysis confirmed the considerable backlog of infrastructure spending. The research showed that in order to restore and maintain the local road network councils required additional funding of approximately \$1.2 billion per annum.

To address the proposed funding gap, the Australian Local Government Association has sought additional Commonwealth investment. The proposed funding comprises a combination of increased Roads to Recovery program funding; funding targeting strategic freight routes; a continued dedicated program of funding for bridge maintenance; and additional identified roads grants which are part of the Financial Assistance Grant program funding. The Australian Local Government Association has supported a review of the distribution of the Financial Assistance

Grant program funding identified for roads so that it more accurately reflects needs, noting that any changes in formula should not result in any council being financially disadvantaged.

Given the importance of roads as local government's single largest asset, long term security of infrastructure funding is essential to develop and implement long-term asset management plans.

Measures taken to develop comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

At the national level, there are no overarching systems designed to produce comparative performance measures and analysis between councils. Performance measures that exist are established by individual state and territory governments and apply on a jurisdictional basis and state-based submissions are more likely to be able to address this issue.

As a general observation, the Australian Local Government Association appreciates that accurate, timely and consistent data is critical to enable credible comparative analysis of performance and outcomes. A number of Australian Government and parliamentary reports over recent years have highlighted that a lack of consolidated, quality data on local government is a significant problem.

The need to resolve data issues for local government remains important from a national perspective. The Australian Local Government Association has outlined the case for Australian Government funding to help measure improvements in local government service delivery in the Australian Government Budget for at least the last seven years. In particular, it cited the Productivity Commission's finding in the Assessing local government revenue raising capacity report (April 2008) that '[t]here is a need for the Australian Bureau of Statistics and various grants commissions to improve the consistency and accuracy of the local government data collections.'

Any reforms undertaken during 2015-16 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local government's key objective is to serve its communities, and continued improvements in service delivery is a primary objective of councils. A significant obstruction to improvement is the lack of financial security, combined with the increased overall financial pressure placed on local governments. When the funding model for local government was devised in the early 1980s, local council's responsibilities were generally restricted to the three 'r's'—roads, rates and rubbish. However, since that time, the balance of local government resources directed towards social services continues to increase, as does the cost to provide those services.

In order to maintain service provision, local government has had to make difficult budgetary decisions. Local councils continue to provide essential services such as homecare, libraries, low-cost childcare, and elderly and disabled support in spite of current financial issues.

In April 2006, all Australian governments signed the Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Intergovernmental Relations on Local Government Matters. The Intergovernmental Agreement outlines a set of principles designed to establish an ongoing framework to address future cost-shifting and prevent the cost shifts that have occurred in the past. This practice costs local councils up to \$1 billion each year.

The Intergovernmental Agreement expired in April 2011 and despite calls from local government, this agreement has not been re-negotiated in nearly six years. Until the burden of cost-shifting is lessened, the overall efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery will not reach its potential.

Improvements in local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Australian Local Government Association supports the Closing the Gap initiatives and notes the important work of local councils in improving local service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Nevertheless, an audit by the Western Australian Government in 2008 provided a public estimate of \$540 million to address the backlog in housing maintenance in remote Indigenous communities. This estimate did not include the impact of factors like overcrowding, total supply of housing, or the cost of municipal and essential services such as roads, electricity, water, drainage, sewerage and waste removal. The decision by the Australian Government to no longer directly fund and coordinate national efforts on these issues was of concern to local government. The Australian Local Government Association has called for there to be a review five years after the decision in order to assess the impact of the change.

The Australian Local Government Association is also calling for the renewal of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, highlighting the need for increased local engagement and using local services and resources. This will increase the effectiveness of service delivery as well as the quality of those services.

This is a long-term issue which will require a continued focus and local government, which has been active on this front, remains willing to partner with other levels of government to achieve improvements in the outcome for Indigenous communities.



Appendix C

Comparison of distribution models



Local government grants commissions (commissions) in each state and the Northern Territory use distribution models to determine the grant they will recommend be allocated to councils in their jurisdiction. They use one model for allocating the general purpose pool among councils and a separate model for allocating the local road pool. This appendix provides a comparison of the approaches the grants commissions used for determining 2015–16 allocations.

General purpose

In allocating the general purpose pool between councils within a jurisdiction, commissions are required under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) to comply with agreed National Principles (see Appendix A).

In practice, commissions determine an allocation that ensures all councils receive at least the minimum grant with the remaining allocated, as far as practicable, on a horizontal equalisation basis.

Usually, this results in commissions adopting a three-step procedure to determine the general purpose allocations.

- Step 1 Commissions determine an allocation of the general purpose pool between councils on a horizontal equalisation basis.
- Step 2 All councils receive at least the minimum grant. In most jurisdictions, in order for all councils to receive at least the minimum grant, allocations to some councils have to be increased relative to their horizontal equalisation grant.
- Step 3 If allocations to some councils are increased in step two, then allocations to other councils must decrease relative to their horizontal equalisation grant. This is achieved by a process called ‘factoring back’.

In step 3, because allocations to some councils are decreased, the resultant grant may be less than the minimum grant. As a result, steps 2 and 3 of this procedure may need to be repeated until all councils receive at least the minimum grant and the general purpose pool for the jurisdiction has been completely allocated. More details on the approaches grants commissions use for steps 1 and 3 are provided in the following.

Allocating on a horizontal equalisation basis

An allocation on a horizontal equalisation basis is defined in section 6 of the Act. Horizontal equalisation:

... ensures that each local governing body in a state [or territory] is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the state [or territory]. [It] takes account of differences in the expenditure required to be incurred by local governing bodies in the performance of their functions and in their capacity to raise revenue.

The 'average standard' is a financial standard. It is based on the expenditure undertaken and revenue obtained by all councils in the jurisdiction.

Horizontal equalisation, as defined in the Act, is about identifying advantaged and disadvantaged councils and bringing all the disadvantaged councils up to the financial position of a council operating at the average standard. This means the task of the commissions is to calculate, for each disadvantaged council, the level of general purpose grants it requires to balance its assessed costs and assessed revenues.

When determining grant allocations on a horizontal equalisation basis, local government grants commissions use one of two distribution models:

- balanced budget – based on the approach of assessing the overall level of disadvantage for a council using a notional budget for the council
- direct assessment – based on the approach of assessing the level of disadvantage for a council in each area of expenditure and revenue.

Table 37 shows the type of distribution model used by each commission.

Table 37 Distribution models used for general purpose grants for 2015–16 allocations

State	Model used
NSW	Direct assessment model
Vic	Balanced budget model
Qld	Balanced budget model
WA	Balanced budget model
SA	Direct assessment model (for local governing bodies outside the incorporated areas [the Outback Communities Authority and five Aboriginal Communities] allocations are made on a per capita basis)
Tas	Balanced budget model
NT	Balanced budget model

Source: Information provided by local government grants commissions.

The balanced budget model

Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory use the balanced budget approach. Their models are based on making an assessment of each council's costs of providing services and its capacity to raise revenue, including its capacity to obtain other grant assistance.

The balanced budget model can be summarised as:

General purpose	<i>equals</i>	assessed costs of providing services
	<i>plus</i>	assessed average operating surplus/deficit
	<i>less</i>	assessed revenue
	<i>less</i>	actual receipt of other grant assistance.

The direct assessment model

New South Wales and South Australia use the direct assessment approach. Their models are based on assessing the level of advantage or disadvantage in each area of expenditure and revenue and summing these assessments over all areas of expenditure and revenue for all councils.

In each area of expenditure or revenue, an individual council's assessment is compared to the average council. The direct assessment model calculates an individual council's level of disadvantage or advantage for each area of expenditure and revenue, including for other grant assistance. It can be summarised as:

General purpose	<i>equals</i>	an equal per capita share of the general purpose pool
	<i>plus</i>	expenditure needs
	<i>plus</i>	revenue needs
	<i>plus</i>	other grant assistance needs.

The balanced budget and direct assessment models will produce identical assessments of financial capacity for each council, if the assessed average operating surplus or deficit is included in the balanced budget model.

Scope of equalisation

The scope of equalisation is about the sources of revenue raised and the types of expenditure activities that a commission includes when determining an allocation of the general purpose grant on a horizontal equalisation basis. Table 38 shows the differences in the scope of equalisation of the commissions.

Table 38 Scope of equalisation in commissions' models for general purpose grants

Expenditure function	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
Administration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Law, order and public safety	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education, health and welfare	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community amenities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreation and culture	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transport:							
– local roads	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
– airports	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
– public transport	No	No	Yes	No	No	N/A	No
– other transport	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building control	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Garbage	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Sewerage	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Electricity	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Capital	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Depreciation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Debt servicing	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Entrepreneurial activity	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Agency arrangements	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Revenue function							
Rate revenue	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operation subsidies	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garbage charges	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water charges	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Sewerage charges	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Airport charges	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Parking fees and fines	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Other user charges	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Notes: Functions for which a 'Yes' is provided above are not necessarily separately assessed by the relevant local government grants commission, but may be included as part of another assessed function. For example, depreciation might be included as a cost under the category for which the relevant asset is provided. Similarly, revenue functions might be included as reductions in the associated expenditure function.

N/A = not applicable.

Source: Information provided by local government grants commissions in each state and territory.

Revenue assessments

Sources of revenue for local government are rates, user charges and government grants. The treatment of revenue assessments is discussed in the section below.

New South Wales undertakes an assessment of a councils' relative capacity to raise revenue and uses allowances to attempt to compensate councils for their relative lack of revenue-raising capacity. Property values are used as the basis for assessing revenue-raising capacity as rates, based on property values, are the principal source of council income. Property values also indicate the relative economic strength of local areas. In the revenue allowance calculation, councils with low values per property are assessed as being disadvantaged and are brought up to the average (positive allowances), while councils with high values per property are assessed as being advantaged and are brought down to the average (negative allowances).

For each council, **Victoria** calculates a raw grant, which is calculated by subtracting the council's standardised revenue from its standardised expenditure. A council's standardised revenue is intended to reflect its capacity to raise revenue from its community and is calculated for each council by multiplying its valuation base (on a capital improved value basis) by the average rate across all Victorian councils over three years. The payments in lieu of rates received by some councils for major facilities, such as power generating plants and airports, have been added to their standardised revenue to ensure that all councils are treated on an equitable basis. Rate revenue raising capacity is calculated separately for each of the three major property classes (residential, commercial/industrial/other and farm) using a three-year average of valuation data.

The Victoria Grants Commission constrains increases in each council's assessed revenue capacity to improve stability in grant outcomes. The constraint for each council has been set at the state-wide average increase in standardised revenue adjusted by the council's own rate of population growth to reflect growth in the property base. A council's relative capacity to raise revenue from user fees and charges, or standardised fees and charges revenue, also forms part of the calculation of standardised revenue.

Queensland uses the revenue categories of: rates; garbage charges; fees and charges; and other grants and subsidies. Queensland's rating assessment is the total Queensland rate revenue divided by the total land valuation for Queensland. This derives a cent in the dollar average, which is then multiplied by the land valuation of each council. This is then adjusted to allow for each council's capacity to raise rates using an Australian Bureau of Statistics product, the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas. The methodology uses three of the indices: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 2); Index of Economic Resources (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 3); and Index of Education and Occupation (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 4). Because Indigenous councils do not generally levy rates, 20 per cent of their Queensland Government Financial Aid allocation is used as a proxy for rate revenue.

In **Western Australia**, an average standard is calculated based on actual revenues in five revenue categories and then applied to key data to generate revenue assessments for each local government. The categories are: residential, commercial and industrial rates; agricultural rates; pastoral rates; mining rates; and investment earnings. There are no disabilities applied to the revenue standards. For the majority of local governments, revenue capacity is less than expenditure, however for some local governments (most often metropolitan) the assessed revenue capacity is greater than the assessed expenditure need.

South Australia estimates the revenue raising capacity of each council for each of five land use categories: residential, commercial, industrial, rural, and other. To make these estimates, the state average rate in the dollar is used—that is, the ratio of total rate revenue to total improved capital values of rateable properties. This result shows how much rate revenue a council is able to raise relative to the average. To overcome fluctuations in the base data, valuations, rate revenue and population are averaged over three years.

Tasmania assesses a council's standardised revenue by applying a standard rate in the dollar to the assessed annual value of all rateable property in its area, plus the council's per capita grant allocation and certain other financial support payments. Councils that are assessed to have a negative standardised deficit (a surplus where revenue capacity is greater than expenditure requirement) do not receive a relative needs grant component. These councils only receive a population share of the per capita minimum grant portion of the base grant component.

In the **Northern Territory**, the methodology calculates standards by applying cost adjustors and average weightings to assess the revenue raising capacity and expenditure need of each council. The assessment is the Northern Territory Grants Commission's measure of the ability of each council to function at the average standard in accordance with the National Principles. For most local governments, the assessed expenditure needs exceed the assessed revenue capacity, meaning there is an assessed need. In five cases in Northern Territory, assessed revenue capacity is greater than assessed expenditure need, meaning that there is no assessed need.

Other grants support – National Principle

The fourth National Principle for the general purpose grant involves the revenue assessment and states:

Other relevant grant support provided to local governing bodies to meet any of the expenditure needs assessed should be taken into account using an inclusion approach. (National Principle A4)

This National Principle requires commissions, when determining the allocations on a horizontal equalisation basis, to include all grants that are provided to councils from governments as part of the revenue that is available to councils to finance their expenditure needs. Only those grants that are available to councils to finance the expenditure of a function that is assessed by commissions should be included. Both the grants received and the expenditure it funds should be included in the allocation process.

Table 39 provides details on the grants included by commissions in allocating the general purpose component in 2015–16.

Table 39 Grants treated by inclusion for 2015–16 by jurisdiction

State	Grants treated by inclusion in general purpose allocations
NSW	Local road grant and library grant. For other recurrent grant support the grant is deducted from the council's expenditure before standard costs are calculated.
Vic	All Australian and state government recurrent grants including each council's local road grant and Roads to Recovery program grant.
Qld	Grants relevant to the expenditure categories are: previous year's local roads component (50 per cent); Queensland Government Financial Aid (Indigenous councils only – 20 per cent); and minimum grant component of previous year's general purpose component of the Financial Assistance Grant program (100 per cent).
WA	Other grants are included with other revenues and are netted from expenditure. This reduces the expenditure total of each function by the total amount of available grants. Consistent with natural weighting, Western Australia's assessments are scaled to the actual amount of total revenue and total expenditure.
SA	Subsidies such as those for library services and the local road grants are included in the revenue assessments for councils.
Tas	In Tasmania all revenues received by councils are included in the base grant assessment (except where a case is made for its exclusion). The included revenues treated as either: in the standardised revenue calculation (if those revenues are within the scope of council's sphere of influence); or included as other financial support (if those revenues and grants are received from sources where the council has no influence over what revenue or grant is derived).
NT	The Northern Territory includes funding from the Roads to Recovery program (50 per cent of the grant), library and local roads grants, which are recognised in the revenue component of the methodology

Source: Based on information provided by local government grants commissions.

Expenditure assessments

In addition to expenditure on local roads, the main expenditures of councils are on general public services, including the organisation and financial administration of councils; recreation facilities; and sanitation and protection of the environment, including disposal of sewerage, stormwater drainage and garbage. Assessing local road expenditure needs for the general purpose grant is discussed in the section below.

New South Wales calculates expenditure for twenty-one council services. These services are: general administration and governance, aerodromes, services for aged and disabled, building control, public cemeteries, services for children, general community services, cultural amenities, control of dogs and other animals, fire control and emergency services, general health services, library services, noxious plants and pest control, town planning control, recreational services, stormwater drainage and national report flood mitigation, street and gutter cleaning, street lighting, and maintenance of urban local roads, sealed rural local roads, and unsealed rural local roads. An additional allowance is calculated for councils outside the Sydney statistical division that recognises their isolation.

Disability factors are also considered among the expenditure categories. A disability factor is the estimate of the additional cost of providing a standard service, due to inherent characteristics beyond the control of a council.

The standardised expenditure is calculated for each **Victorian** council on the basis of nine expenditure functions. Between them, these expenditure functions include all council recurrent expenditure. The Victorian model ensures that the gross standardised expenditure for each function equals aggregate actual expenditure by councils, thus ensuring that the relative importance of each of the nine expenditure functions in the model matches the pattern of

actual council expenditure. For three expenditure functions (governance; environment and business; and economic services), an adjusted population is used as the major cost driver to recognise the fixed costs associated with certain functional areas.

The major cost drivers used in assessing relative expenditure needs for these functions take account of the high rates of vacant dwellings at the time the census is taken. Councils with a vacancy rate above the state average are assumed to have a population higher than the census-based estimate. For the governance function, councils with an actual population of less than 20 000 are deemed to have a population of 20 000. For the environment function, councils with a population less than 15 000 are assumed to have a population double that amount, to a maximum of 15 000.

Queensland includes nine service categories in its expenditure assessments: administration; public order and safety; education, health, welfare and housing; garbage and recycling; community amenities, recreation, culture and libraries; building control and town planning; business and industry development; roads; and environment. Further, Queensland applies the suite of cost adjustors in Table 26 to service categories.

Western Australia assesses the standard or average expenditure needs for each local government over six expenditure categories. These are governance; law, order and public safety; education, health and welfare; community amenities; recreation and culture; and transport. The standardised assessments for each local government are adjusted by disabilities which recognise the additional costs that individual local governments experience in the provision of services due to growth and location.

South Australia assesses expenditure needs and a component expenditure grant for each of a range of functions and these are aggregated to give a total component expenditure grant for each council. The methodology uses 12 expenditure categories in addition to the local road categories. For 2015-16, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission reintroduced library subsidies and the libraries expenditure function to the assessment process.

Tasmania calculates its standardised expenditure by calculating the total state-wide spending for each expenditure category and the share of the total expenditure between councils on a per capita basis (standard expenditure), and then applying cost adjustors to standard expenditure to reflect inherent cost advantages/disadvantages faced by individual councils in providing services.

Tasmania's base grant model cost adjustors include: absentee population; scale (admin); climate; scale (other); dispersion; tourism; isolation; unemployment; population decline; worker influx and regional responsibility.

The assessment of standard expenditure is based on the **Northern Territory** average per capita expenditure within the expenditure categories to which cost adjustors reflecting the assessed disadvantage of each local government are applied. The Northern Territory Grants Commission currently uses nine expenditure categories in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Local Government Purpose Classifications.

Assessing local road expenditure needs under the general purpose grants

As part of the expenditure needs assessment to determine the general purpose allocation, commissions also assess each council's local road needs. The main features of the models that the commissions use to assess local road needs and determine the general purpose allocations in 2015-16 are discussed below.

The **New South Wales** method of allocating the local road component is based on a formula developed by the New South Wales roads authority. The formula uses councils' proportion of the state's population, local road length and bridge length.

Victoria's formula for allocating local roads grants is based on each council's road length (for all surface types) and traffic volumes, using average annual preservation costs for given traffic volume ranges. The methodology includes cost modifiers for freight loading, climate, materials, sub-grade conditions and strategic routes and takes account of the deck area of bridges on local roads.

Queensland uses an asset preservation model to assess road expenditure, estimating the cost to maintain a council's road network, including bridges and hydraulics. Allowances are given for heavy vehicles, which increase the road usage, increasing a council's road expenditure amount.

Western Australia calculates the local road component using the asset preservation model, which has been in place since 1992. The model assesses the average annual costs of maintaining each local government's road network and has the capacity to equalise road standards through the application of minimum standards. These standards help local governments that have not been able to develop their road systems to the same standard as more affluent local governments.

South Australia divides local road funding in the metropolitan area and non-metropolitan areas differently. In metropolitan areas, allocations to individual councils are determined by an equal weighting of road length and population. In the non-metropolitan area, allocations are made on an equal weighting of road length, population and the area of each council.

Tasmania uses a roads preservation model to determine the relative road expenditure needs for each council. The roads preservation model reflects the mix of road and bridge assets maintained by councils and estimates the cost of asset preservation for both roads and bridges. The model assesses the road preservation component for each council in three road classes: urban sealed, rural sealed and unsealed roads.

To determine the local road grant, the **Northern Territory** applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are: 27 for sealed, 12 for gravel, 10 for cycle paths, seven for formed and one for unformed. The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.

Needs of Indigenous communities

The fifth National Principle for distribution of the general purpose grants states:

Financial assistance shall be allocated to councils in a way which recognises the needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders within their boundaries. (National Principle A5)

While the special needs of Indigenous Australians are recognised when assessing the expenditure of councils on services in all jurisdictions, it remains the decision of each council as to how the grant will be spent and what services will be provided for its Indigenous residents. A summary of this recognition is provided below.

In **New South Wales**, services to aboriginal communities are considered as part expenditure allowances. Further, the methodology considers the additional costs for councils with a significant Aboriginal population as part of its suite of disability factors applied to expenditure. New South Wales' methodology also considers the needs of Aboriginal communities with regard to their access and internal local roads needs in the distribution of the local road component.

Victoria includes a cost adjustor that reflects the Indigenous population when calculating the 2015-16 general purpose component.

Queensland applies a cost adjustor for location that recognises that rural, remote and Indigenous communities generally have higher costs associated with service delivery. The jurisdiction also applies a cost adjustor for population in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous councils to account for Indigenous descent whereby the assessed expenditure per capita is increased in accordance with the proportion of Indigenous population and, additionally, for Indigenous people aged over 50.

Western Australia applies an Indigenous factor as a disability for its governance expenditure standard in its calculation of general purpose grants and considers Indigenous population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics when calculating the disabilities applied to the expenditure standard.

In **South Australia**, grants are allocated to the five Aboriginal communities recognised as local governing authorities. Due to the unavailability of data, grants for these communities are not calculated in the same manner as grants to other local governing bodies. Initially, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission used the services of Morton Consulting Services, who completed a study on the expenditure needs of the communities and their revenue raising capacities. Comparisons were made with communities in other states and per capita grants were established.

Tasmania has not provided information on how its methodology meets the needs of Indigenous communities.

The **Northern Territory** applies a cost adjustor, based on the proportion of the population that is Indigenous, to its expenditure assessments for certain expenditure categories. The majority of shire service delivery in the Northern Territory is to remote communities whose population is almost entirely Indigenous Australian.

Council amalgamation – National Principle

A sixth National Principle for the general purpose grant applies to councils that amalgamate. The amalgamation principle (National Principle A6) took effect on 1 July 2006 and states:

Where two or more local governing bodies are amalgamated into a single body, the general purpose grant provided to the new body for each of the four years following amalgamation should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities.

In addition to complying with the other National Principles for the general purpose grant, grant commissions are required to treat the general purpose grant allocated to councils formed as the result of amalgamation in a way that is consistent with this National Principle.

No amalgamations occurred during 2015-16.

Factoring back and satisfying the minimum grant principle

Once the revenue capacity and expenditure needs have been determined for each council, the raw grant can be calculated by subtracting its revenue capacity from expenditure needs.

There are two situations that require commissions to apply a 'factoring back' process. The first situation is when the total raw grant does not equal the available grant for the jurisdiction. This can occur when the commission has not:

- assessed all revenue and expenditure categories for councils in the jurisdiction
- ensured that the total assessed revenue and expenditure across all councils in the jurisdiction equals the total actual revenue and expenditure for all councils
- used a budget result term for each council when applying the balanced budget approach.

The use of a consistent approach for allocating grants would address this issue.

The second situation occurs when the raw grant allocation for a council does not comply with the minimum grant National Principle. National Principle A3 requires:

The minimum general purpose grant allocation for a local governing body in a year will be not less than the amount to which the local governing body would be entitled if 30 per cent of the total amount of general purpose grants to which the state or territory is entitled under section 9 of the Act in respect of the year were allocated among local governing bodies in the state or territory on a per capita basis.

Grants to councils with raw grant allocations below the minimum grant (including negative grants) are increased to comply with the minimum grant National Principle. This requires grants to other councils in the jurisdiction to be reduced through a factoring back process.

Should the grant to one or more councils following the initial factoring back process reduce their grant below the minimum grant, the factoring back process would be repeated. This process would have to be repeated until both the minimum grant and available grant constraints are simultaneously met.

Two approaches are used by commissions for factoring back the raw grant:

- proportional method – each raw grant for a council is reduced by the same proportion so that the total of the grants equals the available grant
- equalisation ratio method – each grant for a council is reduced such that all councils can afford to fund the same proportion of their expenditure needs with their total income (assessed revenue capacity plus other grant support and general purpose grant).

Local road component

The National Principles require the local road grant to be allocated so that, as far as practicable, the grant is allocated to councils (National Principle B1):

... on the basis of the relative needs of each council for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. In assessing road needs, relevant considerations include length, type and usage of roads in each council area.

For the local road needs assessment, the models are either relatively simple constructs or more complex asset preservation models.

New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory use relatively simple models to allocate the local road grant. New South Wales and South Australia firstly classify local roads as either metropolitan or non-metropolitan and then allocate funding based mainly on the factors of population and road length. The Northern Territory allocates funding based on road length and road surface type.

Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania use asset preservation models to allocate the local road grant. The asset preservation model attempts to measure the annual cost of maintaining a road network. It takes into account recurrent maintenance costs and the cost of reconstruction at the end of the road's useful life. It can also take other factors into account such as the:

- costs associated with different types of roads (sealed, gravel and formed roads)
- impact of weather, soil types and materials availability on-costs
- impact of traffic volume on the cost of maintaining these roads.

Prior to applying their grant allocation methodologies, Western Australia and South Australia quarantine seven per cent and 15 per cent respectively for funding priority local road projects. Expert committees provide advice on the projects to be funded.

Table 40 summarises the main features of the models used by the commissions for allocating local road grants in 2015-16.

Table 40 Allocating local road grants in 2015–16

State	Features of the distribution model for allocating local road grants
NSW	<p>Initially, 27.54 per cent is distributed to local roads in urban areas and 72.46 per cent to local roads in rural areas.</p> <p>In urban areas, five per cent is distributed to individual councils on the basis of bridge length and the remaining 95 per cent is distributed to councils on the basis of road length and population.</p> <p>In rural areas, seven per cent is distributed to individual councils on the basis of bridge length and 93 per cent is distributed to councils on the basis of road length and population.</p>
Vic	<p>Victoria's formula for allocating local roads grants is based on each council's road length (for all surface types) and traffic volumes, using average annual preservation costs for given traffic volume ranges. The methodology also includes a set of five cost modifiers for freight loading, climate, materials, sub-grade conditions and strategic routes, and takes into account the deck area of bridges on local roads.</p>
Qld	<p>Queensland allocates, as far as practicable, on the basis of the relative need of each local government for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets using a formula based on road length and population. This formula is: 62.85 per cent is allocated according to road length and 37.15 per cent is allocated according to population.</p>
WA	<p>Western Australia recommends the distribution of the local road component using the asset preservation model.</p> <p>Under the arrangements approved for Western Australia, seven per cent of the funds provided for local roads are allocated for special projects (one-third for roads servicing remote Indigenous communities and two-thirds for bridges). The remaining 93 per cent is distributed in accordance with road preservation needs. The model assesses the average annual costs of maintaining each local government's road network and has the capacity to equalise road standards through the application of minimum standards. These standards help local governments that have not been able to develop their road systems to the same standard as other local governments.</p>
SA	<p>In South Australia, the identified local road grants component is divided into formula grants (85 per cent) and special local road grants (15 per cent). The formula component is divided between metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils on the basis of an equal weighting of road length and population.</p> <p>In the metropolitan area, allocations to individual councils are determined again by an equal weighting of road length and population. In the non-metropolitan area, allocations are made on an equal weighting of road length, population and the area of each council.</p> <p>Distribution of the special local road grants is based on recommendations from the South Australian Local Government Transport Advisory Panel. This panel is responsible for assessing submissions from regional associations on local road projects of regional significance.</p>
Tas	<p>Allocation of the road grant is based on an asset preservation model which uses the estimated cost of preservation of both roads and bridges per annum.</p> <p>The road preservation model uses dimensions of the average Tasmanian road, as well as average costs and maintenance schedules, to calculate the state average cost per kilometre per annum for councils to maintain their road networks. Three road types are included within the assessment: urban sealed, rural sealed and unsealed roads.</p> <p>Cost adjusters and an allowance are applied within the model to account for the relative cost advantages or disadvantages faced by councils in maintaining roads. These cost adjusters include rainfall, terrain, traffic and remoteness. An urbanisation allowance is also applied to road lengths in recognised urban areas.</p>
NT	<p>To determine the local road grant, Northern Territory applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are: 27 for sealed, 12 for gravel, 10 for cycle paths, seven for formed and one for unformed. The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.</p>

Source: Information provided by local government grants commissions.



Appendix D

Local governing body distribution in 2015–16



Appendix D shows the distribution of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program and some basic information such as population, area in square kilometres and road length in kilometres for each local governing body in Australia.

The tables in this appendix show the actual total grant entitlement for 2015–16 and the estimated total grant entitlement for 2016–17. The components of the Financial Assistance Grant program, including the general purpose grant and the local road grant, are also given for each of these years.

The councils are listed alphabetically by state and the Northern Territory. The Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG) category for each council is listed in the second column. An explanation of the ACLG is given in Appendix F.

To facilitate comparison, the general purpose grant per capita and the local road grant per kilometre are provided for 2015–16. Additional comparative information on grants received is provided in Chapter 2.

Councils receiving the minimum per capita grant in 2015–16 are indicated with a hash (#) beside their entry in the 'General purpose grant per capita' column. The per capita grant of these councils differs slightly between jurisdictions because of different data sources for population used by the Australian Government to calculate the state share of general purpose grants and those used by the local government grants commissions for allocations to individual councils. For further information on the minimum grant entitlement, see Chapter 2.

Indigenous local governing bodies are identified by an asterisk (*) against the name of the council.

The source of the data is the relevant state or territory local government grants commission.

Table 41 Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015-16 and 2016-17

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Albury City Council	URM	51 082	306	510	4 835 342	1 272 184	6 107 526	94.66		2 494.48	4 668 773	1 286 247	5 955 020
Armidale Dumaresq Council ^b	URS	25 327	4 231	1 021	2 615 932	1 392 708	4 008 640	103.29		1 364.06	-	-	-
Armidale Regional Council ^b	UDV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 781 716	2 279 958	6 061 674
Ashfield Council ^c	UDM	44 498	8	91	901 197	293 566	1 194 763	20.25	#	3 226.00	-	-	-
Auburn City Council ^{e,f}	UDL	85 446	32	199	2 753 179	598 480	3 351 659	32.22		3 007.44	-	-	-
Ballina Shire Council	URM	41 644	485	606	2 569 392	1 259 286	3 828 678	61.70		2 078.03	2 826 331	1 259 997	4 086 328
Bairnsdale Shire Council	RAM	2 400	21 693	1 328	2 233 532	1 229 211	3 462 743	930.64		925.61	2 396 104	1 231 239	3 627 343
Bankstown City Council ^b	UDV	200 357	77	543	5 131 929	1 509 322	6 641 251	25.61		2 779.60	-	-	-
Bathurst Regional Council	URM	41 682	3 816	1 196	4 330 578	1 862 733	6 193 311	103.90		1 557.47	4 114 049	1 817 539	5 931 588
Bega Valley Shire Council	URM	33 468	6 279	1 172	4 853 835	1 821 257	6 675 092	145.03		1 553.97	4 798 228	1 821 985	6 620 213
Bellingen Shire Council	RAV	13 032	1 600	532	2 487 558	851 785	3 339 343	190.88		1 601.10	2 489 312	855 689	3 345 001
Berrigan Shire Council	RAL	8 413	2 066	1 262	3 019 172	1 276 662	4 295 834	358.87		1 011.62	2 982 246	1 277 741	4 259 987
Blacktown City Council	UDV	332 424	240	1 242	14 754 937	3 075 813	17 830 750	44.39		2 476.50	14 017 190	3 098 501	17 115 691
Bland Shire Council	RAL	5 994	8 558	2 925	4 059 539	2 743 785	6 803 324	677.27		938.05	4 189 031	2 746 813	6 935 844
Blayney Shire Council	RAL	7 409	1 525	681	1 617 450	786 981	2 404 431	218.31		1 155.63	1 597 790	785 755	2 383 545
Blue Mountains City Council	UFL	79 688	1 431	720	6 808 820	1 319 214	8 128 034	85.44		1 832.24	6 980 234	1 308 637	8 288 871
Bogan Shire Council	RAM	3 076	14 600	1 352	2 145 210	1 315 745	3 460 955	697.40		973.18	2 341 884	1 341 895	3 683 779
Bombala Shire Council ^b	RAM	2 422	3 947	629	1 180 426	668 380	1 848 806	487.38		1 062.61	-	-	-
Boorowa Council ^b	RAM	2 602	2 578	608	951 542	608 911	1 560 453	365.70	#	1 001.50	-	-	-
Botany Bay City Council	UDM	44 742	22	90	906 138	290 063	1 196 201	20.25		3 222.92	233 023	73 308	306 330
Bourke Shire Council	RAM	2 973	41 604	1 883	3 257 611	1 771 651	5 029 262	1 095.73		940.87	3 516 406	1 772 460	5 288 866

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Brewarrina Shire Council	RAS	1 931	19 165	1 272	2 138 882	1 213 607	3 352 489	1 107.66		954.09	2 328 924	1 214 846	3 543 770
Burwood Council	UDM	36 053	7	82	730 164	248 292	978 456	20.25	#	3 027.95	723 052	245 538	968 590
Byron Shire Council	URM	32 119	566	570	1 611 710	1 161 282	2 772 992	50.18		2 037.34	1 772 881	1 095 250	2 868 131
Cabonne Shire Council	RAV	13 776	6 024	1 832	2 487 028	1 972 802	4 459 830	180.53		1 076.86	2 546 085	1 915 773	4 461 858
Campbelltown City Council	UFV	156 572	312	660	8 313 468	1 616 785	9 930 253	53.10		2 449.67	7 897 795	1 626 151	9 523 946
Canterbury City Council ^b	UDV	150 626	34	313	4 053 971	1 005 824	5 059 795	26.91		3 213.50	-	-	-
Canterbury-Bankstown Council ^c	UDV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	8 726 605	2 499 439	11 226 044
Carrathool Shire Council	RAM	2 795	18 932	2 300	3 002 320	2 141 708	5 144 028	1 074.18		931.18	3 201 259	2 143 662	5 344 921
Central Coast Council ^d	UFV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	19 999 642	4 158 441	24 158 083
Central Darling Shire Council	RTM	2 065	53 494	1 602	3 194 153	1 480 324	4 674 477	1 546.81		924.05	3 470 375	1 482 736	4 953 111
Cessnock City Council	URM	54 979	1 965	885	5 293 971	1 594 000	6 887 971	96.29		1 801.13	5 167 808	1 578 545	6 746 353
City of Canada Bay Council	UDL	87 480	20	189	1 771 689	596 667	2 368 356	20.25	#	3 156.97	1 777 046	594 150	2 371 196
City of Lithgow Council	URS	21 249	4 512	879	3 400 446	1 177 038	4 577 484	160.03		1 339.06	3 230 424	1 176 470	4 406 894
City of Parramatta Council	UDV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	7 358 211	1 882 625	9 240 836
Clarence Valley Council	URM	51 003	10 429	2 057	7 081 523	3 056 823	10 138 346	138.85		1 486.06	7 139 758	3 062 972	10 202 730
Cobar Shire Council	RTL	5 111	45 571	1 693	3 449 482	1 606 427	5 055 909	674.91		948.86	3 652 343	1 606 335	5 258 678
Coffs Harbour City Council	URL	72 382	1 174	765	4 890 970	1 965 764	6 856 734	67.57		2 569.63	4 947 558	2 009 083	6 956 641
Conargo Shire Council ^e	RAS	1 535	8 738	1 245	1 527 752	1 163 121	2 690 873	995.28		934.23	-	-	-
Coolamon Shire Council	RAM	4 308	2 431	1 275	2 032 544	1 212 369	3 244 913	471.81		950.88	2 123 859	1 139 841	3 263 700

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement			
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$ per capita	General purpose \$	Local road \$ per km	Total \$	
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council ^r	RAV	10 216	5 184	934	2 529 581	1 059 111	3 588 692	247.61	1 133.95	-	-
Coonamble Shire Council	RAM	4 292	9 916	1 393	2 202 546	1 375 212	3 577 758	513.17	987.23	1 376 105	3 572 808
Cootamundra Shire Council	RAL	7 749	1 524	571	1 999 348	688 538	2 687 886	258.01	1 205.85	-	-
Corowa Shire Council ^h	RAV	11 455	2 329	1 286	3 145 694	1 364 043	4 509 737	274.61	1 060.69	-	-
Council of the City of Broken Hill	URS	19 048	170	211	3 885 201	481 299	4 366 500	203.97	2 281.04	477 136	4 205 666
Council of the City of Ryde	UDL	114 598	40	308	2 320 896	870 283	3 191 179	20.25	2 825.59	869 193	3 213 492
Council of the City of Shellharbour	URM	68 762	147	371	3 902 332	826 603	4 728 935	56.75	2 228.04	828 855	4 846 352
Council of the Municipality of Marrickville ^e	UDL	83 356	16	193	2 285 738	574 850	2 860 588	27.42	2 978.50	-	-
Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	UDM	58 619	12	140	1 187 182	421 044	1 608 226	20.25	3 007.46	418 380	1 604 965
Council of the Shire of Wakkool ^h	RAM	3 990	7 520	1 281	2 245 128	1 359 187	3 604 315	562.69	1 061.04	-	-
Cowra Shire Council	RAV	12 574	2 809	1 203	2 863 345	1 353 372	4 216 717	227.72	1 125.00	1 352 179	4 209 199
Cumberland Council ^r	UDM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 799 706	8 354 201
Deniliquin Council ^b	URS	7 437	143	152	2 016 607	259 643	2 276 250	271.16	1 708.18	-	-
Dubbo City Council ^t	URM	41 573	3 426	1 168	4 835 773	1 729 640	6 565 413	116.32	1 480.86	-	-
Dungog Shire Council	RAL	9 108	2 250	598	1 431 669	847 912	2 279 581	157.19	1 417.91	850 711	2 343 937
Edward River Council ^b	RAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 520 066	4 943 787
Eurobodalla Shire Council	URM	37 643	3 428	939	4 939 398	1 546 068	6 485 466	131.22	1 646.50	1 533 684	6 488 125
Fairfield City Council	UDV	203 109	102	610	8 283 370	1 640 633	9 924 003	40.78	2 689.56	1 625 868	9 495 070
Federation Council ^h	RAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 178 857	6 244 563
Forbes Shire Council	RAL	9 759	4 718	1 744	3 037 656	1 798 311	4 835 967	311.27	1 031.14	1 799 518	4 831 688

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Georges River Council ⁱ	UDL	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 959 230	1 039 193	3 998 423
Gilgandra Council	RAM	4 440	4 832	1 293	2 051 923	1 297 874	3 349 797	462.14	–	1 003.77	2 168 440	1 298 828	3 467 268
Glen Innes Severn Council	RAL	8 966	5 480	1 085	2 362 303	1 278 771	3 641 074	263.47	–	1 178.59	2 439 717	1 285 077	3 724 794
Gloucester Shire Council ^m	RAM	5 064	2 950	649	1 390 838	862 475	2 243 313	274.65	–	1 313.52	–	–	–
Gosford City Council ^l	UFV	171 992	941	971	8 382 137	2 071 071	10 453 208	48.74	–	2 132.93	–	–	–
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	URS	29 376	3 220	1 125	3 156 744	1 581 914	4 738 658	107.46	–	1 406.15	3 036 313	1 591 950	4 628 263
Great Lakes Council ^m	URM	36 499	3 373	956	5 045 939	1 578 794	6 624 733	138.25	–	1 651.46	–	–	–
Greater Hume Shire Council	RAV	10 258	5 749	1 781	2 899 531	1 902 336	4 801 867	282.66	–	1 068.13	2 857 988	1 905 120	4 763 108
Greater Taree City Council ^m	URM	48 941	3 729	1 624	4 918 994	2 530 400	7 449 394	100.51	–	1 558.13	–	–	–
Griffith City Council	URS	25 811	1 640	1 244	3 342 196	1 512 731	4 854 927	129.49	–	1 216.02	3 426 949	1 515 006	4 941 955
Gundagai Council ⁱ	RAM	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3 238 217	1 459 057	4 697 274
Gundagai Shire Council	RAM	3 755	2 457	694	1 233 655	770 406	2 004 061	328.54	–	1 110.09	–	–	–
Gunnedah Shire Council	RAV	12 826	4 987	1 366	2 606 827	1 490 903	4 097 730	203.25	–	1 091.44	2 597 112	1 492 041	4 089 153
Guyra Shire Council ^b	RAM	4 619	4 390	843	1 178 710	884 445	2 063 155	255.19	–	1 049.16	–	–	–
Gwydir Shire Council	RAL	5 080	9 262	1 898	2 344 582	1 868 614	4 213 196	461.53	–	984.52	2 343 671	1 789 591	4 133 262
Harden Shire Council ^k	RAM	3 751	1 868	761	1 376 266	792 347	2 168 613	366.91	–	1 041.19	–	–	–
Hawkesbury City Council	UFM	65 527	2 775	901	2 572 320	1 633 063	4 205 383	39.26	–	1 812.50	2 594 926	1 625 520	4 220 446
Hay Shire Council	RAM	2 989	11 326	777	1 895 697	750 697	2 646 394	634.22	–	966.15	1 938 291	751 675	2 689 966
Hilltops Council ^k	RAV	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4 706 871	2 602 619	7 309 490
Holroyd City Council ^{l, r}	UDL	111 100	40	321	3 321 165	896 805	4 217 970	29.89	–	2 793.79	–	–	–
Hornsby Shire Council	UFV	168 614	462	628	3 414 854	1 497 120	4 911 974	20.25	#	2 383.95	2 986 159	1 316 952	4 303 111
Hunter's Hill Council	UDS	14 689	6	61	297 489	142 040	439 529	20.25	#	2 328.52	294 931	140 601	435 532
Hurstville City Council ⁱ	UDL	85 886	23	213	1 739 407	611 534	2 350 941	20.25	#	2 871.05	–	–	–

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Inner West Council ⁱ	UDL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 238 147	1 272 193	5 510 340
Inverell Shire Council	RAV	16 846	8 595	1 757	3 462 450	1 918 253	5 380 703	205.54	-	1 091.78	3 459 425	1 915 557	5 374 982
Juneee Shire Council	RAL	6 297	2 030	825	1 759 408	863 997	2 623 405	279.40	-	1 047.27	1 706 508	864 896	2 571 404
Kempsey Shire Council	URS	29 643	3 376	1 060	3 831 215	1 722 585	5 553 800	129.25	-	1 625.08	3 772 404	1 720 556	5 492 960
Kiama Municipal Council	URS	21 314	258	221	972 450	446 036	1 418 486	45.62	-	2 018.26	1 047 873	443 221	1 491 094
Kogarah City Council ⁱ	UDM	61 030	16	153	1 236 011	436 788	1 672 799	20.25	#	2 854.82	-	-	-
Ku-Ring-Gai Council	UDL	120 978	85	444	2 450 107	1 074 321	3 524 428	20.25	#	2 419.64	2 458 101	1 068 784	3 526 885
Kyogle Council	RAL	9 531	3 584	1 084	2 356 724	1 538 878	3 895 602	247.27	-	1 419.63	2 416 572	1 533 366	3 949 938
Lachlan Council	RAL	6 775	14 965	3 339	4 926 575	3 146 429	8 073 004	727.17	-	942.33	5 208 879	3 150 298	8 359 177
Lake Macquarie City Council	URV	202 676	648	1 266	12 934 813	2 624 956	15 559 769	63.82	-	2 073.42	12 630 746	2 609 755	15 240 501
Lane Cove Municipal Council	UDM	34 807	10	93	704 930	256 919	961 849	20.25	#	2 762.57	719 450	258 067	977 517
Leeton Shire Council	RAV	11 595	1 167	873	2 852 505	972 838	3 825 343	246.01	-	1 114.36	2 865 378	973 823	3 839 201
Leichhardt Municipal Council ⁱ	UDM	58 136	10	140	1 177 400	413 817	1 591 217	20.25	#	2 955.84	-	-	-
Lismore City Council	URM	44 629	1 288	1 077	4 213 024	1 827 402	6 040 426	94.40	-	1 696.75	4 080 267	1 827 864	5 908 131
Liverpool City Council	UFV	199 928	305	816	7 062 434	2 027 545	9 089 979	35.32	-	2 484.74	6 709 312	2 064 004	8 773 316
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	RAL	7 819	5 082	1 195	2 053 891	1 278 714	3 332 605	262.68	-	1 070.05	2 089 573	1 278 449	3 368 022
Lockhart Shire Council	RAM	3 080	2 896	1 488	2 081 891	1 489 464	3 571 355	675.94	-	1 000.98	2 127 018	1 489 983	3 617 001
Lord Howe Island Board	RTX	396	16	-	194 075	-	194 075	490.09	-	-	202 504	-	202 504
Maitland City Council	URL	75 170	392	646	5 266 468	1 254 407	6 520 875	70.06	-	1 941.81	5 273 492	1 258 414	6 531 906
Manly Council ^b	UDM	44 786	14	105	907 029	310 632	1 217 661	20.25	#	2 958.40	-	-	-
Mid-Coast Council ⁱⁿ	URM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 634 553	4 996 426	16 630 979
Mid-Western Regional Council	RAS	24 017	8 753	1 910	3 685 767	2 227 638	5 913 405	153.46	-	1 166.30	3 599 032	2 230 287	5 829 319
Moree Plains Shire Council	RAV	14 092	17 906	2 640	3 994 167	2 691 607	6 685 774	283.44	-	1 019.55	4 293 567	2 693 107	6 986 674

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Mosman Municipal Council	UDS	30 276	9	86	613 165	230 421	843 586	20.25	#	2 679.31	610 149	228 474	838 623
Murray River Council	RAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 833 937	2 745 668	7 579 605
Murray Shire Council ^b	RAL	7 466	4 344	1 335	2 594 514	1 409 863	4 004 377	347.51		1 056.08	-	-	-
Murrumbidgee Shire Council ^c	RAM	2 528	3 507	590	1 137 596	570 823	1 708 419	450.00		967.50	-	-	-
Murrumbidgee Council ^d	RAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 536 555	1 519 085	4 055 640
Muswellbrook Shire Council	RAV	17 045	3 405	583	2 430 901	873 787	3 304 688	142.62		1 498.78	2 309 356	868 959	3 178 315
Nambucca Shire Council	RAV	19 655	1 491	667	2 466 605	1 131 960	3 598 565	125.50		1 697.09	2 455 624	1 132 880	3 588 504
Narrabri Shire Council	RAV	13 764	13 014	2 123	4 186 376	2 177 202	6 363 578	304.15		1 025.53	4 378 435	2 199 587	6 578 022
Narrandera Shire Council	RAL	5 961	4 116	1 495	2 719 312	1 463 550	4 182 862	456.18		978.96	2 834 505	1 472 492	4 306 997
Narramine Shire Council	RAL	6 854	5 260	1 337	2 582 510	1 317 189	3 899 699	376.79		985.18	2 576 977	1 347 635	3 924 612
Newcastle City Council	URV	160 021	187	766	10 450 253	1 751 393	12 201 646	65.31		2 286.41	10 028 845	1 742 592	11 771 437
North Sydney Council	UDM	71 025	10	143	1 438 434	460 635	1 899 069	20.25	#	3 221.22	1 452 905	460 733	1 913 638
Northern Beaches Council ^e	UDV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 326 938	2 136 738	7 463 676
Oberon Council	RAL	5 327	3 627	849	1 496 275	873 293	2 369 568	280.89		1 028.61	1 543 314	874 552	2 417 866
Orange City Council	URM	41 431	284	440	3 330 531	1 062 544	4 393 075	80.39		2 414.87	3 164 004	1 067 969	4 231 973
Palerang Council ^b	RAV	15 510	5 147	1 065	1 642 725	1 310 495	2 953 220	105.91		1 230.51	-	-	-
Parkes Shire Council	RAV	15 217	5 955	1 797	3 631 948	1 868 086	5 500 034	238.68		1 039.56	3 731 300	1 939 600	5 670 900
Parramatta City Council ^{e,r}	UDV	189 932	61	517	7 719 679	1 522 538	9 242 217	40.64		2 944.95	-	-	-
Penrith City Council	UFV	194 134	405	1 006	8 599 697	2 257 478	10 857 175	44.30		2 244.01	8 169 712	2 251 249	10 420 961
Pittwater Council ^b	UDM	63 338	90	249	1 282 753	603 938	1 886 691	20.25	#	2 425.45	-	-	-
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	URL	77 481	3 683	1 238	6 126 530	2 638 441	8 764 971	79.07		2 131.21	5 943 632	2 631 794	8 575 426
Port Stephens Council	URM	69 728	858	641	5 186 537	1 163 602	6 350 139	74.38		1 815.29	5 074 912	1 159 847	6 234 759

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Queanbeyan City Council ^a	URM	40 858	172	275	1 882 610	877 767	2 760 377	46.08		3 191.88	-	-	-
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council ^a	URS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 422 091	2 194 669	5 616 760
Randwick City Council	UDV	143 776	36	276	2 911 823	918 272	3 830 095	20.25	#	3 327.07	2 917 533	914 224	3 831 757
Richmond Valley Council	URS	22 983	3 047	1 003	3 148 394	1 481 181	4 629 575	136.99		1 476.75	3 110 044	1 482 572	4 592 616
Rockdale City Council	UDL	108 072	28	264	2 188 728	777 924	2 966 652	20.25	#	2 946.68	549 516	193 742	743 258
Shire of Young ^k	RAV	12 641	2 693	1 057	2 371 685	1 195 152	3 566 837	187.62		1 130.70	-	-	-
Shoalhaven City Council	URL	99 016	4 567	1 567	8 239 062	3 093 249	11 332 311	83.21		1 973.99	8 355 684	3 100 636	11 456 520
Silverton Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	57	-	-	30 159	-	30 159	529.11		-	31 350	-	31 350
Singleton Council	URS	23 884	4 893	746	2 193 462	1 173 294	3 366 756	91.84		1 572.78	2 171 168	1 187 420	3 358 588
Snowy Monaro Regional Council	RAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	6 219 053	2 577 827	8 796 880
Snowy River Shire Council	RAL	8 069	6 030	764	2 314 647	862 394	3 177 041	286.86		1 128.79	-	-	-
Snowy Valleys Council	RAV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	3 874 431	1 294 310	5 168 741
Strathfield Municipal Council	UDM	39 481	14	86	799 589	270 049	1 069 638	20.25	#	3 140.10	802 802	269 055	1 071 857
Sutherland Shire Council	UDV	225 070	334	795	4 558 229	1 951 787	6 510 016	20.25	#	2 455.08	4 526 096	1 933 258	6 459 354
Tamworth Regional Council	URM	60 495	9 884	2 945	6 090 178	3 890 414	9 980 592	100.67		1 321.02	6 221 437	3 889 995	10 111 432
Temora Shire Council	RAL	6 050	2 802	1 143	1 970 703	1 130 172	3 100 875	325.74		988.78	1 974 295	1 132 794	3 107 089
Tenterfield Shire Council	RAL	6 980	7 322	1 460	2 675 572	1 558 360	4 233 932	383.32		1 067.37	2 724 108	1 547 857	4 271 965
The Council of Camden	UFL	67 084	201	477	2 122 177	1 048 117	3 170 294	31.63		2 197.31	2 334 395	1 151 111	3 485 506
The Council of the City of Sydney	UCC	198 331	27	301	4 016 698	1 200 606	5 217 304	20.25	#	3 988.72	4 108 319	1 209 904	5 318 223

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
The Council of the Shire of Jerilderie ^c	RAS	1 519	3 373	999	1 342 745	945 909	2 288 654	883.97		946.86	-	-	-
The Hills Shire Council	UFV	187 703	400	878	3 801 455	1 924 681	5 726 136	20.25	#	2 192.12	1 708 323	4 927 149	
Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	128	-	-	67 724	-	67 724	529.09		-	70 400	70 400	
Tumbarumba Shire Council ^s	RAM	3 578	4 392	465	1 382 408	542 310	1 924 718	386.36		1 166.26	-	-	
Turnut Shire Council ^s	RAV	11 375	4 567	579	2 540 112	777 906	3 318 018	223.31		1 343.53	-	-	
Tweed Shire Council	URL	91 210	1 307	1 091	6 841 496	2 643 800	9 485 296	75.01		2 423.28	2 656 485	9 929 503	
Upper Hunter Shire Council	RAV	14 658	8 096	1 580	2 624 968	1 821 997	4 446 965	179.08		1 153.16	1 821 624	4 508 139	
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	RAL	7 761	7 128	1 732	2 405 726	1 782 200	4 187 926	309.98		1 028.98	1 780 806	4 264 835	
Uralla Shire Council	RAL	6 408	3 226	818	1 396 809	905 480	2 302 289	217.98		1 106.94	905 806	2 314 355	
Urana Shire Council ^b	RAS	1 147	3 356	767	1 092 601	730 606	1 823 207	952.57		952.55	-	-	
Wagga Wagga City Council	URM	62 799	4 826	2 119	6 927 250	3 038 458	9 965 708	110.31		1 433.91	3 028 963	9 609 851	
Walcha Council	RAM	3 098	6 261	820	1 061 994	898 853	1 960 847	342.80		1 096.16	898 614	2 048 107	
Walgett Shire Council	RAL	6 840	22 308	1 814	3 874 878	1 832 326	5 707 204	566.50		1 010.10	1 833 128	5 734 594	
Warren Shire Council	RAM	2 921	10 754	964	1 494 272	969 027	2 463 299	511.56		1 005.21	969 573	2 479 485	
Warringham Council ^b	UDV	155 289	149	460	3 144 990	1 236 032	4 381 022	20.25	#	2 687.03	-	-	
Warrumbungle Shire Council	RAV	9 786	12 371	2 276	4 035 962	2 294 851	6 330 813	412.42		1 008.28	2 296 228	6 439 985	
Waverley Council	UDM	71 769	9	113	1 453 502	422 614	1 876 116	20.25	#	3 739.95	420 578	1 875 104	
Weddin Shire Council	RAM	3 709	3 409	968	1 473 055	943 402	2 416 457	397.16		974.59	944 809	2 392 668	
Wellington Council ^t	RAL	9 054	4 110	1 234	2 491 373	1 280 258	3 771 631	275.17		1 037.49	-	-	
Wentworth Shire Council	RAL	6 884	26 257	1 944	3 607 932	1 883 576	5 491 508	524.10		968.92	1 885 607	5 699 286	
Western Plains Regional ^t	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 093 908	10 595 201	

Distribution to councils in New South Wales for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Willoughby City Council	UDL	74 166	22	199	1 502 048	566 494	2 068 542	20.25	#	2 846.70	1 527 653	567 665	2 095 318
Wingecarribee Shire Council	URM	47 584	2 688	1 047	2 940 603	1 722 141	4 662 744	61.80		1 644.83	2 976 567	1 727 561	4 704 128
Wollondilly Shire Council	UFM	47 084	2 556	708	2 143 431	1 270 595	3 414 026	45.52		1 794.63	2 247 822	1 293 198	3 541 020
Wollongong City Council	URV	206 794	684	952	15 163 844	2 318 685	17 482 529	73.33		2 435.59	15 156 619	2 304 392	17 461 011
Wyong Shire Council ^a	UFV	159 015	740	1 018	10 832 070	2 128 189	12 960 259	68.12		2 090.56	-	-	-
Yass Valley Council	RAV	16 433	3 998	1 057	1 571 067	1 255 784	2 826 851	95.60		1 188.06	1 492 514	1 259 893	2 752 407

a. Population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014

- b. Armidale Regional Council – Armidale Dumaresq Shire and Guyra Shire Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Armidale Regional Council
- c. Canterbury-Bankstown Council – Canterbury City Council and Bankstown City Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Canterbury-Bankstown Council
- d. Central Coast Council – Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Central Coast Council
- e. City of Parramatta Council – parts of Auburn City Council, Holroyd City Council, Hornsby Shire Council and The Hills Shire amalgamated to form City of Parramatta Council
- f. Cumberland Council – parts of Auburn City Council, Holroyd City Council and Parramatta City Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Cumberland Council
- g. Edward River Council – Conargo Shire Council and Deniliquin Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Edward River Council
- h. Federation Council – Corowa Shire Council and Urana Shire Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Federation Council
- i. Georges River Council – Hurstville City Council and Kogarah City Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Georges River Council
- j. Gundagai Council – Cootamundra Shire Council and Gundagai Shire Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Gundagai Council
- k. Hilltops Council – Boorowa Shire Council, Harden Shire Council and Shire of Young Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Hilltops Council
- l. Inner West Council – Ashfield Council, Council of the Municipality of Marrickville and Leichardt Municipal Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Inner West Council
- m. Mid-Coast Council – Gloucester Shire Council, Great Lakes Council and Greater Taree City Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Mid-Coast Council
- n. Murray River Council – Murray Shire Council and The Council of the Shire of Wakool amalgamated in May 2016 to form Murray River Council
- o. Murrumbidgee Council – Murrumbidgee Shire Council and The Council of the Shire of Jerilderie amalgamated in May 2016 to form Murrumbidgee Council
- p. Northern Beaches Council – Manly Council, Pittwater Council and Warringah Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Northern Beaches Council
- q. Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council – Palerang Council and Queanbeyan City Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
- r. Snowy Monaro Regional Council – Bombala Shire Council, Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and Snowy River Shire Council amalgamated to form Snowy Monaro Regional Council
- s. Snowy Valleys Council – Tumbarumba Shire Council and Tumut Shire Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Snowy Valleys Council
- t. Western Plains Regional Council – Dubbo City Council and Wellington Council amalgamated in May 2016 to form Western Plains Regional Council

Table 42 Distribution to councils in Victoria for 2015–16 and 2016–17

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Alpine Shire	RAV	12 383	4 788	791	2 381 908	1 057 402	3 439 310	192.35		1 336.79	2 368 271	1 025 680	3 393 951
Ararat Rural City Council	RAV	11 184	4 211	2 362	3 243 694	2 210 329	5 454 023	290.03		935.79	3 340 167	2 240 278	5 580 445
Ballarat City Council	URL	100 283	739	1 382	9 984 009	2 167 499	12 151 508	99.56		1 568.38	10 197 977	2 181 037	12 379 014
Banyule City Council	UDV	125 503	63	547	3 473 873	899 733	4 373 606	27.68		1 644.85	3 264 623	898 045	4 162 668
Bass Coast Shire Council	URM	31 623	865	936	4 135 741	1 359 683	5 495 424	130.78		1 452.65	4 248 687	1 358 886	5 607 573
Baw Baw Shire Council	URM	46 055	4 031	1 967	5 966 546	2 635 912	8 602 458	129.55		1 340.07	5 987 572	2 658 380	8 645 952
Bayside City Council	UDL	99 947	37	356	2 026 855	522 225	2 549 080	20.28	#	1 466.92	2 033 001	537 374	2 570 375
Benalla Rural City Council	RAV	13 597	2 353	1 349	2 398 772	1 429 583	3 828 355	176.42		1 059.74	2 457 532	1 429 169	3 886 701
Borough of Queenscliffe	UFS	3 027	9	43	199 067	52 988	252 055	65.76		1 232.28	193 046	54 210	247 256
Brimbank City Council	UDV	197 701	123	894	11 576 319	1 602 711	13 179 030	58.55		1 792.74	11 434 047	1 599 705	13 033 752
Buloke Shire Council	RAL	6 086	8 000	5 313	3 294 770	2 305 083	5 599 853	541.37		433.86	3 355 475	2 309 945	5 665 420
Campaspe Shire Council	URM	36 881	4 519	3 999	7 084 493	4 085 899	11 170 392	192.09		1 021.73	7 113 105	3 963 322	11 076 427
Cardinia Shire Council	UFM	87 008	1 282	1 465	7 525 486	2 379 776	9 905 262	86.49		1 624.42	7 749 309	2 381 537	10 130 846
Casey City Council	UDV	283 415	409	1 527	15 155 325	2 178 972	17 334 297	53.47		1 426.96	15 439 856	2 210 260	17 650 116
Central Goldfields Shire Council	RAV	12 606	1 533	1 269	2 444 813	1 094 298	3 539 111	193.94		862.33	2 498 887	1 119 254	3 618 141
City of Boroondara	UDV	172 612	60	562	3 500 450	836 340	4 336 790	20.28	#	1 488.15	3 507 093	860 593	4 367 686
City of Darebin	UDV	148 728	54	511	3 891 569	898 199	4 789 768	26.17		1 757.73	3 657 158	844 307	4 501 465
City of Glen Eira	UDV	144 059	39	433	2 921 415	604 281	3 525 696	20.28	#	1 395.57	2 935 563	612 610	3 548 173
City of Greater Dandenong	UDV	149 518	130	676	9 305 861	1 398 334	10 704 195	62.24		2 068.54	9 055 430	1 414 483	10 469 913
City of Greater Geelong	URV	224 926	1 248	2 086	16 142 209	3 063 916	19 206 125	71.77		1 468.80	16 193 718	3 108 631	19 302 349
City of Knox	UDV	155 508	114	717	6 298 724	1 024 061	7 322 785	40.50		1 428.26	5 932 177	1 041 798	6 973 975
City of Maribymong	UDL	81 859	31	306	2 394 909	486 162	2 881 071	29.26		1 588.76	2 250 650	510 470	2 761 120

Distribution to councils in Victoria for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
City of Port Phillip	UDL	104 846	21	214	2 126 203	400 905	2 527 108	20.28	#	1 873.39	2 149 499	400 154	2 549 653
City of Whittlesea	UFV	187 006	490	1 215	10 985 287	1 916 860	12 902 147	58.74		1 577.66	11 312 011	2 012 604	13 324 615
Colac Otway Shire	URS	20 501	3 438	1 623	3 476 052	2 507 666	5 983 718	169.56		1 545.08	3 513 784	2 502 962	6 016 746
Corangamite Shire Council	RAV	15 996	4 408	2 370	3 784 304	3 279 613	7 063 917	236.58		1 383.80	3 829 767	3 271 828	7 101 595
East Gippsland Shire Council	URM	43 772	20 942	2 946	9 331 833	4 427 789	13 759 622	213.19		1 502.98	9 613 613	4 412 451	14 026 064
Frankston City Council	UDV	135 243	130	701	7 485 344	1 058 605	8 543 949	55.35		1 510.14	7 226 242	1 056 973	8 283 215
Gannawarra Shire Council	RAV	10 145	3 735	2 264	3 118 545	1 905 891	5 024 436	307.40		841.82	3 166 248	1 898 781	5 065 029
Glennelg Shire Council	RAV	19 357	6 218	2 631	4 025 265	3 247 265	7 272 530	207.95		1 234.23	4 070 986	3 241 174	7 312 160
Golden Plains Shire Council	URS	20 544	2 703	1 835	3 227 655	1 905 182	5 132 837	157.11		1 038.25	3 274 980	1 905 732	5 180 712
Greater Bendigo City Council	URL	106 971	3 000	3 091	11 767 239	3 218 754	14 985 993	110.00		1 041.33	12 014 652	3 218 346	15 232 998
Greater Shepparton City Council	URM	63 269	2 422	2 599	8 485 407	2 975 988	11 461 395	134.12		1 145.05	8 620 922	2 921 941	11 542 863
Hepburn Shire Council	RAV	14 888	1 473	1 425	2 882 539	1 408 032	4 290 571	193.61		988.09	2 895 122	1 406 004	4 301 126
Hindmarsh Shire Council	RAL	5 644	7 524	3 177	2 502 258	1 531 646	4 033 904	443.35		482.10	2 522 888	1 527 040	4 049 928
Hobsons Bay City Council	UDL	91 148	64	425	1 883 426	688 406	2 571 832	20.66	#	1 619.78	1 861 245	693 893	2 555 138
Horsham Rural City Council	RAV	19 691	4 267	2 972	3 693 059	2 040 433	5 733 492	187.55		686.55	3 752 442	2 051 350	5 803 792
Hume City Council	UFV	188 832	504	1 164	10 933 457	2 057 535	12 990 992	57.90		1 767.64	11 163 761	2 160 412	13 324 173
Indigo Shire Council	RAV	15 409	2 040	1 566	2 702 441	1 603 095	4 305 536	175.38		1 023.69	2 712 886	1 555 002	4 267 888
Kingston City Council	UDV	153 079	91	596	3 104 334	1 197 570	4 301 904	20.28	#	2 009.35	3 099 574	1 195 324	4 294 898
Latrobe City Council	URL	73 653	1 426	1 566	9 014 103	2 416 162	11 430 265	122.39		1 542.89	8 962 320	2 411 933	11 374 253
Loddon Shire Council	RAL	7 365	6 696	4 723	4 428 608	3 469 308	7 897 916	601.30		734.56	4 518 414	3 442 288	7 960 702
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	URM	44 715	1 748	1 696	4 699 416	2 035 805	6 735 221	105.10		1 200.36	4 690 501	1 989 907	6 680 408

Distribution to councils in Victoria for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Manningham City Council	UDL	118 521	113	600	2 403 522	757 816	3 161 338	20.28	#	1 263.03	2 396 598	774 713	3 171 311
Mansfield Shire Council	RAL	8 474	3 844	804	1 886 779	904 935	2 791 714	222.66		1 125.54	1 896 781	877 787	2 774 568
Maroondah City Council	UDL	111 223	61	476	4 368 482	729 275	5 097 757	39.28		1 532.09	4 105 345	727 908	4 833 253
Melbourne City Council (City of Melbourne)	UCC	122 207	37	206	2 478 272	660 722	3 138 994	20.28	#	3 207.39	2 587 978	673 454	3 261 432
Melton City Council	UFV	127 677	528	999	11 319 763	1 615 351	12 935 114	88.66		1 616.97	11 656 435	1 696 119	13 352 554
Mildura Rural City Council	URM	53 036	22 083	5 098	9 733 849	3 731 664	13 465 513	183.53		731.99	9 955 341	3 727 820	13 683 161
Mitchell Shire Council	URM	38 515	2 862	1 586	4 853 425	1 724 267	6 577 692	126.01		1 087.18	5 021 574	1 736 383	6 757 957
Moira Shire Council	URS	28 833	4 047	3 651	6 132 715	3 637 265	9 769 980	212.70		996.24	6 267 306	3 631 470	9 898 776
Monash City Council	UDV	185 037	82	735	3 752 420	1 121 450	4 873 870	20.28	#	1 525.78	3 757 885	1 120 417	4 878 302
Moonee Valley City Council	UDL	117 337	43	413	2 379 511	677 346	3 056 857	20.28	#	1 640.06	2 399 428	657 079	3 056 507
Moorabool Shire Council	URM	30 926	2 111	1 498	4 056 143	1 760 102	5 816 245	131.16		1 174.97	4 107 639	1 775 463	5 883 102
Moreland City Council	UDV	163 488	51	518	4 862 583	894 697	5 757 280	29.74		1 727.21	4 569 683	894 464	5 464 147
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	UFV	153 800	724	1 706	4 141 537	2 297 238	6 438 775	26.93		1 346.56	3 777 217	2 323 695	6 100 912
Mount Alexander Shire Council	RAV	18 102	1 530	1 431	2 853 543	1 544 118	4 397 661	157.64		1 079.05	2 917 189	1 556 526	4 473 715
Murrindindi Shire Council	RAV	13 595	3 879	1 202	2 673 010	1 595 367	4 268 377	196.62		1 327.26	2 750 579	1 547 506	4 298 085
Nilumbik Shire Council	UFM	62 872	432	766	2 132 388	1 078 834	3 211 222	33.92		1 408.40	2 073 943	1 090 227	3 164 170
Northern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	11 719	5 728	3 374	3 996 412	2 649 023	6 645 435	341.02		785.13	4 081 925	2 610 891	6 692 816
Pyrenees Shire Council	RAL	6 979	3 435	2 023	2 857 299	1 983 946	4 841 245	409.41		980.70	2 905 762	2 001 260	4 907 022
Shire of Moyne	RAV	16 344	5 482	2 744	3 697 741	3 720 262	7 418 003	226.24		1 355.78	3 755 600	3 743 078	7 498 678

Distribution to councils in Victoria for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Shire of Strathbogie	RAL	9 810	3 303	2 245	2 803 811	2 073 596	4 877 407	285.81		923.65	2 881 933	2 063 733	4 945 666
Shire of Towong	RAL	5 797	6 675	1 204	2 209 689	1 339 653	3 549 342	381.18		1 112.67	2 275 409	1 406 636	3 682 045
South Gippsland Shire Council	URS	27 937	3 297	2 092	5 377 497	3 507 547	8 885 044	192.49		1 676.65	5 339 264	3 462 484	8 801 748
Southern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	15 919	6 655	2 761	3 803 164	2 851 617	6 654 781	238.91		1 032.82	3 869 123	2 846 269	6 715 392
Stonnington City Council	UDL	105 981	26	260	2 149 219	409 148	2 558 367	20.28	#	1 573.65	2 165 831	417 194	2 583 025
Surf Coast Shire	UFS	28 481	1 553	1 096	2 209 581	1 410 268	3 619 849	77.58		1 286.74	2 275 298	1 425 585	3 700 883
Swan Hill Rural City Council	URS	20 580	6 115	3 499	4 121 527	2 039 603	6 161 130	200.27		582.91	4 186 071	2 024 636	6 210 707
Wangaratta Rural City Council	URS	27 117	3 645	1 975	4 217 052	2 264 743	6 481 795	155.51		1 146.71	4 264 991	2 251 735	6 516 726
Warrnambool City Council	URM	33 501	121	326	2 863 917	649 816	3 513 733	85.49		1 993.30	2 902 470	626 185	3 528 655
Wellington Shire Council	URM	42 220	10 817	3 029	7 598 738	4 436 646	12 035 384	179.98		1 464.72	7 637 121	4 378 303	12 015 424
West Wimmera Shire Council	RAM	3 982	9 108	2 806	2 681 079	2 178 310	4 859 389	673.30		776.30	2 725 942	2 172 104	4 898 046
Whitehorse City Council	UDV	163 697	64	597	3 319 660	876 570	4 196 230	20.28	#	1 468.29	3 321 894	920 399	4 242 293
Wodonga City Council	URM	38 131	433	497	3 939 018	845 408	4 784 426	103.30		1 701.02	4 044 974	847 261	4 892 235
Wyndham City Council	UFV	199 715	542	1 272	12 644 017	1 899 045	14 543 062	63.31		1 492.96	13 020 074	1 949 596	14 969 670
Yarra City Council	UDL	86 506	20	214	1 754 281	395 666	2 149 947	20.28	#	1 848.91	1 788 811	372 731	2 161 542
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	UFV	150 098	2 466	1 745	10 720 469	3 293 639	14 014 108	71.42		1 887.47	10 329 634	3 175 913	13 505 547
Yarriambiack Shire Council	RAL	6 892	7 326	4 811	2 884 896	1 873 109	4 758 005	418.59		389.34	2 918 127	1 877 357	4 795 484

a – population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014.

Table 43 Distribution to councils in Queensland for 2015–16 and 2016–17

Council name	Classi- fication	Population* Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Aurukun Shire Council	RTM	1 410	7 347	85	1 755 285	61 446	1 816 731	1 244.88		722.89	1 793 119	61 906	1 855 025
Balonne Shire Council	RAM	4 888	31 106	2 319	3 393 992	1 334 154	4 728 146	694.35		575.31	3 495 508	1 499 206	4 994 714
Banana Shire Council	RAV	15 236	28 546	3 723	5 442 117	2 218 559	7 660 676	357.19		595.91	5 278 394	2 383 125	7 661 519
Barcaldine Regional Council	RTL	3 359	53 521	2 983	5 062 211	1 685 776	6 747 987	1 507.06		565.13	5 142 217	1 696 021	6 838 238
Barcoo Shire Council	RTX	362	61 825	1 666	2 763 375	925 794	3 689 169	7 633.63		555.70	2 737 049	930 814	3 667 863
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	RTM	2 306	30 389	1 843	2 834 697	1 043 924	3 878 621	1 229.27		566.43	2 787 076	1 048 605	3 835 681
Boulia Shire Council	RTS	497	60 956	1 329	2 219 397	740 683	2 960 080	4 465.59		557.32	2 207 516	744 632	2 952 148
Brisbane City Council	UCC	1 146 787	1 338	5 679	23 240 300	15 042 027	38 282 327	20.27	#	2 648.71	23 253 915	15 077 604	38 331 519
Bulloo Shire Council	RTX	406	73 763	1 990	4 762 132	1 105 565	5 867 697	11 729.39		555.56	4 904 570	1 111 524	6 016 094
Bundaberg Regional Council	URL	94 283	6 436	2 997	4 867 795	2 636 947	7 504 742	51.63		879.86	5 013 392	2 642 333	7 655 725
Burdekin Shire Council	RAV	17 916	5 043	1 143	2 509 344	818 482	3 327 826	140.06		716.08	2 584 400	820 606	3 405 006
Burke Shire Council	RTS	559	40 039	713	2 509 593	400 405	2 909 998	4 489.43		561.58	2 561 533	402 558	2 964 091
Cairns Regional Council	URV	158 985	1 688	1 316	3 221 922	2 377 954	5 599 876	20.27	#	1 806.96	3 207 106	2 375 950	5 583 056
Carpentaria Shire Council	RTM	2 245	64 125	1 741	3 765 543	986 839	4 752 382	1 677.30		566.82	3 652 259	934 209	4 586 468
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	URS	28 705	4 685	1 200	2 251 252	961 974	3 213 226	78.43		801.65	2 318 588	972 014	3 290 602
Central Highlands Regional Council	URM	31 595	59 835	4 566	5 835 491	2 854 852	8 690 343	184.70		625.24	5 659 934	2 876 377	8 536 311
Charters Towers Regional Council	RAV	12 517	68 374	3 934	4 189 646	2 307 012	6 496 658	334.72		586.43	4 063 603	1 934 491	5 998 094
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1 292	32	70	513 504	52 147	565 651	397.45		744.96	528 863	52 194	581 057
Cioncurry Shire Council	RAM	3 399	47 983	1 571	4 379 246	904 728	5 283 974	1 288.39		575.89	4 510 231	908 646	5 418 877
Cook Shire Council	RAM	4 260	105 782	2 858	7 206 669	1 625 943	8 832 612	1 691.71		568.91	7 422 223	1 673 913	9 096 136
Croydon Shire Council	RTX	324	29 487	1 088	2 785 362	605 508	3 390 870	8 596.80		556.53	2 868 674	608 830	3 477 504

Distribution to councils in Queensland for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Diamantina Shire Council	RTX	292	94 667	1 148	2 306 871	638 383	2 945 254	7 900.24		556.08	2 375 870	593 415	2 969 285
Doomadgee Aboriginal Community Council	RTM	1 395	1 835	113	1 158 955	77 014	1 235 969	830.79		681.54	1 193 620	77 232	1 270 852
Douglas Shire Council	RAV	11 607	2 427	373	980 142	326 645	1 306 787	84.44		875.72	950 655	326 596	1 277 251
Etheridge Shire Council	RTS	921	39 201	1 761	3 632 929	984 170	4 617 099	3 944.55		558.87	3 741 591	987 291	4 728 882
Flinders Shire Council	RTM	1 822	41 193	1 992	4 747 344	1 121 364	5 868 708	2 605.57		562.93	4 889 339	1 126 952	6 016 291
Fraser Coast Regional Council	URL	101 306	7 103	2 594	4 183 344	2 486 630	6 669 974	41.29		958.61	4 136 655	2 489 129	6 625 784
Gladstone Regional Council	URM	66 097	10 466	2 590	5 411 466	2 119 239	7 530 705	81.87		818.24	5 248 665	2 133 154	7 381 819
Gold Coast City Council	URV	546 067	1 332	3 080	11 066 362	7 370 578	18 436 940	20.27	#	2 393.04	11 117 034	7 439 700	18 556 734
Goondiwindi Regional Council	RAV	11 024	19 256	2 475	4 367 324	1 484 157	5 851 481	396.17		599.66	4 272 410	1 494 846	5 767 256
Gympie Regional Council	URM	48 464	6 885	2 277	3 354 015	1 763 052	5 117 067	69.21		774.29	3 253 111	1 766 919	5 020 030
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	RAV	11 541	2 801	693	1 468 979	503 285	1 972 264	127.28		726.24	1 460 418	502 069	1 962 487
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1 095	1 105	115	905 551	75 008	980 559	826.99		652.24	932 636	84 996	1 017 632
Ipswich City Council	URV	188 047	1 089	1 749	3 810 881	2 919 142	6 730 023	20.27	#	1 669.03	3 861 993	2 952 537	6 814 530
Isaac Regional Council	URS	24 455	58 720	3 254	2 945 866	2 054 649	5 000 515	120.46		631.42	2 857 242	2 059 734	4 916 976
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1 125	2 543	352	1 337 475	206 740	1 544 215	1 188.87		587.33	1 377 480	207 859	1 585 339
Livingstone Shire Council	UFM	36 378	11 752	1 412	2 544 123	1 158 919	3 703 042	69.94		820.76	2 467 585	1 166 879	3 634 464
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	540	3 578	167	1 430 487	98 028	1 528 515	2 649.05		586.99	1 473 273	98 557	1 571 830
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	URM	38 312	2 269	1 428	2 907 269	1 187 841	4 095 110	75.88		831.82	2 886 459	1 192 541	4 079 000
Logan City Council	URV	305 110	958	2 286	6 183 230	4 430 982	10 614 212	20.27	#	1 938.31	6 176 328	4 464 147	10 640 475

Distribution to councils in Queensland for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Longreach Regional Council	RTL	4 238	40 572	2 748	5 896 042	1 564 836	7 460 878	1 391.23		569.45	5 718 663	1 571 261	7 289 924
Mackay Regional Council	URV	123 383	7 601	2 479	3 667 583	2 652 204	6 319 787	29.73		1 069.87	3 557 246	2 667 754	6 225 000
Mapoon Aboriginal Council	RTX	293	548	35	1 005 719	22 411	1 028 130	3 432.49		640.31	1 035 800	28 058	1 063 858
Maranoa Regional Council	RAV	13 862	58 711	5 860	13 024 518	3 387 011	16 411 529	939.58		577.99	13 414 086	3 401 647	16 815 733
Mareeba Shire Council	URS	21 537	53 505	2 307	4 958 920	1 500 095	6 459 015	230.25		650.24	5 107 243	1 508 313	6 615 556
McKinlay Shire Council	RTM	1 083	40 734	1 978	4 395 678	1 105 948	5 501 626	4 058.80		559.12	4 263 436	919 678	5 183 114
Moreton Bay Regional Council	UFV	417 137	2 033	3 439	8 453 522	6 231 491	14 685 013	20.27	#	1 812.01	8 513 373	6 308 505	14 821 878
Morrington Shire Council	RTM	1 223	1 244	158	1 405 111	100 134	1 505 245	1 148.91		633.76	1 447 139	100 491	1 547 630
Mount Isa City Council	URS	22 717	43 188	2 033	4 131 985	1 360 861	5 492 846	181.89		669.39	4 255 574	1 362 285	5 617 859
Murweh Shire Council	RTL	4 714	40 699	2 759	4 928 761	1 575 863	6 504 624	1 045.56		571.17	4 893 207	1 583 972	6 477 179
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	943	1 998	171	978 770	104 423	1 083 193	1 037.93		610.66	1 008 046	105 028	1 113 074
Noosa Shire Council	URM	53 052	870	870	1 075 130	1 031 962	2 107 092	20.27	#	1 186.16	1 070 769	1 032 915	2 103 684
North Burnett Regional Council	RAV	10 311	19 667	4 132	8 641 257	2 393 815	11 035 072	838.06		579.34	8 899 720	2 430 652	11 330 372
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	RTM	2 663	1 057	363	3 565 387	228 282	3 793 669	1 338.86		628.88	3 626 419	229 594	3 856 013
Palm Island Aboriginal Council	RTM	2 617	71	38	1 095 917	48 196	1 144 113	418.77		1 268.32	1 128 697	50 762	1 179 459
Paroo Shire Council	RTM	1 888	47 616	2 283	3 538 501	1 283 101	4 821 602	1 874.21		562.02	3 644 339	1 270 479	4 914 818
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	731	4 429	566	1 234 757	320 917	1 555 674	1 689.13		566.99	1 271 690	322 689	1 594 379
Quilpie Shire Council	RTS	975	67 423	2 062	3 663 285	1 151 317	4 814 602	3 757.22		558.35	3 662 846	1 167 271	4 830 117
Redland City Council	URV	148 641	536	1 061	3 012 295	2 129 497	5 141 792	20.27	#	2 007.07	3 001 096	2 128 462	5 129 558
Richmond Shire Council	RTS	847	26 580	1 296	3 131 382	726 167	3 857 549	3 697.03		560.31	3 037 176	729 891	3 767 067

Distribution to councils in Queensland for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Rockhampton Regional Council	URL	83 439	6 560	1 992	5 124 723	1 968 220	7 092 943	61.42		988.06	5 278 005	1 968 031	7 246 036
Scenic Rim Regional Council	UFM	39 463	4 248	1 787	1 617 495	1 398 470	3 015 965	40.99		782.58	1 568 833	1 398 824	2 967 657
Somerset Regional Council	UFS	23 952	5 373	1 880	2 129 786	1 288 999	3 418 785	88.92		685.64	2 065 713	1 293 530	3 359 243
South Burnett Regional Council	URM	32 941	8 382	3 277	4 802 264	2 155 429	6 957 693	145.78		657.74	4 657 791	2 157 725	6 815 516
Southern Downs Regional Council	URM	35 716	7 112	3 053	4 835 298	2 060 251	6 895 549	135.38		674.83	4 689 831	2 063 272	6 753 103
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	URV	282 822	2 251	2 971	5 731 551	4 578 832	10 310 383	20.27	#	1 541.18	5 753 302	4 601 855	10 355 157
Tablelands Regional Council	URS	24 973	11 289	1 845	4 108 235	1 280 222	5 388 457	164.51		693.89	4 231 113	1 283 089	5 514 202
Toowoomba Regional Council	URV	161 970	12 958	7 365	9 542 296	5 756 707	15 299 003	58.91		781.63	8 396 420	5 345 121	13 741 541
Torres Shire Council	RTL	3 651	883	112	2 822 375	99 868	2 922 243	773.04		891.68	2 906 793	203 979	3 110 772
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	RTL	4 619	489	368	9 726 977	251 854	9 978 831	2 105.86		684.39	9 817 427	252 882	10 070 309
Townsville City Council	URV	192 038	3 727	1 711	3 943 189	2 939 521	6 882 710	20.53		1 718.01	3 880 621	2 948 727	6 829 348
Western Downs Regional Council	URM	33 653	37 939	7 518	13 256 469	4 509 971	17 766 440	393.92		599.89	12 857 657	4 535 461	17 393 118
Whitsunday Regional Council	URM	34 211	23 804	1 841	3 364 791	1 373 862	4 738 653	98.35		746.26	3 362 316	1 376 381	4 738 697
Winton Shire Council	RTM	1 379	53 814	2 502	3 990 852	1 399 024	5 389 876	2 894.02		559.16	4 032 216	1 413 569	5 445 785
Woorabinda Aboriginal Council	RTM	1 002	390	56	465 884	41 539	507 423	464.95		741.77	479 818	41 579	521 397
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council	RTX	291	11	18	427 046	12 981	440 027	1 467.51		721.17	439 819	13 052	452 871
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	2 687	159	56	804 653	59 035	863 688	299.46		1 054.20	828 720	58 870	887 590

a. population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014.

Table 44 Distribution to councils in Western Australia for 2015–16 and 2016–17

Council name	Classi- fication	Population* Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement		
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
City of Albany	URS	36 940	4 315	1 569	2 134 805	1 769 117	3 903 922	2 136 617	1 823 470	3 960 087
City of Armadale	URS	77 586	560	692	1 687 280	1 736 098	3 423 378	1 668 656	1 274 438	2 943 094
City of Bayswater	UDM	70 656	33	340	1 429 869	717 063	2 146 932	1 437 455	751 663	2 189 118
City of Belmont	UDS	40 968	40	227	829 071	522 145	1 351 216	825 739	514 944	1 340 683
City of Bunbury	URS	34 225	61	321	692 613	882 855	1 575 468	688 389	832 673	1 521 062
City of Busselton	RSG	35 562	1 454	1 090	719 670	2 108 024	2 827 694	725 698	1 783 412	2 509 110
City of Canning	UDL	98 056	65	576	1 984 364	1 680 662	3 665 026	1 964 386	1 263 083	3 227 469
City of Cockburn	UFM	106 540	148	806	2 156 056	1 490 771	3 646 827	2 149 930	1 516 505	3 666 435
City of Fremantle	UDS	30 883	19	177	624 981	390 628	1 015 609	620 063	384 836	1 004 899
City of Gosnells	UFL	123 993	127	727	2 509 254	1 792 527	4 301 781	2 497 570	1 612 970	4 110 540
City of Greater Geraldton	URM	41 087	9 929	2 088	3 839 510	1 926 826	5 766 336	3 842 769	1 903 175	5 745 944
City of Joondalup	UFV	168 638	99	1 010	3 412 737	2 117 506	5 530 243	3 353 188	2 121 885	5 475 073
City of Kalgoorlie- Boulder	URM	33 310	95 229	1 370	784 485	1 669 752	2 454 237	785 151	1 633 873	2 419 024
City of Karratha	URS	26 649	15 196	599	1 697 865	844 692	2 542 557	1 445 164	837 188	2 282 352
City of Kwinana	UFS	36 145	118	376	731 468	686 717	1 418 185	741 955	713 322	1 455 277
City of Mandurah	URM	82 701	174	671	1 673 624	1 217 900	2 891 524	1 676 304	1 248 072	2 924 376
City of Melville	UDL	107 239	53	524	2 170 201	1 053 176	3 223 377	2 009 88	1 055 127	3 185 284
City of Nedlands	UDS	23 258	21	141	470 674	289 240	759 914	461 043	281 771	742 814
City of Perth	UCC	20 762	9	93	420 162	408 554	828 716	477 760	461 789	939 549
City of Rockingham	UFM	125 889	261	997	2 547 623	1 856 392	4 404 015	2 575 682	1 838 209	4 413 891
City of South Perth	UDM	46 477	20	192	940 557	396 230	1 336 787	923 604	394 765	1 318 369
City of Stirling	UDV	227 967	100	1 029	4 601 238	2 282 421	6 883 659	4 545 042	2 087 440	6 632 482
City of Subiaco	UDS	20 167	7	89	408 120	205 073	613 193	351 395	180 568	531 963
City of Swan	UFL	130 013	1 043	1 420	2 631 080	2 427 058	5 058 138	2 632 423	2 512 437	5 144 860
City of Vincent	UDS	37 279	11	144	754 418	360 261	1 114 679	748 186	348 668	1 096 854
City of Wanneroo	UFL	185 817	688	1 292	3 760 389	2 481 860	6 242 249	3 770 492	2 670 748	6 441 240
Shire of Ashburton	RTL	11 017	105 647	2 160	3 399 952	1 300 978	4 700 930	3 298 604	1 141 324	4 439 928

Distribution to councils in Western Australia for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Shire of Augusta Margaret River	RAV	13 608	2 370	901	275 385	1 327 371	1 602 756	20.24	#	1 473.22	275 759	1 380 217	1 655 976
Shire of Beverley	RAS	1 589	2 310	697	818 995	489 388	1 308 383	515.42		702.13	819 690	600 888	1 420 578
Shire of Boddington	RAS	2 523	1 900	265	168 476	203 056	371 532	66.78		766.25	143 401	200 568	343 969
Shire of Boyup Brook	RAS	1 648	2 838	962	501 030	1 097 143	1 598 173	304.02		1 140.48	501 455	626 764	1 128 219
Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	RAM	4 643	1 691	710	1 203 393	688 851	1 892 244	259.18		970.21	1 204 415	1 312 694	2 517 109
Shire of Brookton	RAS	1 020	1 626	532	604 785	327 646	932 431	592.93		615.88	605 298	325 593	930 891
Shire of Broome	RTL	17 311	56 000	562	1 934 096	924 925	2 859 021	111.73		1 645.77	1 935 738	949 615	2 885 353
Shire of Broomehill- Tambellup	RAS	1 156	2 810	971	1 159 088	610 198	1 769 286	1 002.67		628.42	1 160 072	602 784	1 762 856
Shire of Bruce Rock	RAS	949	2 772	1 173	1 510 309	990 317	2 500 626	1 591.47		844.26	1 511 591	883 142	2 394 733
Shire of Capel	RSG	17 061	554	492	1 027 508	741 739	1 769 247	60.23		1 507.60	1 028 380	640 722	1 669 102
Shire of Carnamah	RAS	540	2 835	643	854 306	384 135	1 238 441	1 582.05		597.41	855 031	380 737	1 235 768
Shire of Carnarvon	RAL	6 139	53 000	1 526	3 708 632	1 099 578	4 808 210	604.11		720.56	3 711 780	1 132 175	4 843 955
Shire of Chapman Valley	RAS	1 247	4 007	863	337 985	491 805	829 790	271.04		569.88	338 272	488 900	827 172
Shire of Chittering	RAM	5 218	1 220	434	724 814	474 582	1 199 396	138.91		1 093.51	725 429	563 256	1 288 685
Shire of Collie	RAL	9 778	1 685	384	1 195 874	457 798	1 653 672	122.30		1 192.18	1 196 890	452 256	1 649 146
Shire of Coolgardie	URS	4 239	30 400	847	535 210	494 283	1 029 493	126.26		583.57	535 665	489 666	1 025 331
Shire of Coorow	RAS	1 064	4 137	856	833 807	515 086	1 348 893	783.65		601.74	834 515	525 755	1 360 270
Shire of Corrigin	RAS	1 100	3 095	1 075	1 062 343	645 659	1 708 002	965.77		600.61	1 063 245	651 501	1 714 746
Shire of Cranbrook	RAS	1 092	3 390	1 015	668 763	875 817	1 544 580	612.42		862.87	669 331	605 551	1 274 882
Shire of Cuballing	RAS	889	1 250	555	561 296	316 800	878 096	631.38		570.81	561 773	314 120	875 893
Shire of Cue	RTX	285	13 716	740	1 282 388	416 442	1 698 830	4 499.61		562.76	1 283 476	411 442	1 694 918
Shire of Cunderdin	RAS	1 326	1 872	783	881 955	490 653	1 372 608	665.12		626.63	882 703	484 641	1 367 344
Shire of Dalwallinu	RAS	1 284	7 187	1 918	1 441 202	1 100 754	2 541 956	1 122.43		573.91	1 442 425	1 093 784	2 536 209
Shire of Dandaragan	RAM	3 288	6 934	1 195	750 080	840 467	1 590 547	228.13		703.32	750 716	829 358	1 580 074
Shire of Dardanup	RAV	14 075	518	403	884 849	460 882	1 345 731	62.87		1 143.63	885 600	471 365	1 356 965

Distribution to councils in Western Australia for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose	Local road	Total	General purpose	Local road	Total	General purpose	Local road	Total
					\$	\$	\$	\$ per capita	#	\$ per km	\$	\$	\$
Shire of Denmark	RAM	5 811	1 842	623	588 484	759 305	1 347 789	101.27	1 218.79	588 984	495 165	1 084 149	
Shire of Derby West Kimberley	RTL	9 129	102 706	1 779	4 294 505	1 067 934	5 362 439	470.42	600.30	4 298 150	1 064 612	5 362 762	
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	RAM	5 901	1 541	670	1 234 487	666 491	1 900 978	209.20	994.76	1 235 535	629 711	1 865 246	
Shire of Dowerin	RAS	683	1 867	939	837 475	519 517	1 356 992	1 226.17	553.27	838 186	516 397	1 354 583	
Shire of Dumbleyung	RAS	589	2 553	989	936 836	561 532	1 498 368	1 590.55	567.78	937 632	557 974	1 495 606	
Shire of Dundas	RTM	1 158	92 725	627	1 114 447	360 398	1 474 845	962.39	574.80	1 115 393	355 982	1 471 375	
Shire of East Pilbara	RTL	13 027	371 696	3 049	2 905 818	2 274 932	5 180 750	223.06	746.12	2 744 455	2 289 356	5 033 811	
Shire of Esperance	RAV	14 487	44 500	4 260	2 097 694	2 753 310	4 851 004	144.80	646.32	2 099 475	2 715 766	4 815 241	
Shire of Exmouth	RTM	2 611	6 261	286	1 480 339	404 801	1 885 140	566.96	1 415.39	1 481 596	400 326	1 881 922	
Shire of Gingin	RAM	5 447	3 325	871	883 427	832 063	1 715 490	162.19	955.30	884 177	1 005 639	1 889 816	
Shire of Gnowangerup	RAS	1 292	5 000	1 011	667 248	602 549	1 269 797	516.45	595.99	667 815	598 759	1 266 574	
Shire of Goomalling	RAS	991	1 845	583	361 973	346 451	708 424	365.26	594.26	362 280	347 298	709 578	
Shire of Halls Creek	RTL	3 946	143 025	1 420	3 458 800	974 396	4 433 196	876.53	686.19	3 461 736	1 049 444	4 511 180	
Shire of Harvey	RSG	26 787	1 766	848	1 619 552	956 816	2 576 368	60.46	1 128.32	1 620 927	930 739	2 551 666	
Shire of Irwin	RAM	3 764	2 223	445	242 093	325 324	567 417	64.32	731.07	206 061	320 515	526 576	
Shire of Jerramungup	RAS	1 077	6 540	1 081	610 020	590 164	1 200 184	566.41	545.94	610 537	592 092	1 202 629	
Shire of Kalamunda	UFM	60 743	349	613	1 229 260	1 295 520	2 524 780	20.24	2 113.41	1 214 922	1 070 254	2 285 176	
Shire of Katanning	RAM	4 428	1 523	693	1 479 252	481 534	1 960 786	334.07	694.85	1 480 508	471 534	1 952 042	
Shire of Kellerberrin	RAS	1 223	1 852	945	1 310 436	547 544	1 857 980	1 071.49	579.41	1 311 549	543 531	1 855 080	
Shire of Kent	RAS	524	6 552	1 324	577 707	686 570	1 264 277	1 102.49	518.56	578 197	688 659	1 266 856	
Shire of Kojoonup	RAS	2 002	2 937	1 129	755 138	649 046	1 404 184	377.19	574.89	755 779	643 514	1 399 293	
Shire of Kondinin	RAS	1 010	7 340	1 336	943 412	716 679	1 660 091	934.07	536.44	944 213	741 899	1 686 112	
Shire of Koorda	RAS	438	2 662	1 065	1 196 226	601 703	1 797 929	2 731.11	564.98	1 197 241	599 897	1 797 138	
Shire of Kulin	RAS	808	4 790	1 436	887 504	810 274	1 697 778	1 098.40	584.26	888 258	800 836	1 689 094	
Shire of Lake Grace	RAS	1 329	10 747	2 281	1 025 614	1 223 268	2 248 882	771.72	536.29	1 026 484	1 221 174	2 247 658	
Shire of Laverton	RTM	1 291	183 198	4 209	1 553 618	811 009	2 364 627	1 203.42	192.68	1 554 937	890 680	2 445 617	

Distribution to councils in Western Australia for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Shire of Leonora	RTM	2 630	31 743	1 226	607 505	592 817	1 200 322	230.99		483.54	608 021	593 049	1 201 070
Shire of Manjimup	RAV	9 445	7 028	1 304	2 683 835	1 331 182	4 015 017	284.15		1 020.85	2 686 113	1 728 802	4 414 915
Shire of Meekatharra	RTM	1 453	100 733	2 491	2 396 711	1 100 054	3 496 765	1 649.49		441.61	2 398 745	1 176 011	3 574 756
Shire of Menzies	RTX	401	128 353	2 075	1 717 741	872 027	2 589 768	4 283.64		420.25	1 719 199	880 173	2 599 372
Shire of Merredin	RAM	3 292	3 372	1 291	1 491 326	813 162	2 304 488	453.02		629.87	1 492 592	803 555	2 296 147
Shire of Minganew	RAS	477	1 927	451	273 383	304 892	578 275	573.13		676.04	273 615	511 155	784 770
Shire of Moora	RAM	2 516	3 788	940	792 960	672 489	1 465 449	315.17		715.41	793 633	704 622	1 498 255
Shire of Morawa	RAS	889	3 528	970	1 001 664	541 135	1 542 799	1 126.73		557.87	1 002 514	537 825	1 540 339
Shire of Mount Magnet	RTS	678	13 877	582	1 333 808	305 070	1 638 878	1 967.27		524.18	1 334 940	301 414	1 636 354
Shire of Mt Marshall	RAS	469	10 134	1 716	1 394 813	828 750	2 223 563	2 974.01		482.95	1 395 997	814 004	2 210 001
Shire of Mukinbudin	RAS	490	3 414	905	1 120 756	506 640	1 627 396	2 287.26		559.82	1 121 708	504 641	1 626 349
Shire of Mundaring	UFM	40 046	644	665	1 540 057	1 014 078	2 554 135	38.46		1 524.93	1 310 844	1 066 784	2 377 628
Shire of Murchison	RTX	121	49 500	1 899	2 602 632	830 996	3 433 628	21 509.36		437.60	2 604 841	846 705	3 451 546
Shire of Murray	RAL	16 875	1 821	687	910 370	994 966	1 905 336	53.95		1 448.28	911 143	799 833	1 710 976
Shire of Nannup	RAS	1 319	2 953	486	839 325	933 340	1 772 665	636.33		1 920.45	840 038	715 756	1 555 794
Shire of Narembeen	RAS	795	3 821	1 412	1 176 438	765 828	1 942 266	1 479.80		542.37	1 177 437	758 918	1 936 355
Shire of Narrogin ^b	URS	888	1 618	733	584 186	410 603	994 789	657.87		560.17	1 687 954	561 798	2 249 752
Shire of Narrogin (Town) ^b	RAS	4 451	13	68	1 102 337	154 649	1 256 986	247.66		2 274.25	-	-	-
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	RTM	1 507	159 948	1 311	3 241 219	1 174 976	4 416 195	2 150.78		896.24	3 243 970	1 135 538	4 379 508
Shire of Northam	RAM	11 629	1 443	752	2 568 733	803 685	3 372 418	220.89		1 068.73	2 570 914	753 053	3 323 967
Shire of Northampton	RAM	3 296	12 499	1 066	810 572	679 657	1 490 229	245.93		637.58	811 260	674 854	1 486 114
Shire of Nungarin	RAS	227	1 145	510	916 545	290 547	1 207 092	4 037.64		569.70	917 323	288 836	1 206 159
Shire of Peppermint Grove	UDS	1 685	2	9	34 099	19 880	53 979	20.24	#	2 208.89	32 875	19 636	52 511
Shire of Perenjori	RAS	906	8 214	1 439	1 045 826	811 696	1 857 522	1 154.33		564.07	1 046 714	802 118	1 848 832
Shire of Pingelly	RAS	1 183	1 223	565	822 366	341 068	1 163 434	695.15		603.66	823 065	336 923	1 159 988
Shire of Plantagenet	RAM	5 183	4 792	1 308	724 112	839 867	1 563 979	139.71		642.10	724 727	845 514	1 570 241

Distribution to councils in Western Australia for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose	Local road	Total	General purpose	Local road	Total		
Shire of Quairading	RAS	1 051	2 000	863	\$ 1 123 516	\$ 540 452	\$ 1 663 968	\$ per capita 1 069.00	\$ 626.25	\$ 1 124 469	\$ 533 757	\$ 1 658 226
Shire of Ravensthorpe	RAS	2 310	12 872	1 236	\$ 1 005 413	\$ 711 221	\$ 1 716 634	\$ per capita 435.24	\$ 575.42	\$ 1 006 267	\$ 811 159	\$ 1 817 426
Shire of Sandstone	RTX	111	28 218	930	\$ 1 499 188	\$ 423 862	\$ 1 923 050	\$ per capita 13 506.20	\$ 455.77	\$ 1 500 461	\$ 427 979	\$ 1 928 440
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	RSG	22 698	905	706	\$ 1 589 183	\$ 924 340	\$ 2 513 523	70.01	\$ 1 309.26	\$ 1 590 532	\$ 1 829 656	\$ 3 420 188
Shire of Shark Bay	RTS	943	25 000	571	\$ 1 452 442	\$ 418 476	\$ 1 870 918	\$ per capita 1 540.24	\$ 732.88	\$ 1 453 675	\$ 414 107	\$ 1 867 782
Shire of Tammin	RAS	409	1 087	495	\$ 758 870	\$ 280 943	\$ 1 039 813	\$ per capita 1 855.43	\$ 567.56	\$ 759 514	\$ 278 594	\$ 1 038 108
Shire of Three Springs	RAS	620	2 629	675	\$ 516 486	\$ 428 905	\$ 945 391	\$ per capita 833.04	\$ 635.41	\$ 516 924	\$ 423 752	\$ 940 676
Shire of Toodyay	RAM	4 641	1 683	626	\$ 944 284	\$ 532 612	\$ 1 476 896	\$ per capita 203.47	\$ 850.82	\$ 945 086	\$ 526 531	\$ 1 471 617
Shire of Trayning	RAS	341	1 632	751	\$ 1 037 507	\$ 442 206	\$ 1 479 713	\$ per capita 3 042.54	\$ 588.82	\$ 1 038 388	\$ 437 245	\$ 1 475 633
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	RTX	266	46 602	1 829	\$ 2 683 120	\$ 932 929	\$ 3 616 049	\$ per capita 10 086.92	\$ 510.08	\$ 2 685 398	\$ 838 401	\$ 3 523 799
Shire of Victoria Plains	RAS	915	2 563	809	\$ 445 276	\$ 512 847	\$ 958 123	\$ per capita 486.64	\$ 633.93	\$ 445 654	\$ 516 881	\$ 962 535
Shire of Wagin	RAS	1 905	1 950	782	\$ 903 214	\$ 467 042	\$ 1 370 256	\$ per capita 474.13	\$ 597.24	\$ 903 980	\$ 463 960	\$ 1 367 940
Shire of Wandering	RAS	438	1 955	356	\$ 262 142	\$ 216 785	\$ 478 927	\$ per capita 598.50	\$ 608.95	\$ 262 364	\$ 352 128	\$ 614 492
Shire of Waroona	RAM	4 001	835	343	\$ 913 552	\$ 381 038	\$ 1 294 590	\$ per capita 228.33	\$ 1 110.90	\$ 914 328	\$ 376 369	\$ 1 290 697
Shire of West Arthur	RAS	898	2 850	858	\$ 419 649	\$ 487 791	\$ 907 440	\$ per capita 467.32	\$ 568.52	\$ 420 005	\$ 815 054	\$ 1 235 059
Shire of Westonia	RAS	271	3 268	881	\$ 720 844	\$ 485 930	\$ 1 206 774	\$ per capita 2 659.94	\$ 551.57	\$ 721 456	\$ 483 031	\$ 1 204 487
Shire of Wickiepin	RAS	727	1 989	873	\$ 974 987	\$ 492 818	\$ 1 467 805	\$ per capita 1 341.11	\$ 564.51	\$ 975 815	\$ 489 871	\$ 1 465 686
Shire of Williams	RAS	932	2 295	474	\$ 123 050	\$ 293 957	\$ 417 007	\$ per capita 132.03	\$ 620.16	\$ 123 155	\$ 293 564	\$ 416 719
Shire of Wiluna	RTM	1 221	184 000	1 922	\$ 1 660 532	\$ 839 078	\$ 2 499 610	\$ per capita 1 359.98	\$ 436.57	\$ 1 661 942	\$ 815 523	\$ 2 477 465
Shire of Wongan- Ballidu	RAS	1 495	3 368	1 322	\$ 1 159 014	\$ 764 851	\$ 1 923 865	\$ per capita 775.26	\$ 578.56	\$ 1 159 998	\$ 755 573	\$ 1 915 571
Shire of Woodanilling	RAS	430	1 126	523	\$ 518 074	\$ 294 474	\$ 812 548	\$ per capita 1 204.82	\$ 563.05	\$ 518 513	\$ 292 791	\$ 811 304
Shire of Wyalkatchem	RAS	529	1 743	724	\$ 1 002 103	\$ 424 924	\$ 1 427 027	\$ per capita 1 894.33	\$ 586.91	\$ 1 002 954	\$ 423 459	\$ 1 426 413
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	RTL	8 713	121 189	1 125	\$ 2 785 902	\$ 1 118 189	\$ 3 904 091	\$ per capita 319.74	\$ 993.95	\$ 2 788 267	\$ 1 228 089	\$ 4 016 356
Shire of Yalgoo	RTX	424	33 258	1 133	\$ 1 733 580	\$ 553 996	\$ 2 287 576	\$ per capita 4 088.63	\$ 488.96	\$ 1 735 052	\$ 547 207	\$ 2 282 259
Shire of Yilgarn	RAS	1 612	30 720	2 713	\$ 761 418	\$ 1 133 767	\$ 1 895 185	\$ per capita 472.34	\$ 417.90	\$ 762 064	\$ 1 281 376	\$ 2 043 440

Distribution to councils in Western Australia for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Shire of York	RAM	3 489	2 010	666	846 019	592 546	1 438 565	242.48		889.71	846 737	591 851	1 438 588
Town of Bassendean	UDS	16 288	11	95	329 621	214 596	544 217	20.24	#	2 258.91	321 576	215 780	537 356
Town of Cambridge	UDS	28 365	22	173	574 024	374 082	948 106	20.24	#	2 162.32	564 221	366 727	930 948
Town of Claremont	UDS	10 611	5	47	214 736	101 830	316 566	20.24	#	2 166.60	213 825	100 257	314 082
Town of Cottesloe	UDS	8 703	4	47	176 124	101 263	277 387	20.24	#	2 154.53	171 803	100 218	272 021
Town of East Fremantle	UDS	7 831	3	37	158 477	71 779	230 256	20.24	#	1 939.97	154 646	70 899	225 545
Town of Mosman Park	UDS	9 613	4	43	194 539	81 085	275 624	20.24	#	1 885.70	190 677	80 091	270 768
Town of Port Hedland	URS	16 810	11 844	493	1 370 774	731 677	2 102 451	81.55		1 484.13	1 166 755	723 413	1 890 168
Town of Victoria Park	UDS	38 135	18	160	771 740	344 272	1 116 012	20.24	#	2 151.70	767 939	340 053	1 107 992

a. population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014.

b. Shire of Narrogin – Shire of Narrogin and Shire of Narrogin (Town) amalgamated on 1 July 2016 to form the Shire of Narrogin.

Table 45 Distribution to councils in South Australia for 2015–16 and 2016–17

Council name	Classification	Population* Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Adelaide Hills Council	UFM	39 873	792	1 088	819 476	693 117	1 512 593	20.55		637.06	811 281	683 429	1 494 710
Alexandrina Council	UFS	25 136	1 826	1 370	655 136	562 352	1 217 488	26.06		410.48	658 412	564 929	1 223 341
Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc	RTM	2 772	-	3 185	1 137 134	145 293	1 282 427	410.22		45.62	1 137 134	145 296	1 282 430
Berri Barmera Council	RAV	10 530	507	470	2 422 936	206 875	2 629 811	230.10		440.16	2 398 707	204 681	2 603 388
City of Burnside	UDM	44 734	27	235	902 976	464 615	1 367 591	20.19	#	1 977.09	897 077	464 129	1 361 206
City of Charles Sturt	UDL	112 714	56	576	2 275 185	1 157 022	3 432 207	20.19	#	2 008.72	2 275 043	1 161 193	3 436 236
City of Holdfast Bay	UDM	37 006	14	172	746 983	364 049	1 111 032	20.19	#	2 116.56	742 279	363 725	1 106 004
City of Mitcham	UDM	66 182	75	403	1 335 915	1 137 444	2 473 359	20.19	#	2 822.44	1 321 632	735 831	2 057 463
City of Mount Gambier	URS	26 246	34	223	2 184 616	559 182	2 743 798	83.24		2 507.54	2 195 539	383 924	2 579 463
City of Onkaparinga	UFV	167 659	519	1 461	5 335 835	2 868 570	8 204 405	31.83		1 963.43	5 282 477	2 274 292	7 556 769
City of Playford	UFL	86 869	344	822	8 611 054	1 230 251	9 841 305	99.13		1 496.66	8 524 943	3 087 470	11 612 413
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	UDV	122 205	94	683	2 466 765	1 932 623	4 399 388	20.19	#	2 829.61	2 465 180	1 311 785	3 776 965
City of Port Lincoln	URS	14 888	32	158	1 090 764	221 678	1 312 442	73.26		1 403.03	1 096 218	222 045	1 318 263
City of Prospect	UDS	21 247	8	87	428 880	198 628	627 508	20.19	#	2 283.08	426 607	198 486	625 093
City of Salisbury	UDV	137 310	159	818	6 303 092	1 515 792	7 818 884	45.90		1 853.05	6 240 061	1 519 333	7 759 394
City of Victor Harbor	URS	14 938	386	399	301 531	1 241 583	1 543 114	20.19	#	3 111.74	302 166	900 915	1 203 081
City of West Torrens	UDM	58 625	37	290	1 183 373	767 960	1 951 333	20.19	#	2 648.14	1 174 563	1 842 045	3 016 608
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	RAL	9 029	1 886	1 831	556 879	376 292	933 171	61.68		205.51	559 663	375 910	935 573
Coorong District Council	RAL	5 585	8 863	1 893	2 428 962	643 454	3 072 416	434.91		339.91	2 404 672	642 123	3 046 795
Copper Coast Council	RAV	13 924	776	949	1 460 002	309 597	1 769 599	104.86		326.23	1 445 402	311 240	1 756 642

Distribution to councils in South Australia for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	UDM	51 344	24	255	1 036 403	520 478	1 556 881	20.19	#	2 041.09	1 033 629	520 757	1 554 386
Corporation of the City of Marion	UDL	88 292	56	473	1 782 215	926 177	2 708 392	20.19	#	1 958.09	1 772 541	927 045	2 699 586
Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	37 074	15	160	748 356	353 749	1 102 105	20.19	#	2 210.93	744 012	353 544	1 097 556
Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	URS	14 557	1 189	410	2 680 421	282 097	2 962 518	184.13		688.04	2 653 616	280 614	2 934 230
Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully	UDL	98 575	95	595	1 989 783	1 186 669	3 176 452	20.19	#	1 994.40	1 969 311	1 085 864	3 055 175
Corporation of the City of Unley	UDM	39 014	14	165	787 516	368 870	1 156 386	20.19	#	2 235.58	783 334	368 768	1 152 102
Corporation of the City of Whyalla	URS	22 754	1 072	282	3 885 773	385 281	4 271 054	170.77		1 366.24	3 846 915	383 738	4 230 653
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	UDS	7 401	4	35	149 392	73 575	222 967	20.19	#	2 102.14	152 846	74 738	227 584
District Council of Barunga West	RAM	2 453	1 581	926	350 875	186 857	537 732	143.04		201.79	347 366	186 350	533 716
District Council of Ceduna	RAM	3 696	5 433	1 715	2 064 078	429 933	2 494 011	558.46		250.69	2 043 437	429 602	2 473 039
District Council of Cleve	RAS	1 808	5 000	1 396	956 793	367 233	1 324 026	529.20		263.06	961 577	382 591	1 344 168
District Council of Coober Pedy	URS	1 810	78	421	813 076	44 766	857 842	449.21		106.33	804 945	44 510	849 455
District Council of Elliston	RAS	1 068	6 679	1 148	736 579	397 790	1 134 369	689.68		346.51	729 214	678 287	1 407 501
District Council of Franklin Harbour	RAS	1 227	2 767	935	1 043 133	226 510	1 269 643	850.15		242.26	1 032 702	210 162	1 242 864

Distribution to councils in South Australia for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
District Council of Grant	RAL	8 174	1 917	1 569	979 178	530 226	1 509 404	119.79		337.94	984 074	475 387	1 459 461
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	RAS	1 027	4 409	1 299	1 215 395	329 011	1 544 406	1 183.44		253.28	1 203 241	328 475	1 531 716
District Council of Kimba	RAS	1 101	3 966	1 716	1 011 610	293 605	1 305 215	918.81		171.10	1 001 494	293 218	1 294 712
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	5 079	4 755	1 345	470 259	399 886	870 145	92.59		297.31	472 611	399 342	871 953
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	RAV	11 477	7 964	2 304	3 617 567	709 603	4 327 170	315.20		307.99	3 581 392	708 104	4 289 496
District Council of Mount Barker	URM	31 950	593	773	666 894	540 781	1 207 675	20.87		699.59	666 988	547 143	1 214 131
District Council of Mount Remarkable	RAM	2 827	3 441	2 067	1 667 918	354 601	2 022 519	590.00		171.55	1 651 239	353 420	2 004 659
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	RAS	861	3 306	1 628	976 061	247 259	1 223 320	1 133.64		151.88	966 301	246 862	1 213 163
District Council of Peterborough	RAS	1 701	3 006	1 231	1 337 369	237 229	1 574 598	786.23		192.71	1 323 995	236 536	1 560 531
District Council of Robe	RAS	1 431	1 098	435	29 480	105 216	134 696	20.60		241.88	29 185	105 003	134 188
District Council of Streaky Bay	RAM	2 251	6 241	1 733	1 476 934	449 359	1 926 293	656.12		259.30	1 462 164	448 779	1 910 943
District Council of Tumby Bay	RAM	2 642	2 670	1 109	537 569	254 765	792 334	203.47		229.72	532 193	254 754	786 947
District Council of Yankalilla	RAM	4 630	757	544	126 691	147 374	274 065	27.36		270.91	127 325	148 000	275 325
Gerard Reserve Council Inc	RTX	230	-	-	44 379	19 358	63 737	192.95		-	44 379	19 358	63 737

Distribution to councils in South Australia for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Kangaroo Island Council	RAM	4 583	4 434	1 362	1 441 229	385 219	1 826 448	314.47		282.83	1 448 435	384 996	1 833 431
Kingston District Council	RAM	2 368	3 351	744	544 183	303 445	847 628	229.81		407.86	538 741	283 007	821 748
Light Regional Council	RAV	14 648	1 273	1 457	295 677	402 101	697 778	20.19	#	275.98	295 633	673 803	969 436
Mallala Council	RAL	8 692	932	962	1 046 005	245 404	1 291 409	120.34		255.10	1 048 465	245 924	1 294 389
Maralinga Tjarutja	RTX	75	-	-	92 726	51 982	144 708	1 236.35		-	92 726	51 983	144 709
Mid Murray Council	RAL	8 262	6 252	3 390	3 117 371	627 973	3 745 344	377.31		185.24	3 086 197	1 288 829	4 375 026
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	URS	5 032	109	39	101 573	77 489	179 062	20.19	#	1 986.90	101 154	77 790	178 944
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	RAL	8 449	4 531	1 615	2 254 556	650 012	2 904 568	266.84		402.48	2 265 829	500 828	2 766 657
Nipapanha Community Incorporated	RTX	78	-	-	28 468	19 274	47 742	364.97		-	28 468	19 274	47 742
Northern Areas Council	RAM	4 512	2 974	2 202	1 409 006	389 624	1 798 630	312.28		176.94	1 394 916	388 754	1 783 670
Outback Communities Authority	RTL	3 803	-	-	1 437 498	-	1 437 498	377.99		-	1 437 109	-	1 437 109
Port Pirie Regional Council	RAV	17 646	1 792	1 354	3 960 290	454 384	4 414 674	224.43		335.59	3 920 687	451 577	4 372 264
Regional Council of Goyder	RAM	4 242	6 688	3 248	2 680 519	655 514	3 336 033	631.90		201.82	2 653 713	654 608	3 308 321
Renmark Paringa Council	RAL	9 292	900	479	2 553 096	211 024	2 764 120	274.76		440.55	2 527 565	209 483	2 737 048
Rural City of Murray Bridge	URS	20 740	1 824	975	3 138 622	860 700	3 999 322	151.33		882.77	3 154 315	462 330	3 616 645
Southern Mallee District Council	RAM	2 076	5 702	1 332	1 132 006	812 026	1 944 032	545.28		609.63	1 120 686	389 283	1 509 969

Distribution to councils in South Australia for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Tatiara District Council	RAL	6 667	6 525	1 932	2 406 027	904 123	3 310 150	360.89		467.97	2 418 057	723 742	3 141 799
The Barossa Council	UFS	22 964	891	971	544 016	446 849	990 865	23.69		460.19	546 736	792 440	1 339 176
The Corporation of the City of Adelaide	UCC	22 690	15	123	458 008	537 417	995 425	20.19	#	4 369.24	461 526	240 985	702 511
The Flinders Ranges Council	RAS	1 637	4 106	1 262	1 213 310	855 352	2 068 662	741.18		677.77	1 201 177	289 586	1 490 763
Town of Gawler	UFS	22 219	41	193	1 165 453	299 046	1 464 499	52.45		1 549.46	1 171 281	302 801	1 474 082
Wakefield Regional Council	RAL	6 885	3 479	2 685	1 811 412	514 296	2 325 708	263.10		191.54	1 820 469	513 677	2 334 146
Wattle Range Council	RAV	11 578	3 946	2 441	1 924 922	521 924	2 446 846	166.26		213.82	1 934 547	619 504	2 554 051
Wudinna District Council	RAS	1 284	5 369	1 712	1 236 089	638 819	1 874 908	962.69		373.14	1 223 728	383 305	1 607 033
Yalata Community Inc	RTX	298	-	64	159 737	41 852	201 589	536.03		653.94	159 737	41 853	201 590
Yorke Peninsula Council	RAV	11 068	5 946	3 891	1 450 096	785 662	2 235 758	131.02		201.92	1 435 599	783 782	2 219 381

a. population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014.

Table 46 Distribution to councils in Tasmania for 2015-16 and 2016-17

Council name	Classi- fication	Population* Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Break O'day Council	RAL	6 466	3 521	550	1 188 807	1 447 557	2 636 364	183.86		2 631.92	1 232 547	1 446 377	2 678 924
Brighton Council	URS	15 819	171	181	1 015 798	522 729	1 538 527	64.21		2 888.01	1 006 023	539 592	1 545 615
Burnie City Council	URS	19 893	610	346	1 222 833	1 118 071	2 340 904	61.47		3 231.42	1 118 315	1 105 572	2 223 887
Central Coast Council	URS	22 411	931	667	2 045 145	1 823 057	3 868 202	91.26		2 733.22	2 018 567	1 822 453	3 841 020
Central Highlands Council	RAM	2 315	7 976	728	926 752	1 397 510	2 324 262	400.32		1 919.66	906 940	1 412 192	2 319 132
Circular Head Council	RAL	8 301	4 891	768	1 254 593	1 798 422	3 053 015	151.14		2 341.70	1 260 389	1 806 918	3 067 307
Clarence City Council	UFM	54 040	377	447	1 088 253	1 422 260	2 510 513	20.14	#	3 181.79	1 087 972	1 439 578	2 527 550
Derwent Valley Council	RAL	9 997	4 103	330	1 173 818	817 419	1 991 237	117.42		2 477.03	1 238 895	821 903	2 060 798
Devonport City Council	URS	25 546	111	281	773 927	1 182 460	1 956 387	30.30		4 208.04	808 732	1 174 324	1 983 056
Dorset Council	RAL	7 128	3 223	739	1 723 267	1 804 239	3 527 506	241.76		2 441.46	1 672 560	1 790 068	3 462 628
Flinders Council	RAS	779	1 994	350	617 890	690 991	1 308 881	793.18		1 974.26	607 619	691 735	1 299 354
George Town Council	RAL	6 819	653	271	971 621	794 773	1 766 394	142.49		2 932.74	979 185	800 640	1 779 825
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	RAM	4 492	2 587	357	383 630	880 253	1 263 883	85.40		2 465.69	345 267	875 412	1 220 679
Glenorchy City Council	UFM	45 622	121	324	918 732	1 367 317	2 286 049	20.14	#	4 220.11	911 923	1 365 642	2 277 565
Hobart City Council	UCC	50 655	78	310	1 020 086	1 614 159	2 634 245	20.14	#	5 206.96	1 009 171	1 553 406	2 562 577
Huon Valley Council	RAV	16 273	5 497	714	1 944 142	1 484 366	3 428 508	119.47		2 078.94	1 969 248	1 477 375	3 446 623
Kentish Council	RAL	6 481	1 155	472	1 461 992	1 110 071	2 572 063	225.58		2 351.85	1 475 019	1 108 305	2 583 324
King Island Council	RAS	1 610	1 094	433	720 486	922 678	1 643 164	447.51		2 130.90	736 151	946 636	1 682 787
Kingborough Council	UFM	35 418	719	538	713 245	1 321 459	2 034 704	20.14	#	2 456.24	713 050	1 325 595	2 038 645
Latrobe Council	RAV	10 854	600	291	704 388	733 768	1 438 156	64.90		2 521.54	733 071	717 867	1 450 938

Distribution to councils in Tasmania for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement			2016-17 estimated entitlement					
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Launceston City Council	URM	67 114	1 411	753	1 351 536	2 776 711	4 128 247	20.14	#	3 687.53	1 334 802	2 751 551	4 086 353
Meander Valley Council	RAV	19 575	3 320	820	2 099 111	2 030 397	4 129 508	107.23		2 476.09	2 086 373	2 031 826	4 118 199
Northern Midlands Council	RAV	12 775	5 126	972	1 270 557	2 194 915	3 465 472	99.46		2 258.14	1 143 501	2 204 173	3 347 674
Sorell Council	RAV	13 779	583	377	1 235 354	928 209	2 163 563	89.65		2 462.09	1 111 819	984 309	2 096 128
Southern Midlands Council	RAL	6 235	2 611	803	1 744 957	1 520 429	3 265 386	279.86		1 893.44	1 690 156	1 511 654	3 201 810
Tasman Council	RAM	2 398	659	197	428 871	475 799	904 670	178.85		2 415.22	450 543	473 722	924 265
Waratah/Wynyard Council	RAV	14 304	3 526	540	1 495 694	1 276 329	2 772 023	104.56		2 363.57	1 496 600	1 279 848	2 776 448
West Coast Council	RTL	4 527	9 574	195	1 220 279	633 237	1 853 516	269.56		3 247.37	1 246 117	628 462	1 874 579
West Tamar Council	UFS	23 136	690	462	1 838 347	1 185 211	3 023 558	79.46		2 565.39	1 875 024	1 189 331	3 064 355

a. population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014

Table 47 Distribution to councils in Northern Territory for 2015-16 and 2016-17

Council name	Classification	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
Alice Springs Town Council	URS	28 568	327	244	733 744	924 573	1 658 317	25.68		3 789.23	705 947	913 808	1 619 755
Barkly Regional Council	RTL	8 096	322 693	543	1 766 645	423 864	2 190 509	218.21		780.60	1 725 729	435 276	2 161 005
Belyuen Community Government Council	RTX	210	42	84	23 622	32 151	55 773	112.49		382.75	25 624	31 712	57 336
Central Desert Regional Council	RTL	4 406	282 090	1 769	986 270	831 430	1 817 700	223.85		470.00	945 345	821 938	1 767 283
City of Darwin	UCC	82 734	142	514	1 731 720	1 778 053	3 509 773	20.93	#	3 459.25	1 692 384	1 752 269	3 444 653
City of Palmerston	UFS	33 926	56	238	710 111	795 741	1 505 852	20.93	#	3 343.45	707 313	797 215	1 504 528
Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM	1 304	1 512	172	27 295	403 436	430 731	20.93	#	2 345.56	26 443	402 785	429 228
East Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	10 808	33 302	1 070	3 295 565	1 134 399	4 429 964	304.92		1 060.19	3 078 353	1 170 698	4 249 051
Katherine Town Council	URS	11 120	7 421	186	372 620	611 402	984 022	33.51		3 287.11	552 509	607 742	1 160 251
Litchfield Council	RAV	22 047	3 072	753	461 469	2 492 033	2 953 502	20.93	#	3 309.47	482 011	2 458 581	2 940 592
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	ZZZ	-	-	2 119	-	1 395 319	1 395 319	-		658.48	-	1 446 831	1 446 831
MacDonnell Regional Council	RTL	6 964	268 784	1 569	1 794 524	961 839	2 756 363	257.69		613.03	1 736 304	958 820	2 695 124
Roper Gulf Regional Council	RTL	7 281	185 176	936	1 916 353	1 041 702	2 958 055	263.20		1 112.93	1 821 674	1 026 793	2 848 467
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	RTM	3 113	7 501	845	410 637	942 296	1 352 933	131.91		1 115.14	430 400	938 781	1 369 181
Victoria Daly Regional Council	RTL	3 361	153 000	335	448 886	688 257	1 137 143	133.56		2 054.50	491 355	678 873	1 170 228
Wagait Shire Council	RTX	430	6	17	9 000	53 818	62 818	20.93	#	3 165.76	8 706	53 121	61 827

Distribution to councils in Northern Territory for 2015–16 and 2016–17 (continued)

Council name	Classi- fication	Population ^a Number	Council area sq km	Road length km	2015-16 actual entitlement				2016-17 estimated entitlement				
					General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$	General purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local road \$ per km	General purpose \$	Local road \$	Total \$
West Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	7 465	49 698	1 230	1 241 789	1 157 190	2 398 979	166.35		940.80	1 196 804	1 144 127	2 340 931
West Daly Regional Council	RTL	3 685	14 000	683	501 982	809 327	1 311 309	136.22		1 184.96	534 287	838 198	1 372 485

a. population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 31 December 2014.



Appendix E

Ranking of local governing bodies



In this appendix, the grant per capita is used as the basis for comparing relative need for the general purpose grants. For local road grants, allocation of grants for each council is divided by their length of local roads to obtain a relative expenditure needs measure. For the following tables, councils within a state are sorted on the value of the general purpose grant per capita and the local road grants per kilometre. For each council, the table gives the ranking obtained for both grants. The Australian Classification of Local Government category for each council is also provided (see Appendix F). For each state and the Northern Territory, the position of the average general purpose grant per capita and the average local road grant per kilometre are also shown within the ranking of councils.

Key to symbols used in Tables in Appendix E. See Appendix F for a full explanation.

RAL	Rural Agricultural Large
RAM	Rural Agricultural Medium
RAS	Rural Agricultural Small
RAV	Rural Agricultural Very Large
RSG	Rural Significant Growth
RTL	Rural Remote Large
RTM	Rural Remote Medium
RTS	Rural Remote Small
RTX	Rural Remote Extra Small
UCC	Urban Capital City
UDL	Urban Developed Large
UDM	Urban Developed Medium
UDS	Urban Developed Small
UDV	Urban Developed Very Large
UFL	Urban Fringe Large
UFM	Urban Fringe Medium
UFS	Urban Fringe Small
UFV	Urban Fringe Very Large
URL	Urban Regional Large
URM	Urban Regional Medium
URS	Urban Regional Small
URV	Urban Regional Very Large

Table 48 New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
1	Central Darling Shire Council	RTM	1 546.81	1	The Council of the City of Sydney	UCC	3 988.72
2	Brewarrina Shire Council	RAS	1 107.66	2	Waverley Council	UDM	3 739.95
3	Bourke Shire Council	RAM	1 095.73	3	Randwick City Council	UDV	3 327.07
4	Carrathool Shire Council	RAM	1 074.18	4	Ashfield Council	UDM	3 226.00
5	Conargo Shire Council	RAS	995.28	5	Botany Bay City Council	UDM	3 222.92
6	Urana Shire Council	RAS	952.57	6	North Sydney Council	UDM	3 221.22
7	Balranald Shire Council	RAM	930.64	7	Canterbury City Council	UDV	3 213.50
8	The Council of the Shire of Jerilderie	RAS	883.97	8	Queanbeyan City Council	URM	3 191.88
9	Lachlan Council	RAL	727.17	9	City of Canada Bay Council	UDL	3 156.97
10	Bogan Shire Council	RAM	697.40	10	Strathfield Municipal Council	UDM	3 140.10
11	Bland Shire Council	RAL	677.27	11	Burwood Council	UDM	3 027.95
12	Lockhart Shire Council	RAM	675.94	12	Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	UDM	3 007.46
13	Cobar Shire Council	RTL	674.91	13	Auburn City Council	UDL	3 007.44
14	Hay Shire Council	RAM	634.22	14	Council of the Municipality of Marrickville	UDL	2 978.50
15	Walgett Shire Council	RAL	566.50	15	Manly Council	UDM	2 958.40
16	Council of the Shire of Wakool	RAM	562.69	16	Leichhardt Municipal Council	UDM	2 955.84
17	Silverton Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	529.11	17	Rockdale City Council	UDL	2 946.68
18	Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	529.09	18	Parramatta City Council	UDV	2 944.95
19	Wentworth Shire Council	RAL	524.10	19	Hurstville City Council	UDL	2 871.05
20	Coonamble Shire Council	RAM	513.17	20	Kogarah City Council	UDM	2 854.82
21	Warren Shire Council	RAM	511.56	21	Willoughby City Council	UDL	2 846.70
22	Lord Howe Island Board	RTX	490.09	22	Council of the City of Ryde	UDL	2 825.59
23	Bombala Shire Council	RAM	487.38	23	Holroyd City Council	UDL	2 793.79

New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
24	Coolamon Shire Council	RAM	471.81	24	Bankstown City Council	UDV	2 779.60
25	Gilgandra Council	RAM	462.14	25	Lane Cove Municipal Council	UDM	2 762.57
26	Gwydir Shire Council	RAM	461.53	26	Fairfield City Council	UDV	2 689.56
27	Narrandera Shire Council	RAL	456.18	27	Warringah Council	UDV	2 687.03
28	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	RAM	450.00	28	Mosman Municipal Council	UDS	2 679.31
29	Warrumbungle Shire Council	RAV	412.42	29	Coffs Harbour City Council	URL	2 569.63
30	Weddin Shire Council	RAM	397.16	30	Albury City Council	URM	2 494.48
31	Tumbarumba Shire Council	RAM	386.36	31	Liverpool City Council	UFV	2 484.74
32	Tenterfield Shire Council	RAL	383.32	32	Blacktown City Council	UDV	2 476.50
33	Narromine Shire Council	RAL	376.79	33	Sutherland Shire Council	UDV	2 455.08
34	Harden Shire Council	RAM	366.91	34	Campbelltown City Council	UFV	2 449.67
35	Boorowa Council	RAM	365.70	35	Wollongong City Council	URV	2 435.59
36	Berrigan Shire Council	RAL	358.87	36	Pittwater Council	UDM	2 425.45
37	Murray Shire Council	RAL	347.51	37	Tweed Shire Council	URL	2 423.28
38	Walcha Council	RAM	342.80	38	Ku-Ring-Gai Council	UDL	2 419.64
39	Gundagai	RAM	328.18	39	Orange City Council	URM	2 414.87
40	Temora Shire Council	RAL	325.74	40	Hornsby Shire Council	UFV	2 383.95
41	Forbes Shire Council	RAV	311.27	41	Hunter's Hill Council	UDS	2 328.52
42	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	RAL	309.98	42	Newcastle City Council	URV	2 286.41
43	Narrabri Shire Council	RAV	304.15	43	Council of the City of Broken Hill	URS	2 281.04
44	Snowy River Shire Council	RAL	286.86	44	Penrith City Council	UFV	2 244.01
45	Moree Plains Shire Council	RAV	283.44	45	Council of the City of Shellharbour	URM	2 228.04
46	Greater Hume Shire Council	RAV	282.66	46	The Council of Camden	UFL	2 197.31
47	Oberon Council	RAL	280.89	47	The Hills Shire Council	UFV	2 192.12
48	Junee Shire Council	RAL	279.40	48	Gosford City Council	UFV	2 132.93
49	Wellington Council	RAL	275.17	49	Port Macquarie Hastings Council	URL	2 131.21

New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
50	Gloucester Shire Council	RAM	274.65	50	Wyong Shire Council	UFV	2 090.56
51	Corowa Shire Council	RAV	274.61	51	Ballina Shire Council	URM	2 078.03
52	Deniliquin Council	URS	271.16	52	Lake Macquarie City Council	URV	2 073.42
53	Glen Innes Severn Council	URS	263.47	53	Byron Shire Council	URM	2 037.34
54	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	RAL	262.68	54	Kiama Municipal Council	URS	2 018.26
55	Cootamundra Shire Council	RAL	258.01	55	Shoalhaven City Council	URL	1 973.99
56	Guyra Shire Council	RAM	255.19	56	Maitland City Council	URL	1 941.81
57	Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	RAV	247.61	57	Blue Mountains City Council	UFL	1 832.24
58	Kyogle Council	RAL	247.27	58	Port Stephens Council	URM	1 815.29
59	Leeton Shire Council	RAV	246.01	59	Hawkesbury City Council	UFM	1 812.50
60	Parkes Shire Council	RAV	238.68	60	Cessnock City Council	URM	1 801.13
61	Cowra Shire Council	RAV	227.72	61	Wollondilly Shire Council	UFM	1 794.63
62	Tumut Shire Council	RAV	223.31	62	Deniliquin Council	URS	1 708.18
63	Blayney Shire Council	RAL	218.31	63	Nambucca Shire Council	RAV	1 697.09
64	Uralla Shire Council	RAL	217.98	64	Lismore City Council	URM	1 696.75
65	Inverell Shire Council	RAV	205.54	65	Great Lakes Council	URM	1 651.46
66	Council of the City of Broken Hill	URS	203.97	66	Eurobodalla Shire Council	URM	1 646.50
67	Gunnedah Shire Council	RAV	203.25	67	Wingecarribee Shire Council	URM	1 644.83
68	Bellingen Shire Council	RAV	190.88	68	Kempsey Shire Council	URS	1 625.08
69	Shire of Young	RAV	187.62	69	Bellingen Shire Council	RAV	1 601.10
70	Cabonne Shire Council	RAV	180.53	70	Singleton Council	URS	1 572.78
71	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RAV	179.08	71	Greater Taree City Council	URM	1 558.13
72	City of Lithgow Council	URS	160.03	72	Bathurst Regional Council	URM	1 557.47
73	Dungog Shire Council	RAL	157.19	73	Bega Valley Shire Council	URM	1 553.97

New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
74	Mid-Western Regional Council	URS	153.46	74	Muswellbrook Shire Council	RAV	1 498.78
75	Bega Valley Shire Council	URM	145.03	75	Clarence Valley Council	URM	1 486.06
76	Muswellbrook Shire Council	RAV	142.62	76	Dubbo City Council	URM	1 480.86
77	Clarence Valley Council	URM	138.85	77	Richmond Valley Council	URS	1 476.75
78	Great Lakes Council	URM	138.25	78	Wagga Wagga City Council	URM	1 433.91
79	Richmond Valley Council	URS	136.99	79	Kyogle Council	RAL	1 419.63
80	Eurobodalla Shire Council	URM	131.22	80	Dungog Shire Council	RAL	1 417.91
81	Griffith City Council	URS	129.49	81	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	URS	1 406.15
82	Kempsey Shire Council	URS	129.25		State average		1 394.71
83	Nambucca Shire Council	RAV	125.50	82	Armidale Dumaresq Council	URS	1 364.06
84	Dubbo City Council	URM	116.32	83	Tumut Shire Council	RAV	1 343.53
85	Wagga Wagga City Council	URM	110.31	84	City of Lithgow Council	URS	1 339.06
86	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	URS	107.46	85	Tamworth Regional Council	URM	1 321.02
87	Palerang Council	RAV	105.91	86	Gloucester Shire Council	RAM	1 313.52
88	Bathurst Regional Council	URM	103.90	87	Palerang Council	RAV	1 230.51
89	Armidale Dumaresq Council	URS	103.29	88	Griffith City Council	URS	1 216.02
90	Tamworth Regional Council	URM	100.67	89	Cootamundra Shire Council	RAL	1 205.85
91	Greater Taree City Council	URM	100.51	90	Yass Valley Council	RAV	1 188.06
92	Cessnock City Council	URM	96.29	91	Glen Innes Severn Council	URS	1 178.59
93	Yass Valley Council	RAV	95.60	92	Mid-Western Regional Council	URS	1 166.30
94	Albury City Council	URM	94.66	93	Tumbarumba Shire Council	RAM	1 166.26
95	Lismore City Council	URM	94.40	94	Blayney Shire Council	RAL	1 155.63
96	Singleton Council	URS	91.84	95	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RAV	1 153.16
97	Blue Mountains City Council	UFL	85.44	96	Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	RAV	1 133.95

New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
98	Shoalhaven City Council	URL	83.21	97	Shire of Young	RAV	1 130.70
99	Orange City Council	URM	80.39	98	Snowy River Shire Council	RAL	1 128.79
100	Port Macquarie Hastings Council	URL	79.07	99	Cowra Shire Council	RAV	1 125.00
101	Tweed Shire Council	URL	75.01	100	Leeton Shire Council	RAV	1 114.36
102	Port Stephens Council	URM	74.38	101	Gundagai	RAM	1 110.11
103	Wollongong City Council	URV	73.33	102	Uralla Shire Council	RAL	1 106.94
104	Maitland City Council	URL	70.06	103	Walcha Council	RAM	1 096.16
105	Wyong Shire Council	UFV	68.12	104	Inverell Shire Council	RAV	1 091.78
106	Coffs Harbour City Council	URL	67.57	105	Gunnedah Shire Council	RAV	1 091.44
	State average		67.51	106	Cabonne Shire Council	RAV	1 076.86
107	Newcastle City Council	URV	65.31	107	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	RAL	1 070.05
108	Lake Macquarie City Council	URV	63.82	108	Greater Hume Shire Council	RAV	1 068.13
109	Wingecarribee Shire Council	URM	61.80	109	Tenterfield Shire Council	RAL	1 067.37
110	Ballina Shire Council	URM	61.70	110	Bombala Shire Council	RAM	1 062.61
111	Council of the City of Shellharbour	URM	56.75	111	Council of the Shire of Wakool	RAM	1 061.04
112	Campbelltown City Council	UFV	53.10	112	Corowa Shire Council	RAV	1 060.69
113	Byron Shire Council	URM	50.18	113	Murray Shire Council	RAL	1 056.08
114	Gosford City Council	UFV	48.74	114	Guyra Shire Council	RAM	1 049.16
115	Queanbeyan City Council	URM	46.08	115	Junee Shire Council	RAL	1 047.27
116	Kiama Municipal Council	URS	45.62	116	Harden Shire Council	RAM	1 041.19
117	Wollondilly Shire Council	UFM	45.52	117	Parkes Shire Council	RAV	1 039.56
118	Blacktown City Council	UDV	44.39	118	Wellington Council	RAL	1 037.49
119	Penrith City Council	UFV	44.30	119	Forbes Shire Council	RAV	1 031.14
120	Fairfield City Council	UDV	40.78	120	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	RAL	1 028.98
121	Parramatta City Council	UDV	40.64	121	Oberon Council	RAL	1 028.61
122	Hawkesbury City Council	UFM	39.26	122	Narrabri Shire Council	RAV	1 025.53

New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
123	Liverpool City Council	UFV	35.32	123	Moree Plains Shire Council	RAV	1 019.55
124	Auburn City Council	UDL	32.22	124	Berrigan Shire Council	RAL	1 011.62
125	The Council of Camden	UFL	31.63	125	Walgett Shire Council	RAL	1 010.10
126	Holroyd City Council	UDL	29.89	126	Warrumbungle Shire Council	RAV	1 008.28
127	Council of the Municipality of Marrickville	UDL	27.42	127	Warren Shire Council	RAM	1 005.21
128	Canterbury City Council	UDV	26.91	128	Gilgandra Council	RAM	1 003.77
129	Bankstown City Council	UDV	25.61	129	Boorowa Council	RAM	1 001.50
130	Lane Cove Municipal Council	UDM	20.25	130	Lockhart Shire Council	RAM	1 000.98
131	Ashfield Council	UDM	20.25	131	Temora Shire Council	RAL	988.78
132	Burwood Council	UDM	20.25	132	Coonamble Shire Council	RAM	987.23
133	Kogarah City Council	UDM	20.25	133	Narromine Shire Council	RAL	985.18
134	Willoughby City Council	UDL	20.25	134	Gwydir Shire Council	RAM	984.52
135	Botany Bay City Council	UDM	20.25	135	Narrandera Shire Council	RAL	978.96
136	Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	UDM	20.25	136	Weddin Shire Council	RAM	974.59
137	Manly Council	UDM	20.25	137	Bogan Shire Council	RAM	973.18
138	Leichhardt Municipal Council	UDM	20.25	138	Wentworth Shire Council	RAL	968.92
139	Mosman Municipal Council	UDS	20.25	139	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	RAM	967.50
140	Hurstville City Council	UDL	20.25	140	Hay Shire Council	RAM	966.15
141	Waverley Council	UDM	20.25	141	Brewarrina Shire Council	RAS	954.09
142	City of Canada Bay Council	UDL	20.25	142	Urana Shire Council	RAS	952.55
143	North Sydney Council	UDM	20.25	143	Coolamon Shire Council	RAM	950.88
144	Pittwater Council	UDM	20.25	144	Cobar Shire Council	RTL	948.86
145	Hunter's Hill Council	UDS	20.25	145	The Council of the Shire of Jerilderie	RAS	946.86

New South Wales councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
146	Strathfield Municipal Council	UDM	20.25	146	Lachlan Council	RAL	942.33
147	Ku-Ring-Gai Council	UDL	20.25	147	Bourke Shire Council	RAM	940.87
148	Council of the City of Ryde	UDL	20.25	148	Bland Shire Council	RAL	938.05
149	The Hills Shire Council	UFV	20.25	149	Conargo Shire Council	RAS	934.23
150	Rockdale City Council	UDL	20.25	150	Carrathool Shire Council	RAM	931.18
151	The Council of the City of Sydney	UCC	20.25	151	Balranald Shire Council	RAM	925.61
152	Warringah Council	UDV	20.25	152	Central Darling Shire Council	RTM	924.05
153	Randwick City Council	UDV	20.25	153	Lord Howe Island Board	RTX	–
154	Sutherland Shire Council	UDV	20.25	154	Silverton Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	–
155	Hornsby Shire Council	UFV	20.25	155	Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	–

Table 49 Victorian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16

<i>Victorian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Victorian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
1	West Wimmera Shire Council	RAM	673.30	1	Melbourne City Council	UCC	3 207.39
2	Loddon Shire Council	RAL	601.30	2	City of Greater Dandenong	UDV	2 068.54
3	Buloke Shire Council	RAL	541.37	3	Kingston City Council	UDV	2 009.35
4	Hindmarsh Shire Council	RAL	443.35	4	Warrnambool City Council	URM	1 993.30
5	Yarriambiack Shire Council	RAL	418.59	5	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	UFV	1 887.47
6	Pyrenees Shire Council	RAL	409.41	6	City of Port Phillip	UDL	1 873.39
7	Shire of Towong	RAL	381.18	7	Yarra City Council	UDL	1 848.91
8	Northern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	341.02	8	Brimbank City Council	UDV	1 792.74
9	Gannawarra Shire Council	RAV	307.40	9	Hume City Council	UFV	1 767.64
10	Ararat Rural City Council	RAV	290.03	10	City of Darebin	UDV	1 757.73
11	Shire of Strathbogie	RAL	285.81	11	Moreland City Council	UDV	1 727.21
12	Southern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	238.91	12	Wodonga City Council	URM	1 701.02
13	Corangamite Shire Council	RAV	236.58	13	South Gippsland Shire Council	URS	1 676.65
14	Shire of Moyne	RAV	226.24	14	Banyule City Council	UDV	1 644.85
15	Mansfield Shire Council	RAL	222.66	15	Moonee Valley City Council	UDL	1 640.06
16	East Gippsland Shire Council	URM	213.19	16	Cardinia Shire Council	UFM	1 624.42
17	Moira Shire Council	URS	212.70	17	Hobsons Bay City Council	UDL	1 619.78
18	Glenelg Shire Council	RAV	207.95	18	Melton City Council	UFV	1 616.97
19	Swan Hill Rural City Council	URS	200.27	19	City of Maribymong	UDL	1 588.76
20	Murrindindi Shire Council	RAV	196.62	20	City of Whittlesea	UFV	1 577.66
21	Central Goldfields Shire Council	RAV	193.94	21	Stonnington City Council	UDL	1 573.65
22	Hepburn Shire Council	RAV	193.61	22	Ballarat City Council	URL	1 568.38
23	South Gippsland Shire Council	URS	192.49	23	Colac Otway Shire	URS	1 545.08
24	Alpine Shire	RAV	192.35	24	Latrobe City Council	URL	1 542.89

Victoria councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

Victorian councils ranked by funding per capita				Victorian councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
25	Campaspe Shire Council	URM	192.09	25	Maroondah City Council	UDL	1 532.09
26	Horsham Rural City Council	RAV	187.55	26	Monash City Council	UDV	1 525.78
27	Mildura Rural City Council	URM	183.53	27	Frankston City Council	UDV	1 510.14
28	Wellington Shire Council	URM	179.98	28	East Gippsland Shire Council	URM	1 502.98
29	Benalla Rural City Council	RAV	176.42	29	Wyndham City Council	UFV	1 492.96
30	Indigo Shire Council	RAV	175.38	30	City of Boroondara	UDV	1 488.15
31	Colac Otway Shire	URS	169.56	31	City of Greater Geelong	URV	1 468.80
32	Mount Alexander Shire Council	RAV	157.64	32	Whitehorse City Council	UDV	1 468.29
33	Golden Plains Shire Council	URS	157.11	33	Bayside City Council	UDL	1 466.92
34	Wangaratta Rural City Council	URS	155.51	34	Wellington Shire Council	URM	1 464.72
35	Greater Shepparton City Council	URM	134.12	35	Bass Coast Shire Council	URM	1 452.65
36	Moorabool Shire Council	URM	131.16	36	City of Knox	UDV	1 428.26
37	Bass Coast Shire Council	URM	130.78	37	Casey City Council	UDV	1 426.96
38	Baw Baw Shire Council	URM	129.55	38	Nillumbik Shire Council	UFM	1 408.40
39	Mitchell Shire Council	URM	126.01	39	City of Glen Eira	UDV	1 395.57
40	Latrobe City Council	URL	122.39	40	Corangamite Shire Council	RAV	1 383.80
41	Greater Bendigo City Council	URL	110.00	41	Shire of Moyne	RAV	1 355.78
42	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	URM	105.10	42	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	UFV	1 346.56
43	Wodonga City Council	URM	103.30	43	Baw Baw Shire Council	URM	1 340.07
44	Ballarat City Council	URL	99.56	44	Alpine Shire	RAV	1 336.79
45	Melton City Council	UFV	88.66	45	Murrindindi Shire Council	RAV	1 327.26
46	Cardinia Shire Council	UFM	86.49	46	Surf Coast Shire	UFS	1 286.74
47	Warrnambool City Council	URM	85.49	47	Manningham City Council	UDL	1 263.03
48	Surf Coast Shire	UFS	77.58	48	Glenelg Shire Council	RAV	1 234.23

Victoria councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

Victorian councils ranked by funding per capita				Victorian councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
49	City of Greater Geelong	URV	71.77	49	Borough of Queenscliffe	UFS	1 232.28
50	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	UFV	71.42	50	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	URM	1 200.36
	State Average		67.60	51	Moorabool Shire Council	URM	1 174.97
51	Borough of Queenscliffe	UFS	65.76	52	Wangaratta Rural City Council	URS	1 146.71
52	Wyndham City Council	UFV	63.31	53	Greater Shepparton City Council	URM	1 145.05
53	City of Greater Dandenong	UDV	62.24	54	Mansfield Shire Council	RAL	1 125.54
54	City of Whittlesea	UFV	58.74	55	Shire of Towong	RAL	1 112.67
55	Brimbank City Council	UDV	58.55		State average		1 110.80
56	Hume City Council	UFV	57.90	56	Mitchell Shire Council	URM	1 087.18
57	Frankston City Council	UDV	55.35	57	Mount Alexander Shire Council	RAV	1 079.05
58	Casey City Council	UDV	53.47	58	Benalla Rural City Council	RAV	1 059.74
59	City of Knox	UDV	40.50	59	Greater Bendigo City Council	URL	1 041.33
60	Maroondah City Council	UDL	39.28	60	Golden Plains Shire Council	URS	1 038.25
61	Nilumbik Shire Council	UFM	33.92	61	Southern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	1 032.82
62	Moreland City Council	UDV	29.74	62	Indigo Shire Council	RAV	1 023.69
63	City of Maribyrnong	UDL	29.26	63	Campaspe Shire Council	URM	1 021.73
64	Banyule City Council	UDV	27.68	64	Moira Shire Council	URS	996.24
65	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	UFV	26.93	65	Hepburn Shire Council	RAV	988.09
66	City of Darebin	UDV	26.17	66	Pyrenees Shire Council	RAL	980.70
67	Hobsons Bay City Council	UDL	20.66	67	Ararat Rural City Council	RAV	935.79
68	Yarra City Council	UDL	20.28	68	Shire of Strathbogie	RAL	923.65
69	Bayside City Council	UDL	20.28	69	Central Goldfields Shire Council	RAV	862.33
70	City of Boroondara	UDV	20.28	70	Gannawarra Shire Council	RAV	841.82
71	Melbourne City Council	UCC	20.28	71	Northern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	785.13
72	Whitehorse City Council	UDV	20.28	72	West Wimmera Shire Council	RAM	776.30

Victoria councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

<i>Victorian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Victorian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
73	Monash City Council	UDV	20.28	73	Loddon Shire Council	RAL	734.56
74	City of Port Phillip	UDL	20.28	74	Mildura Rural City Council	URM	731.99
75	City of Glen Eira	UDV	20.28	75	Horsham Rural City Council	RAV	686.55
76	Kingston City Council	UDV	20.28	76	Swan Hill Rural City Council	URS	582.91
77	Manningham City Council	UDL	20.28	77	Hindmarsh Shire Council	RAL	482.10
78	Moonee Valley City Council	UDL	20.28	78	Buloke Shire Council	RAL	433.86
79	Stonnington City Council	UDL	20.28	79	Yarriambiack Shire Council	RAL	389.34

Table 50 Queensland councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16

Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita				Queensland councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
1	Bulloo Shire Council	RTX	11 729.39	1	Brisbane City Council	UCC	2 648.71
2	Croydon Shire Council	RTX	8 596.80	2	Gold Coast City Council	URV	2 393.04
3	Diamantina Shire Council	RTX	7 900.24	3	Redland City Council	URV	2 007.07
4	Barcoo Shire Council	RTX	7 633.63	4	Logan City Council	URV	1 938.31
5	Burke Shire Council	RTS	4 489.43	5	Moreton Bay Regional Council	UFV	1 812.01
6	Boulia Shire Council	RTS	4 465.59	6	Cairns Regional Council	URV	1 806.96
7	McKinlay Shire Council	RTM	4 058.80	7	Townsville City Council	URV	1 718.01
8	Etheridge Shire Council	RTS	3 944.55	8	Ipswich City Council	URV	1 669.03
9	Quilpie Shire Council	RTS	3 757.22	9	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	URV	1 541.18
10	Richmond Shire Council	RTS	3 697.03	10	Palm Island Aboriginal Council	RTM	1 268.32
11	Mapoon Aboriginal Council	RTX	3 432.49	11	Noosa Shire Council	URM	1 186.16
12	Winton Shire Council	RTM	2 894.02	12	Mackay Regional Council	URV	1 069.87
13	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	2 649.05	13	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1 054.20
14	Flinders Shire Council	RTM	2 605.57	14	Rockhampton Regional Council	URL	988.06
15	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	RTL	2 105.86		State average		880.58
16	Paroo Shire Council	RTM	1 874.21	15	Fraser Coast Regional Council	URL	958.61
17	Cook Shire Council	RAM	1 691.71	16	Torres Shire Council	RTL	891.68
18	Pompuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	1 689.13	17	Bundaberg Regional Council	URL	879.86
19	Carpentaria Shire Council	RTM	1 677.30	18	Douglas Shire Council	RAV	875.72
20	Barcaldine Regional Council	RTL	1 507.06	19	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	URM	831.82
21	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council	RTX	1 467.51	20	Livingstone Shire Council	UFM	820.76
22	Longreach Regional Council	RTL	1 391.23	21	Gladstone Regional Council	URM	818.24
23	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	RTM	1 338.86	22	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	URS	801.65

Queensland councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita				Queensland councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
24	Cloncurry Shire Council	RAM	1 288.39	23	Scenic Rim Regional Council	UFM	782.58
25	Aurukun Shire Council	RTM	1 244.88	24	Toowoomba Regional Council	URV	781.63
26	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	RTM	1 229.27	25	Gympie Regional Council	URM	774.29
27	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1 188.87	26	Whitsunday Regional Council	URM	746.26
28	Mornington Shire Council	RTM	1 148.91	27	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	744.96
29	Murweh Shire Council	RTL	1 045.56	28	Woorabinda Aboriginal Council	RTM	741.77
30	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	1 037.93	29	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	RAV	726.24
31	Maranoa Regional Council	RAV	939.58	30	Aurukun Shire Council	RTM	722.89
32	North Burnett Regional Council	RAV	838.06	31	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council	RTX	721.17
33	Doomadgee Aboriginal Community Council	RTM	830.79	32	Burdekin Shire Council	RAV	716.08
34	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	826.99	33	Tablelands Regional Council	URS	693.89
35	Torres Shire Council	RTL	773.04	34	Somerset Regional Council	UFS	685.64
36	Balonne Shire Council	RAM	694.35	35	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	RTL	684.39
37	Woorabinda Aboriginal Council	RTM	464.95	36	Doomadgee Aboriginal Community Council	RTM	681.54
38	Palm Island Aboriginal Council	RTM	418.77	37	Southern Downs Regional Council	URM	674.83
39	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	397.45	38	Mount Isa City Council	URS	669.39
40	Goondiwindi Regional Council	RAV	396.17	39	South Burnett Regional Council	URM	657.74
41	Western Downs Regional Council	URM	393.92	40	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	652.24
42	Banana Shire Council	RAV	357.19	41	Mareeba Shire Council	URS	650.24
43	Charters Towers Regional Council	RAV	334.72	42	Mapoon Aboriginal Council	RTX	640.31
44	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	299.46	43	Mornington Shire Council	RTM	633.76
45	Mareeba Shire Council	URS	230.25	44	Isaac Regional Council	URS	631.42

Queensland councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita				Queensland councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
46	Central Highlands Regional Council	URM	184.70	45	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	RTM	628.88
47	Mount Isa City Council	URS	181.89	46	Central Highlands Regional Council	URM	625.24
48	Tablelands Regional Council	URS	164.51	47	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	610.66
49	South Burnett Regional Council	URM	145.78	48	Western Downs Regional Council	URM	599.89
50	Burdekin Shire Council	RAV	140.06	49	Goondiwindi Regional Council	RAV	599.66
51	Southern Downs Regional Council	URM	135.38	50	Banana Shire Council	RAV	595.91
52	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	RAV	127.28	51	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	587.33
53	Isaac Regional Council	URS	120.46	52	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	586.99
54	Whitsunday Regional Council	URM	98.35	53	Charters Towers Regional Council	RAV	586.43
55	Somerset Regional Council	UFS	88.92	54	North Burnett Regional Council	RAV	579.34
56	Douglas Shire Council	RAV	84.44	55	Maranoa Regional Council	RAV	577.99
57	Gladstone Regional Council	URM	81.87	56	Cloncurry Shire Council	RAM	575.89
58	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	URS	78.43	57	Balonne Shire Council	RAM	575.31
59	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	URM	75.88	58	Murweh Shire Council	RTL	571.17
60	Livingstone Shire Council	UFM	69.94	59	Longreach Regional Council	RTL	569.45
61	Gympie Regional Council	URM	69.21	60	Cook Shire Council	RAM	568.91
	State average		67.55	61	Porpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	566.99
62	Rockhampton Regional Council	URL	61.42	62	Carpentaria Shire Council	RTM	566.82
63	Toowoomba Regional Council	URV	58.91	63	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	RTM	566.43
64	Bundaberg Regional Council	URL	51.63	64	Barcaldine Regional Council	RTL	565.13
65	Fraser Coast Regional Council	URL	41.29	65	Flinders Shire Council	RTM	562.93
66	Scenic Rim Regional Council	UFM	40.99	66	Paroo Shire Council	RTM	562.02

Queensland councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita				Queensland councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Class ification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Class ification	\$ per km
67	Mackay Regional Council	URV	29.73	67	Burke Shire Council	RTS	561.58
68	Townsville City Council	URV	20.53	68	Richmond Shire Council	RTS	560.31
69	Noosa Shire Council	URM	20.27	69	Winton Shire Council	RTM	559.16
70	Ipswich City Council	URV	20.27	70	McKinlay Shire Council	RTM	559.12
71	Moreton Bay Regional Council	UFV	20.27	71	Etheridge Shire Council	RTS	558.87
72	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	URV	20.27	72	Quilpie Shire Council	RTS	558.35
73	Brisbane City Council	UCC	20.27	73	Boulia Shire Council	RTS	557.32
74	Logan City Council	URV	20.27	74	Croydon Shire Council	RTX	556.53
75	Gold Coast City Council	URV	20.27	75	Diamantina Shire Council	RTX	556.08
76	Redland City Council	URV	20.27	76	Barcoo Shire Council	RTX	555.70
77	Cairns Regional Council	URV	20.27	77	Bulloo Shire Council	RTX	555.56

Table 51 Western Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16

<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
1	Shire of Murchison	RTX	21 509.36	1	City of Perth	UCC	4 393.05
2	Shire of Sandstone	RTX	13 506.20	2	City of Canning	UDL	2 917.82
3	Shire of Upper Gascoyne	RTX	10 086.92	3	City of Bunbury	URS	2 750.33
4	Shire of Cue	RTX	4 499.61	4	City of Armadale	URS	2 508.81
5	Shire of Menzies	RTX	4 283.64	5	City of Vincent	UDS	2 501.81
6	Shire of Yalgoo	RTX	4 088.63	6	City of Gosnells	UFL	2 465.65
7	Shire of Nungarin	RAS	4 037.64	7	City of Subiaco	UDS	2 304.19
8	Shire of Trayning	RAS	3 042.54	8	City of Belmont	UDS	2 300.20
9	Shire of Mt Marshall	RAS	2 974.01	9	Shire of Narrogin (Town)	RAS	2 274.25
10	Shire of Koorda	RAS	2 731.11	10	Town of Bassendean	UDS	2 258.91
11	Shire of Westonia	RAS	2 659.94	11	City of Stirling	UDV	2 218.10
12	Shire of Mukinbudin	RAS	2 287.26	12	Shire of Peppermint Grove	UDS	2 208.89
13	Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	RTM	2 150.78	13	City of Fremantle	UDS	2 206.94
14	Shire of Mount Magnet	RTS	1 967.27	14	Town of Claremont	UDS	2 166.60
15	Shire of Wyalkatchem	RAS	1 894.33	15	Town of Cambridge	UDS	2 162.32
16	Shire of Tammin	RAS	1 855.43	16	Town of Cottesloe	UDS	2 154.53
17	Shire of Meekatharra	RTM	1 649.49	17	Town of Victoria Park	UDS	2 151.70
18	Shire of Bruce Rock	RAS	1 591.47	18	Shire of Kalamunda	UFM	2 113.41
19	Shire of Dumbleyung	RAS	1 590.55	19	City of Bayswater	UDM	2 109.01
20	Shire of Carnamah	RAS	1 582.05	20	City of Joondalup	UFV	2 096.54
21	Shire of Shark Bay	RTS	1 540.24	21	City of South Perth	UDM	2 063.70
22	Shire of Narembeen	RAS	1 479.80	22	City of Nedlands	UDS	2 051.35
23	Shire of Wiluna	RTM	1 359.98	23	City of Melville	UDL	2 009.88
24	Shire of Wickepin	RAS	1 341.11	24	Town of East Fremantle	UDS	1 939.97
25	Shire of Dowerin	RAS	1 226.17	25	City of Busselton	RSG	1 933.97
26	Shire of Woodanilling	RAS	1 204.82	26	City of Wanneroo	UFL	1 920.94
27	Shire of Laverton	RTM	1 203.42	27	Shire of Nannup	RAS	1 920.45
28	Shire of Perenjori	RAS	1 154.33	28	Town of Mosman Park	UDS	1 885.70
29	Shire of Morawa	RAS	1 126.73	29	City of Rockingham	UFM	1 861.98
30	Shire of Dalwallinu	RAS	1 122.43	30	City of Cockburn	UFM	1 849.59
31	Shire of Kent	RAS	1 102.49	31	City of Kwinana	UFS	1 826.38
32	Shire of Kulin	RAS	1 098.40	32	City of Mandurah	URM	1 815.05

Western Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
33	Shire of Kellerberrin	RAS	1 071.49	33	City of Swan	UFL	1 709.20
34	Shire of Quairading	RAS	1 069.00	34	Shire of Broome	RTL	1 645.77
35	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	RAS	1 002.67	35	Shire of Mundaring	UFM	1 524.93
36	Shire of Corrigin	RAS	965.77	36	Shire of Capel	RSG	1 507.60
37	Shire of Dundas	RTM	962.39	37	Town of Port Hedland	URS	1 484.13
38	Shire of Kondinin	RAS	934.07	38	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	RAV	1 473.22
39	Shire of Halls Creek	RTL	876.53	39	Shire of Murray	RAL	1 448.28
40	Shire of Three Springs	RAS	833.04	40	Shire of Exmouth	RTM	1 415.39
41	Shire of Coorow	RAS	783.65	41	City of Karratha	URS	1 410.17
42	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	RAS	775.26	42	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	RSG	1 309.26
43	Shire of Lake Grace	RAS	771.72	43	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	URM	1 218.80
44	Shire of Pingelly	RAS	695.15	44	Shire of Denmark	RAM	1 218.79
45	Shire of Cunderdin	RAS	665.12	45	Shire of Collie	RAL	1 192.18
46	Shire of Narrogin	URS	657.87	46	Shire of Dardanup	RAV	1 143.63
47	Shire of Nannup	RAS	636.33	47	Shire of Boyup Brook	RAS	1 140.48
48	Shire of Cuballing	RAS	631.38	48	Shire of Harvey	RSG	1 128.32
49	Shire of Cranbrook	RAS	612.42	49	City of Albany	URS	1 127.54
50	Shire of Carnarvon	RAL	604.11	50	Shire of Waroona	RAM	1 110.90
51	Shire of Wandering	RAS	598.50	51	Shire of Chittering	RAM	1 093.51
52	Shire of Brookton	RAS	592.93	52	Shire of Northam	RAM	1 068.73
53	Shire of Mingenew	RAS	573.13	53	Shire of Manjimup	RAV	1 020.85
54	Shire of Exmouth	RTM	566.96	54	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	RAM	994.76
55	Shire of Jerramungup	RAS	566.41	55	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	RTL	993.95
56	Shire of Gnowangerup	RAS	516.45	56	Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	RAM	970.21
57	Shire of Beverley	RAS	515.42	57	Shire of Gingin	RAM	955.30
58	Shire of Victoria Plains	RAS	486.64	58	City of Greater Geraldton	URM	922.81
59	Shire of Wagin	RAS	474.13	59	Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	RTM	896.24
60	Shire of Yilgarn	RAS	472.34	60	Shire of York	RAM	889.71
61	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	RTL	470.42	61	Shire of Cranbrook	RAS	862.87
62	Shire of West Arthur	RAS	467.32	62	Shire of Toodyay	RAM	850.82

Western Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
63	Shire of Merredin	RAM	453.02	63	Shire of Bruce Rock	RAS	844.26
64	Shire of Ravensthorpe	RAS	435.24		State average		841.05
65	Shire of Kojonup	RAS	377.19	64	Shire of Boddington	RAS	766.25
66	Shire of Goomalling	RAS	365.26	65	Shire of East Pilbara	RTL	746.12
67	Shire of Katanning	RAM	334.07	66	Shire of Shark Bay	RTS	732.88
68	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	RTL	319.74	67	Shire of Irwin	RAM	731.07
69	Shire of Moora	RAM	315.17	68	Shire of Carnarvon	RAL	720.56
70	Shire of Ashburton	RTL	308.61	69	Shire of Moora	RAM	715.41
71	Shire of Boyup Brook	RAS	304.02	70	Shire of Dandaragan	RAM	703.32
72	Shire of Manjimup	RAV	284.15	71	Shire of Beverley	RAS	702.13
73	Shire of Chapman Valley	RAS	271.04	72	Shire of Katanning	RAM	694.85
74	Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	RAM	259.18	73	Shire of Halls Creek	RTL	686.19
75	Shire of Narrogin (Town)	RAS	247.66	74	Shire of Mingenew	RAS	676.04
76	Shire of Northampton	RAM	245.93	75	Shire of Esperance	RAV	646.32
77	Shire of York	RAM	242.48	76	Shire of Plantagenet	RAM	642.10
78	Shire of Leonora	RTM	230.99	77	Shire of Northampton	RAM	637.58
79	Shire of Waroona	RAM	228.33	78	Shire of Three Springs	RAS	635.41
80	Shire of Dandaragan	RAM	228.13	79	Shire of Victoria Plains	RAS	633.93
81	Shire of East Pilbara	RTL	223.06	80	Shire of Merredin	RAM	629.87
82	Shire of Northam	RAM	220.89	81	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	RAS	628.42
83	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	RAM	209.20	82	Shire of Cunderdin	RAS	626.63
84	Shire of Toodyay	RAM	203.47	83	Shire of Quairading	RAS	626.25
85	Shire of Gingin	RAM	162.19	84	Shire of Williams	RAS	620.16
86	Shire of Esperance	RAV	144.80	85	Shire of Brookton	RAS	615.88
87	Shire of Plantagenet	RAM	139.71	86	Shire of Wandering	RAS	608.95
88	Shire of Chittering	RAM	138.91	87	Shire of Pingelly	RAS	603.66
89	Shire of Williams	RAS	132.03	88	Shire of Ashburton	RTL	602.30
90	Shire of Coolgardie	URS	126.26	89	Shire of Coorow	RAS	601.74
91	Shire of Collie	RAL	122.30	90	Shire of Corrigin	RAS	600.61
92	Shire of Broome	RTL	111.73	91	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	RTL	600.30

Western Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				Western Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
93	Shire of Denmark	RAM	101.27	92	Shire of Carnamah	RAS	597.41
94	City of Greater Geraldton	URM	93.45	93	Shire of Wagin	RAS	597.24
95	Town of Port Hedland	URS	81.55	94	Shire of Gnowangerup	RAS	595.99
96	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	RSG	70.01	95	Shire of Goomalling	RAS	594.26
	State average		67.34	96	Shire of Trayning	RAS	588.82
97	Shire of Boddington	RAS	66.78	97	Shire of Wyalkatchem	RAS	586.91
98	Shire of Irwin	RAM	64.32	98	Shire of Coolgardie	URS	583.57
99	City of Karratha	URS	63.71	99	Shire of Kellerberrin	RAS	579.41
100	Shire of Dardanup	RAV	62.87	100	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	RAS	578.56
101	Shire of Harvey	RSG	60.46	101	Shire of Ravensthorpe	RAS	575.42
102	Shire of Capel	RSG	60.23	102	Shire of Kojoonup	RAS	574.89
103	City of Albany	URS	57.79	103	Shire of Dundas	RTM	574.80
104	Shire of Murray	RAL	53.95	104	Shire of Dalwallinu	RAS	573.91
105	Shire of Mundaring	UFM	38.46	105	Shire of Cuballing	RAS	570.81
106	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	URM	23.55	106	Shire of Chapman Valley	RAS	569.88
107	City of Armadale	URS	21.75	107	Shire of Nungarin	RAS	569.70
108	Town of Cottesloe	UDS	20.24	108	Shire of West Arthur	RAS	568.52
109	Town of East Fremantle	UDS	20.24	109	Shire of Dumbleyung	RAS	567.78
110	Town of Claremont	UDS	20.24	110	Shire of Tammin	RAS	567.56
111	City of Nedlands	UDS	20.24	111	Shire of Koorda	RAS	564.98
112	City of Vincent	UDS	20.24	112	Shire of Wickepin	RAS	564.51
113	Town of Mosman Park	UDS	20.24	113	Shire of Kulin	RAS	564.26
114	City of Perth	UCC	20.24	114	Shire of Perenjori	RAS	564.07
115	Shire of Kalamunda	UFM	20.24	115	Shire of Woodanilling	RAS	563.05
116	City of Gosnells	UFL	20.24	116	Shire of Cue	RTX	562.76
117	City of Joondalup	UFV	20.24	117	Shire of Narrogin	URS	560.17
118	City of Rockingham	UFM	20.24	118	Shire of Mukinbudin	RAS	559.82
119	City of Cockburn	UFM	20.24	119	Shire of Morawa	RAS	557.87
120	City of Fremantle	UDS	20.24	120	Shire of Dowerin	RAS	553.27
121	City of Wanneroo	UFL	20.24	121	Shire of Westonia	RAS	551.57
122	City of Swan	UFL	20.24	122	Shire of Jerramungup	RAS	545.94

Western Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Western Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Class ification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Class ification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
123	City of Stirling	UDV	20.24	123	Shire of Narembeen	RAS	542.37
124	Town of Cambridge	UDS	20.24	124	Shire of Kondinin	RAS	536.44
125	Town of Victoria Park	UDS	20.24	125	Shire of Lake Grace	RAS	536.29
126	City of Busselton	RSG	20.24	126	Shire of Mount Magnet	RTS	524.18
127	City of Melville	UDL	20.24	127	Shire of Kent	RAS	518.56
128	City of Bayswater	UDM	20.24	128	Shire of Upper Gascoyne	RTX	510.08
129	City of Bunbury	URS	20.24	129	Shire of Yalgoo	RTX	488.96
130	City of Canning	UDL	20.24	130	Shire of Leonora	RTM	483.54
131	City of Mandurah	URM	20.24	131	Shire of Mt Marshall	RAS	482.95
132	Town of Bassendean	UDS	20.24	132	Shire of Sandstone	RTX	455.77
133	City of Kwinana	UFS	20.24	133	Shire of Meekatharra	RTM	441.61
134	City of South Perth	UDM	20.24	134	Shire of Murchison	RTX	437.60
135	City of Belmont	UDS	20.24	135	Shire of Wiluna	RTM	436.57
136	City of Subiaco	UDS	20.24	136	Shire of Menzies	RTX	420.25
137	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	RAV	20.24	137	Shire of Yilgarn	RAS	417.90
138	Shire of Peppermint Grove	UDS	20.24	138	Shire of Laverton	RTM	192.68

Table 52 South Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16

<i>South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>South Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
1	Maralinga Tjarutja	RTX	1 236.35	1	The Corporation of the City of Adelaide	UCC	4 369.24
2	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	RAS	1 183.44	2	City of Victor Harbor	URS	3 111.74
3	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	RAS	1 133.64	3	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	UDV	2 829.61
4	Wudinna District Council	RAS	962.69	4	City of Mitcham	UDM	2 822.44
5	District Council of Kimba	RAS	918.81	5	City of West Torrens	UDM	2 648.14
6	District Council of Franklin Harbour	RAS	850.15	6	City of Mount Gambier	URS	2 507.54
7	District Council of Peterborough	RAS	786.23	7	City of Prospect	UDS	2 283.08
8	The Flinders Ranges Council	RAS	741.18	8	Corporation of the City of Unley	UDM	2 235.58
9	District Council of Elliston	RAS	689.68	9	Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	2 210.93
10	District Council of Streaky Bay	RAM	656.12	10	City of Holdfast Bay	UDM	2 116.56
11	Regional Council of Goyder	RAM	631.90	11	Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	UDS	2 102.14
12	District Council of Mount Remarkable	RAM	590.00	12	Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	UDM	2 041.09
13	District Council of Ceduna	RAM	558.46	13	City of Charles Sturt	UDL	2 008.72
14	Southern Mallee District Council	RAM	545.28	14	Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully	UDL	1 994.40
15	Yalata Community Inc	RTX	536.03	15	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	URS	1 986.90
16	District Council of Cleve	RAS	529.20	16	City of Burnside	UDM	1 977.09
17	District Council of Coober Pedy	URS	449.21	17	City of Onkaparinga	UFV	1 963.43
18	Coorong District Council	RAL	434.91	18	Corporation of the City of Marion	UDL	1 958.09
19	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc	RTM	410.22	19	City of Salisbury	UDV	1 853.05
20	Outback Communities Authority	RTL	377.99	20	Town of Gawler	UFS	1 549.46
21	Mid Murray Council	RAL	377.31	21	City of Playford	UFL	1 496.66

South Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				South Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
22	Nipapanha Community Incorporated	RTX	364.97	22	City of Port Lincoln	URS	1 403.03
23	Tatiara District Council	RAL	360.89	23	Corporation of the City of Whyalla	URS	1 366.24
24	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	RAV	315.20	24	Rural City of Murray Bridge	URS	882.77
25	Kangaroo Island Council	RAM	314.47	25	District Council of Mount Barker	URM	699.59
26	Northern Areas Council	RAM	312.28	26	Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	URS	688.04
27	Renmark Paringa Council	RAL	274.76	27	The Flinders Ranges Council	RAS	677.77
28	Naracoorte Lucindale Council	RAL	266.84	28	Yalata Community Inc	RTX	653.94
29	Wakefield Regional Council	RAL	263.10	29	Adelaide Hills Council	UFM	637.06
30	Berri Barmera Council	RAV	230.10	30	Southern Mallee District Council	RAM	609.63
31	Kingston District Council	RAM	229.81		State average		494.23
32	Port Pirie Regional Council	RAV	224.43	31	Tatiara District Council	RAL	467.97
33	District Council of Tumby Bay	RAM	203.47	32	The Barossa Council	UFS	460.19
34	Gerard Reserve Council Inc	RTX	192.95	33	Renmark Paringa Council	RAL	440.55
35	Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	URS	184.13	34	Berri Barmera Council	RAV	440.16
36	Corporation of the City of Whyalla	URS	170.77	35	Alexandrina Council	UFS	410.48
37	Wattle Range Council	RAV	166.26	36	Kingston District Council	RAM	407.86
38	Rural City of Murray Bridge	URS	151.33	37	Naracoorte Lucindale Council	RAL	402.48
39	District Council of Barunga West	RAM	143.04	38	Wudinna District Council	RAS	373.14
40	Yorke Peninsula Council	RAV	131.02	39	District Council of Elliston	RAS	346.51
41	Mallala Council	RAL	120.34	40	Coorong District Council	RAL	339.91
42	District Council of Grant	RAL	119.79	41	District Council of Grant	RAL	337.94
43	Copper Coast Council	RAV	104.86	42	Port Pirie Regional Council	RAV	335.59
44	City of Playford	UFL	99.13	43	Copper Coast Council	RAV	326.23

South Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16 (continued)

<i>South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>South Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
45	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	92.59	44	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	RAV	307.99
46	City of Mount Gambier	URS	83.24	45	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	297.31
47	City of Port Lincoln	URS	73.26	46	Kangaroo Island Council	RAM	282.83
	State average		67.29	47	Light Regional Council	RAV	275.98
48	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	RAL	61.68	48	District Council of Yankalilla	RAM	270.91
49	Town of Gawler	UFS	52.45	49	District Council of Cleve	RAS	263.06
50	City of Salisbury	UDV	45.90	50	District Council of Streaky Bay	RAM	259.30
51	City of Onkaparinga	UFV	31.83	51	Mallala Council	RAL	255.10
52	District Council of Yankalilla	RAM	27.36	52	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	RAS	253.28
53	Alexandrina Council	UFS	26.06	53	District Council of Ceduna	RAM	250.69
54	The Barossa Council	UFS	23.69	54	District Council of Franklin Harbour	RAS	242.26
55	District Council of Mount Barker	URM	20.87	55	District Council of Robe	RAS	241.88
56	District Council of Robe	RAS	20.60	56	District Council of Tumby Bay	RAM	229.72
57	Adelaide Hills Council	UFM	20.55	57	Wattle Range Council	RAV	213.82
58	City of Victor Harbor	URS	20.19	58	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	RAL	205.51
59	Light Regional Council	RAV	20.19	59	Yorke Peninsula Council	RAV	201.92
60	Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	UDM	20.19	60	Regional Council of Goyder	RAM	201.82
61	City of Mitcham	UDM	20.19	61	District Council of Barunga West	RAM	201.79
62	Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully	UDL	20.19	62	District Council of Peterborough	RAS	192.71
63	Corporation of the City of Unley	UDM	20.19	63	Wakefield Regional Council	RAL	191.54
64	City of Charles Sturt	UDL	20.19	64	Mid Murray Council	RAL	185.24
65	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	UDV	20.19	65	Northern Areas Council	RAM	176.94

South Australian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>South Australian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Class ification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Class ification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
66	City of West Torrens	UDM	20.19	66	District Council of Mount Remarkable	RAM	171.55
67	Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	20.19	67	District Council of Kimba	RAS	171.10
68	Corporation of the City of Marion	UDL	20.19	68	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	RAS	151.88
69	City of Holdfast Bay	UDM	20.19	69	District Council of Coober Pedy	URS	106.33
70	The Corporation of the City of Adelaide	UCC	20.19	70	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc	RTM	45.62
71	City of Burnside	UDM	20.19	71	Gerard Reserve Council Inc	RTX	-
72	City of Prospect	UDS	20.19	72	Maralinga Tjarutja	RTX	-
73	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	URS	20.19	73	Nipapanha Community Incorporated	RTX	-
74	Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	UDS	20.19	74	Outback Communities Authority	RTL	-

Table 53 Tasmanian councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16

<i>Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
1	Flinders Council	RAS	793.18	1	Hobart City Council	UCC	5 206.96
2	King Island Council	RAS	447.51	2	Glenorchy City Council	UFM	4 220.11
3	Central Highlands Council	RAM	400.32	3	Devonport City Council	URS	4 208.04
4	Southern Midlands Council	RAL	279.86	4	Launceston City Council	URM	3 687.53
5	West Coast Council	RTL	269.56	5	West Coast Council	RTL	3 247.37
6	Dorset Council	RAL	241.76	6	Burnie City Council	URS	3 231.42
7	Kentish Council	RAL	225.58	7	Clarence City Council	UFM	3 181.79
8	Break O'day Council	RAL	183.86	8	George Town Council	RAL	2 932.74
9	Tasman Council	RAM	178.85	9	Brighton Council	URS	2 888.01
10	Circular Head Council	RAL	151.14	10	Central Coast Council	URS	2 733.22
11	George Town Council	RAL	142.49	11	Break O'day Council	RAL	2 631.92
12	Huon Valley Council	RAV	119.47		State average		2 622.03
13	Derwent Valley Council	RAL	117.42	12	West Tamar Council	UFS	2 565.39
14	Meander Valley Council	RAV	107.23	13	Latrobe Council	RAV	2 521.54
15	Waratah/Wynyard Council	RAV	104.56	14	Derwent Valley Council	RAL	2 477.03
16	Northern Midlands Council	RAV	99.46	15	Meander Valley Council	RAV	2 476.09
17	Central Coast Council	URS	91.26	16	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	RAM	2 465.69
18	Sorell Council	RAV	89.65	17	Sorell Council	RAV	2 462.09
19	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	RAM	85.40	18	Kingborough Council	UFM	2 456.24
20	West Tamar Council	UFS	79.46	19	Dorset Council	RAL	2 441.46
	State average		67.13	20	Tasman Council	RAM	2 415.22
21	Latrobe Council	RAV	64.90	21	Waratah/Wynyard Council	RAV	2 363.57
22	Brighton Council	URS	64.21	22	Kentish Council	RAL	2 351.85
23	Burnie City Council	URS	61.47	23	Circular Head Council	RAL	2 341.70
24	Devonport City Council	URS	30.30	24	Northern Midlands Council	RAV	2 258.14
25	Kingborough Council	UFM	20.14	25	King Island Council	RAS	2 130.90

Tasmanian councils ranked by grant funding 2015–16 (continued)

<i>Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per kilometre</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council name</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
26	Clarence City Council	UFM	20.14	26	Huon Valley Council	RAV	2 078.94
27	Glenorchy City Council	UFM	20.14	27	Flinders Council	RAS	1 974.26
28	Launceston City Council	URM	20.14	28	Central Highlands Council	RAM	1 919.66
29	Hobart City Council	UCC	20.14	29	Southern Midlands Council	RAL	1 893.44

Table 54 Northern Territory councils ranked by grant funding 2015-16

Northern Territory councils ranked by funding per capita				Northern Territory councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council name	Classification	\$ per km
1	East Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	304.92	1	Alice Springs Town Council	URS	3 789.23
2	Roper Gulf Regional Council	RTL	263.20	2	City of Darwin	UCC	3 459.25
3	MacDonnell Regional Council	RTL	257.69	3	City of Palmerston	UFS	3 343.45
4	Central Desert Regional Council	RTL	223.85	4	Litchfield Council	RAV	3 309.47
5	Barkly Regional Council	RTL	218.21	5	Katherine Town Council	URS	3 287.11
6	West Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	166.35	6	Wagait Shire Council	RTX	3 165.76
7	West Daly Regional Council	RTL	136.22	7	Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM	2 345.56
8	Victoria Daly Regional Council	RTL	133.56	8	Victoria Daly Regional Council	RTL	2 054.50
9	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	RTM	131.91	State average			1 238.21
10	Belyuen Community Government Council	RTX	112.49	9	West Daly Regional Council	RTL	1 184.96
State average			69.77	10	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	RTM	1 115.14
11	Katherine Town Council	URS	33.51	11	Roper Gulf Regional Council	RTL	1 112.93
12	Alice Springs Town Council	URS	25.68	12	East Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	1 060.19
13	Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM	20.93	13	West Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	940.80
14	City of Darwin	UCC	20.93	14	Barkly Regional Council	RTL	780.60
15	City of Palmerston	UFS	20.93	15	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	ZZZ	658.48
16	Litchfield Council	RAV	20.93	16	MacDonnell Regional Council	RTL	613.03
17	Wagait Shire Council	RTX	20.93	17	Central Desert Regional Council	RTL	470.00
18	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	ZZZ	–	18	Belyuen Community Government Council	RTX	382.75

Appendix F

Australian Classification of Local Governments



The Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG) was first published in September 1994. The ACLG categorises local governing bodies across Australia using the population, the population density and the proportion of the population that is classified as urban for the council.

The local governing bodies included in the classification system are those that receive funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program as defined under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act). Therefore, bodies declared by the Australian Government Minister on the advice of the state minister to be local governing bodies for the purposes of the Act, are included in the ACLG.

The classification system generally involves three steps. Each step allocates a prefix formed from letters of the alphabet to develop a three-letter identifier for each class of local government. There are a total of 22 categories. For example, a medium-sized council in a rural agricultural area would be classified as RAM—rural, agricultural, medium. If it were remote, however, it would be classified as RTM—rural, remote, medium. Table 55 provides information on the structure of the classification system.

Notwithstanding the capacity of the ACLG system to group like councils, it should be noted that there remains considerable scope for divergence within these categories, and for this reason the figures in Appendix D should be taken as a starting point for enquiring into grant outcomes. This divergence can occur because of factors including isolation, population distribution, local economic performance, daily or seasonal population changes, the age profile of the population and geographic differences. The allocation of the general purpose grant between states on an equal per capita basis and the local road grant on a fixed shares basis can also cause divergence.

To ensure the ACLG is kept up-to-date, local government grants commissions advise of any changes in the classification of councils in their state at the end of each financial year.

Table 55 Structure of the classification system

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Identifiers	Category	
URBAN (U)					
Population more than 20 000;	CAPITAL CITY (CC)	Not applicable		UCC	
OR	METROPOLITAN DEVELOPED (D)	SMALL (S)	up to 30 000	UDS	
if population less than 20 000;	Part of an urban centre of more than 1 000 000 or population density more than 600 per square kilometre	MEDIUM (M)	30 001–70 000	UDM	
EITHER		LARGE (L)	70 001–120 000	UDL	
		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120 000	UDV	
Population density more than 30 persons per square kilometre	REGIONAL TOWNS/CITY (R)	SMALL (S)	up to 30 000	URS	
OR	Part of an urban centre with population less than 1 000 000 and predominantly urban in nature	MEDIUM (M)	30 001–70 000	URM	
90 per cent or more of the local governing body population is urban.		LARGE (L)	70 001–120 000	URL	
		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120 000	URV	
		FRINGE (F)	SMALL (S)	up to 30 000	UFS
	A developing LGA on the margin of a developed or regional urban centre	MEDIUM (M)	30 001–70 000	UFM	
		LARGE (L)	70 001–120 000	UFL	
		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120 000	UFV	
RURAL (R)					
A local governing body with population less than 20 000	SIGNIFICANT GROWTH (SG)	Not applicable		RSG	
AND	Average annual population growth more than three per cent, population more than 5000 and not remote				
Population density less than 30 persons per square kilometre		AGRICULTURAL (A)	SMALL (S)	up to 2 000	RAS
AND		MEDIUM (M)	2 001–5 000	RAM	
Less than 90 per cent of local governing body is urban.		LARGE (L)	5 001–10 000	RAL	
		VERY LARGE (V)	10 001–20 000	RAV	
	REMOTE (T)	EXTRA SMALL (X)	up to 400	RTX	
			401–1 000	RTS	
			SMALL (S)	1 001–3 000	RTM
			MEDIUM (M)	3 001–20 000	RTL
			LARGE (L)		

Table 56 Categories of local governments by state at July 2015

ACLG categories	State							Australia
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT*	
Urban Capital City (UCC)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Urban Development Small (UDS)	2	0	0	9	2	0	0	13
Urban Development Medium (UDM)	11	0	0	5	7	0	0	23
Urban Development Large (UDL)	10	9	0	4	3	0	0	26
Urban Development Very Large (UDV)	8	13	0	3	2	0	0	26
Urban Regional Small (URS)	11	6	5	4	8	4	2	40
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	19	12	9	5	1	1	0	47
Urban Regional Large (URL)	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	11
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	3	1	10	0	0	0	0	14
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	9
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	3	1	2	3	1	3	0	13
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	5
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	7	6	0	3	1	0	0	17
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	4	0	0	50	10	2	0	66
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	21	1	3	12	11	4	0	52
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	25	8	0	6	10	7	0	56
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	19	15	8	4	7	6	1	60
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	3	0	6	5	4	0	2	20
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	11
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	1	0	16	7	1	0	2	27
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	1	0	5	8	1	0	8	23
Total	155	79	77	138	74	29	17	569

* NT total excludes Road Trust Account

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