



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Local Government National Report



2013-14

2013-14 report on the operation of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*



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About the department

On 18 September 2013, the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development assumed administrative responsibility for the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth). The annual Local Government National Report is a requirement under this Act.

Foreword

I am pleased to present to the Australian Parliament the 2013–14 report on the operation of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) (the Act).

In 2014–15 Budget, the Australian Government normalised the payment of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme. The Budget did not bring forward any funding from 2014–15 into 2013–14. This resulted in councils receiving \$1.2 billion in funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme in 2013–14. The 2013–14 budgeted allocation for the Financial Assistance Grant programme was \$2.3 billion. In contrast the former Government, in the 2013–14 Budget, brought forward the payment of \$1.1 billion of the 2013–14 allocation to June 2013 through amendments made to the Act in 2009. Bring forwards have been announced in each Budget from 2009–10 to 2013–14.

Local government plays a pivotal role in bringing communities together and bringing local solutions to local problems. The Government recognises the important contribution councils make to our national economy and the leadership they provide at a local community level.

The funds provided under the Financial Assistance Grant programme are distributed in accordance with the Act and the National Principles. This report provides an account of how the states and the Northern Territory allocated these funds between councils through their local government grants commissions. This report provides an assessment based on available comparable national data, of horizontal equalisation, as well as the efficiency of councils and their services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Importantly, funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme comes with no strings attached, meaning councils are free to spend their allocation according to local priorities, be it for infrastructure, health, recreation, or employment projects important to the prosperity and wellbeing of communities.

While local government operates within the legislative frameworks set by the states and Northern Territory, the Australian Government has contributed over \$40 billion in funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme since 1974–75 to enhance the capacity of councils to deliver services and build community infrastructure for our great country.

This report has been prepared with the cooperation of all spheres of government and I would like to thank the state and territory governments and the local government associations for their contributions.



The Hon Warren Truss MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development

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Local government in Australia



The Australian Government recognises that the national interest is served by 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* (Cwlth) (the Act) is an important means used to achieve these goals.

During 2013–14, Australia had 569 local governing bodies eligible to receive funding under the Australian Government’s Financial Assistance Grant programme. The Act provides the legislative basis for this programme. These 569 local governing bodies include 559 local governments and 10 declared local governing bodies: five Indigenous local governing bodies and the Outback Areas Community Development Trust in South Australia; the Trust Account in the Northern Territory; and the Silverton and Tibooburra villages and Lord Howe Island in New South Wales.

In addition, the Australian Capital Territory receives funding through the Financial Assistance Grant programme as it maintains both territorial and local government functions.

The Act defines the term ‘local governing bodies’ to include local governments established under state and Northern Territory legislation as well as ‘declared bodies’. The term ‘council’ is used in this report to encompass all local governing bodies, recognising its common use to denote ‘local government’.

Declared bodies are provided with funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme and are treated as local governments for the purposes of grant allocations. Declared bodies however are not local governments and have different legislative obligations. Due to this difference, data provided in this report relating to local government may not be directly comparable to that for local governing bodies. Also, data relating to local government cannot be directly compared to that for the Australian Capital Territory, which 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 one of the areas identified as a Commonwealth responsibility; it is a state and Northern Territory responsibility. The states and the Northern Territory pass the legal and regulatory framework for the creation and operation of local government. As a consequence, there are often significant differences between the state systems for overseeing councils.

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 and territory legislation.

Population

The estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 2014 was 23,490,700 persons, an increase of 364,900 persons or 1.6 per cent from 30 June 2013. All states and territories experienced positive population growth for the year ending 30 June 2014. Western Australia continued to record the fastest growth rate (2.2 per cent), while Tasmania recorded the slowest (0.3 per cent).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes information on Australia's population through the *Australian Demographic Statistics, ABS cat. no. 3101.0*. This is released in June each year. The June release of population estimates is included in the Treasurer's determination and are used in the calculations for the allocations under this programme.

Diversity

Considerable diversity can exist both within and between jurisdictions. This diversity extends beyond rural-metropolitan differences. In addition to size and population, other significant differences between local governing bodies include:

- attitudes and aspirations of local communities;
- fiscal position (including revenue-raising capacity), resources and skills base;
- legislative frameworks within which councils operate, 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;
- established through distinct legislation; and
- 'declared' to be local governing bodies by the Minister responsible for local government on advice from a state minister for the purpose of providing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme.

National representation of local government

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

Australian Local Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is a federation of state and Northern Territory local government associations and the Australian Capital Territory Government. ALGA 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 at alga.asn.au.

Council of Australian Governments

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 ALGA president and was established in May 1992. COAG's role is to initiate, develop and monitor implementation of policy reforms of national significance and require cooperative 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.

Local government finances

Australian Government grants to local government

The Australian Government supports local government through the Financial Assistance Grant programme, specific purpose payments (SPPs) and direct programme funding.

The 2013–14 budgeted allocation for the Financial Assistance Grant programme was \$2.3 billion. In 2013–14, the Australian Government provided \$1.2 billion in untied funding under the programme to local governing bodies and the Australian Capital Territory. A further \$1.1 billion of the budgeted allocation for the 2013–14 financial year was brought forward and paid in June 2013. The means of distributing funding provided under the programme is discussed in Chapter 2. Allocations to local governing bodies for 2013–14 are provided in Appendix D.

In June 2013, two quarters of the budgeted allocation for 2013–14 was brought forward and paid to local government so they had immediate use of the funds. The brought-forward payment totalled \$1.1 billion, consisting of \$787.3 million under the general purpose component and \$349.3 million under the local road component.

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

- national SPPs 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; and
- general revenue assistance, consisting of GST payments and other general revenue assistance.

The national 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 2013-14, payments totalled \$45.8 billion (Australian Government, Budget measures: *Budget paper No. 3, 2014-15*), an increase of \$2.8 billion from 2012-13 (Australian Government, Budget measures: *Budget paper No. 3, 2012-13*).

Share of taxation revenue by sphere of government

Local government's taxation revenue increased by five per cent from 2012-13 to \$14.7 billion in 2013-14. Local government's taxation revenue in 2013-14 amounted to 3.4 per cent of all taxes raised across all spheres of government in Australia (Table 1-1). Taxes on property were the sole source of taxation revenue for local governments (Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2013-14, ABS cat. no. 5506.0*).

Table 1-1 Share of taxation revenue by sphere of government and source 2013-14

<i>Revenue source</i>	<i>Federal %</i>	<i>State %</i>	<i>Local %</i>	<i>Total %</i>
Taxes on income	57.3	–	–	57.3
Employers payroll taxes	0.2	4.9	–	5.1
Taxes on property	–	6.0	3.4	9.3
Taxes on provision of goods and services	21.3	2.6	–	23.9
Taxes on use of goods and performance activities	2.2	2.3	–	4.6
Total	81.0	15.8	3.4	100.0

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

– nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2013-14, Total Taxation Revenue, ABS cat. no. 5506.0*.

Local government revenue sources

In 2013-14, councils raised 92.8 per cent of their own revenue, with grants and subsidies making up the remaining 7.2 per cent (Table 1-2). Individual councils have differing abilities to raise revenue, which may not be apparent when considering national or even state averages. The differences between urban, rural and remote councils, their population size, rating base and ability to levy user charges all affect the ability of a council to raise revenue.

Table 1-2 Local government revenue sources by jurisdiction 2013–14

Revenue source		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Total
Own-source revenue									
Taxation	\$m	3,810	4,030	3,302	1,835	1,305	351	105	14,738
	%	34.2	45.7	29.9	41.7	63.0	46.7	28.4	38.2
Sales of goods and services	\$m	3,988	1,609	3,642	1,004	381	162	95	10,881
	%	35.8	18.2	32.9	22.8	18.4	21.6	25.7	28.2
Interest	\$m	313	88	286	121	23	18	10	857
	%	2.8	1.0	2.6	2.8	1.1	2.4	2.7	2.2
Other*	\$m	2,096	2,454	3,396	964	211	170	58	9,348
	%	18.8	27.8	30.7	21.9	10.2	22.6	15.7	24.2
Total own-source revenue		10,207	8,181	10,626	3,924	1,920	701	268	35,824
Grants and subsidies	\$m	934	638	431	472	154	51	103	2,782
	%	8.4	7.2	3.9	10.7	7.4	6.8	27.8	7.2
Total grant revenue		934	638	431	472	154	51	103	2,782
Total revenue	\$m	11,140	8819	11,057	4,396	2,073	751	370	38,606
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

- * 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.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2013–14*, ABS cat. no. 5512.0.

Local government revenue – taxes

One way local governments raise taxes is through rates on property. In 2013–14, 38.2 per cent of local government revenue nationally came from rates. The proportion of revenue from rates varied notably between jurisdictions – from a high of 63.0 per cent for South Australia to a low of 28.4 per cent for the Northern Territory as shown in Table 1-2. Table 1-2 also shows that 24.2 per cent of local government revenue is classified as ‘other’.

Rates in each state and the Northern Territory are based on a valuation of the land upon which they are charged. Methods for assessing land value however differ significantly between states. New South Wales has state-wide requirements that rates are based on the unimproved value of the land. In Victoria and South Australia, different valuation assessments are used depending on the type or primary use of the land.

Local government revenue – other non-grant revenue sources

Local government received on average 28.2 per cent of its revenue in 2013–14 from the sale of goods and services (Table 1-2).

Councils in the Northern Territory are more reliant than councils in other jurisdictions on government grants and subsidies, as they raised only 72.2 per cent of their own revenue. For the remaining states, the proportion of revenue raised from own sources ranged from 89.3 per cent for Western Australian councils to 96.1 per cent for Queensland councils (Table 1-2).

Local government expenditure

Local government expenditure is dominated by housing and community amenities (23.9 per cent) followed by transport and communication (22.1 per cent) and general public services (18.7 per cent) (Table 1-3).

Table 1-3 Local government expenditure by purpose by jurisdiction 2013-14

<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$m	–	3	16	–	13	–	–	33
	%	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Education	\$m	73	99	3	4	–	–	4	182
	%	0.7	1.4	–	0.1	–	–	0.9	0.6
Fuel and energy	\$m	–	–	6	4	10	–	1	20
	%	–	–	0.1	0.1	0.5	–	0.2	0.1
General public services	\$m	1,433	1,184	2,649	467	130	128	128	6,118
	%	14.2	16.2	30.5	13.3	6.6	19.0	28.8	18.7
Health	\$m	64	155	49	62	59	11	5	405
	%	0.6	2.1	0.6	1.8	3.0	1.6	1.1	1.2
Housing and community amenities	\$m	2,787	1,554	2,088	614	534	156	83	7,816
	%	27.5	21.2	24.1	17.4	27.1	23.1	18.7	23.9
Mining, manufacturing and construction	\$m	196	–	88	36	36	–	–	357
	%	1.9	–	1.0	1.0	1.8	–	–	1.1
Other economic affairs	\$m	336	385	204	111	95	30	34	1,196
	%	3.3	5.3	2.4	3.2	4.8	4.5	7.7	3.7
Public debt transactions	\$m	242	65	318	34	34	5	1	698
	%	2.4	0.9	3.7	1.0	1.7	0.7	0.2	2.1
Public order and safety	\$m	338	160	120	127	36	7	19	808
	%	3.3	2.2	1.4	3.6	1.8	1.0	4.3	2.5
Recreation and culture	\$m	1,401	1,317	820	808	462	117	59	4,983
	%	13.8	18.0	9.5	23.0	23.4	17.4	13.3	15.2
Social security and welfare	\$m	387	932	54	173	128	21	30	1,725
	%	3.8	12.7	0.6	4.9	6.5	3.1	6.8	5.3
Transport and communications	\$m	1,958	1,340	2,445	860	426	176	43	7,248
	%	19.3	18.3	28.2	24.4	21.6	26.1	9.7	22.1
Other	\$m	908	136	-181	217	9	23	37	1,149
	%	9.0	1.9	-2.1	6.2	0.5	3.4	8.3	3.5
Total	\$m	10,124	7,329	8,677	3,520	1,972	674	444	32,739
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2013-14, General Expenses by purpose*, ABS cat. no. 5512.0.

Assets and liabilities

In 2013-14, local government in Australia had a net worth of \$365.3 billion, with assets worth \$385.8 billion and liabilities worth \$20.4 billion (Table 1-4 and Table 1-5).

At 30 June 2014, on a state basis, only councils in South Australia had a net debt position, while all the other states had a net surplus (Table 1-5).

Table 1-4 Local government assets 2013–14

Assets		NSW \$m	Vic \$m	Qld \$m	WA \$m	SA \$m	Tas \$m	NT \$m	Total \$m
Financial	Cash and deposits	1,832	1,016	3,091	2,254	39	330	160	8,724
	Advances paid	0	1	0	1	25	1	0	28
	Investments, loans and placements	6,072	1,422	3,490	280	149	17	82	11,512
	Other non-equity assets	1,198	845	1,177	331	140	44	26	3,760
	Equity	59	46	5,104	378	75	1,548	0	7,210
	Total	9,162	3,330	12,862	3,245	428	1,939	268	31,234
Non-financial	Land and fixed assets	131,603	73,541	89,050	27,642	21,674	6,857	2,203	352,570
	Other non-financial assets	729	1,000	121	5	0	62	54	1,972
	Total	132,333	74,542	89,171	27,646	21,674	6,918	2,257	354,541
Total assets	141,494	77,872	102,033	30,891	22,102	8,858	2,525	385,775	

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

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2013–14*, ABS cat. no. 5512.0.

Table 1-5 Local government liabilities and net worth and debt 2013–14

Liabilities	NSW \$m	Vic \$m	Qld \$m	WA \$m	SA \$m	Tas \$m	NT \$m	Total \$m
Deposits held	58	155	7	39	189	7	0	455
Advances received	11	5	0	1	2	0	0	19
Borrowing	3,604	1,132	6,565	622	470	86	9	12,488
Unfunded superannuation liability and other employee entitlements	1,323	715	641	244	170	65	25	3,183
Other provisions	23	81	0	5	4	27	3	143
Other non-equity liabilities	1,196	801	1,344	418	260	69	71	4,158
Total liabilities	6,215	2,889	8,558	1,329	1,095	253	108	20,447
Net worth	135,279	74,983	93,475	29,562	21,007	8,605	2,417	365,329
Net debt*	-4,232	-1,147	-9	-1,874	448	-255	-233	-7,302
Net financial worth#	2,947	441	4,304	1,916	-667	1,686	160	10,787

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

* 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.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2013–14*, ABS cat. no. 5512.0.



History of the arrangements

Funding under this programme is provided under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth), which replaced the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986* (Cwlth) from 1 July 1995.

Funding from the Australian Government to local government first began in 1974–75 and was paid according to amounts determined by the Commonwealth Grants Commission on an equalisation basis. The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986* (Cwlth) introduced a new indexation formula which included the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and population growth. In addition, local government grant commissions would now determine distributions to individual councils taking 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 in addition to the general purpose component from 1 July 1991. The untied local road component was introduced to replace specific purpose funding for local roads provided under the *Australian Land Transport Development Act 1988*. The local road formula, agreed to by all premiers, is intended to help local government with the cost of maintaining local roads.

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) (the Act) introduced the untied local road component into the financial assistance grant pool and formalised a set of National Principles. Each local government grants commission must have consideration of the National Principles when determining allocations to local governing bodies. Further information on the National Principles is provided at Appendix A.

Table 2-5 shows funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme since the introduction of the general purpose component in 1974–75 and the local road component in 1991–92. Further information on the operation of the Act is provided below.

Financial Assistance Grant programme in 2013–14

In the 2014–15 Budget, the Australian Government normalised the payment of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme. The Budget did not bring forward any funding from 2014–15 into 2013–14. This resulted in \$1.2 billion in funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme being distributed to 569 local governing bodies and the Australian Capital Territory Government in 2013–14. The 2013–14 budgeted allocation for the Financial Assistance Grant programme was \$2.3 billion. The 2013–14 Budget brought forward the payment of \$1.1 billion of the 2013–14 allocation to June 2013. The brought forward payment was provided for under amendments made to the Act passed by the former Government in 2009 and has been announced in each Budget from 2009–10 to 2013–14.

Payments made to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant programme comprise a general purpose component and a local road component. In 2013–14, the general purpose actual entitlement was \$798.0 million and the local road actual entitlement was \$354.1 million.

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

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 the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. The objectives of the identified road component includes distribution as far as practicable on the basis of relative needs of each local governing body for roads expenditure and road asset preservation. Funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme is untied enabling councils to devote the funding to local priorities.

Overview of current arrangements

In determining the distribution of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government, the following arrangements – which were used for 2013–14 – operated:

- Before the start of each financial year, the Australian Government estimates the quantum of general purpose and local road components that local government is entitled to nationally. This is 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.
- The states and territories are 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 recommend to their local government minister the distribution of the general purpose and local road components 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 the territory having a system of local government.
- State and Northern Territory local government ministers forward 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 approves payment of the recommended grants.
- The Australian Government pays the grants in quarterly instalments to the states and territories, which, without undue delay, pass them on to local government as untied grants.
- When updated changes in the Consumer Price Index and population become available toward the end of the financial year, an actual escalation factor is calculated and the actual grant entitlement is determined.
- Any difference between the estimated and actual entitlements is combined with the estimated entitlement in the next year to determine that next 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 the Commonwealth Treasurer (the Treasurer) is to apply each year for calculating the escalation factors used to determine the local government funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme. 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. In 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 *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwth) (the Act) states the objects of the Act as follows.

The Parliament 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.

Determining entitlements for 2013–14 and 2014–15

Calculation of the 2013–14 actual entitlement and the 2014–15 estimated entitlement using the final escalation factor (the final factor) and estimated escalation factor (the estimated factor) respectively are set out in Table 2-1 and Table 2-2.

In 2013–14, the estimated entitlement was \$1.1 billion. This comprised \$789.2 million under the general purpose component and \$350.2 million under the local road component (Table 2-1). South Australian councils received supplementary funding of \$17.8 million for local roads in 2013–14.

In June 2013, two quarters of the budgeted allocation for the 2013–14 was brought forward and paid to local government so that they had immediate use of the funds. The brought forward payment totalled \$1.1 billion, consisting of \$787.3 million under the general purpose component and \$349.3 million under the local road component.

The brought forward payment was provided for under amendments to the Act passed by the former Government in 2009. Bring forwards have been announced in each Budget from 2009–10 to 2013–14. The effect of the bring forwards was an early payment in 2009–10 which created cash flow fluctuations for councils that were not known until each Budget. In 2014–15, the Australian Government normalised the Financial Assistance Grant programme. The effect of the normalisation resulted in 50 per cent of the 2013–14 allocation being paid to councils

in 2013–14. However, it has restored the full 2014–15 allocation which will be received by councils in 2014–15. This re-establishes consistency, providing councils with stability of funding under this programme from 2014–15.

The 2013–14 final factor was calculated using the Consumer Price Index for the year ending March 2014 and revised population growth figures to December 2012. To account for and balance the effect of the brought-forward payment in June 2013, the Treasurer used his discretionary power provided under the Act to include the brought-forward payment in determining the 2013–14 final factor. The Act provides the Treasurer with discretion to increase or decrease the escalation factors in special circumstances. In applying this discretion, the Treasurer is required to have regard to the Act and any other matter the Treasurer thinks relevant.

The 2013–14 final factor of 0.5231 resulted in the 2013–14 actual entitlement being \$1.2 billion, comprising \$798.0 million under the general purpose component and \$354.1 million under the local road component (Table 2-1). As the 2013–14 actual entitlement was more than the 2013–14 estimated entitlement, a positive adjustment of \$12.8 million was applied to the estimated entitlement in the following year (2014–15).

The 2014–15 estimated factor was calculated using the projected Consumer Price Index for the year ending March 2015 and revised population growth figures to December 2013.

The 2014–15 estimated escalation factor of 1.9865 resulted in the estimated entitlement for 2014–15 being \$2.3 billion, comprising \$1,585.3 million under the general purpose component and \$703.4 million under the local road component (Table 2-2).

The Australian Government paid \$2.3 billion to local government in 2014–15 under the Financial Assistance Grant programme. This is the combination of the 2014–15 estimated entitlement of \$2.3 billion and the 2013–14 positive adjustment of \$12.8 million (Table 2-2). Due to rounding these figures do not add to the totals.

Table 2-1 Actual entitlements and adjustments for 2013-14

	2012-13 actual entitlement	2013-14 final factor	2013-14 actual entitlement	2013-14 estimated entitlement	2012-13 adjustment
	\$		\$	\$	\$
General purpose	1,525,571,456	x 0.5231	= 798,026,429	less 789,178,114	= 8,848,315
Local road	676,940,950	x 0.5231	= 354,107,812	less 350,181,554	= 3,926,258
Total	2,202,512,406	x 0.5231	= 1,152,134,241	less 1,139,359,668	= 12,774,573
General purpose	31 Dec 2012 population				
NSW	491,949,833	7,348,899	256,092,083	less 253,221,887	= 2,870,196
Vic	378,196,290	5,679,633	197,872,181	less 195,703,790	= 2,168,391
Qld	306,244,796	4,610,932	160,552,017	less 158,879,432	= 1,672,585
WA	161,963,551	2,472,717	86,333,297	less 85,202,704	= 1,130,593
SA	111,597,451	1,662,169	57,869,530	less 57,273,555	= 595,975
Tas	34,703,522	512,422	17,841,132	less 17,656,586	= 184,546
NT	15,772,239	236,869	8,305,092	less 8,161,823	= 143,269
ACT	25,143,774	379,554	13,161,097	less 13,078,337	= 82,760
Total	1,525,571,456	22,903,195	798,026,429	less 789,178,114	= 8,848,315
Local road	2013-14 final factor				
NSW	196,401,812	x 0.5231	= 102,737,788	less 101,598,658	= 1,139,130
Vic	139,560,739	x 0.5231	= 73,004,223	less 72,194,770	= 809,453
Qld	126,833,932	x 0.5231	= 66,346,830	less 65,611,193	= 735,637
WA	103,505,266	x 0.5231	= 54,143,605	less 53,543,274	= 600,331
SA	37,202,489	x 0.5231	= 19,460,622	less 19,244,848	= 215,774
Tas	35,873,086	x 0.5231	= 18,765,211	less 18,557,148	= 208,063
NT	15,857,222	x 0.5231	= 8,294,913	less 8,202,941	= 91,972
ACT	21,706,404	x 0.5231	= 11,354,620	less 11,228,722	= 125,898
Total	676,940,950	x 0.5231	= 354,107,812	less 350,181,554	= 3,926,258

Note: Bring forward amounts are included in the year in which they are entitled.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Table 2-2 Estimated entitlements and actual cash paid for 2013-14

	2013-14 actual entitlement	2014-15 estimated factor	2014-15 estimated entitlement	2013-14 adjustment	2014-15 actual cash payable
	\$		\$	\$	\$
General purpose	798,026,429	x 1.9865	= 1,585,269,379	plus 8,848,315	= 1,594,117,694
Local road	354,107,812	x 1.9865	= 703,430,675	plus 3,926,258	= 707,356,933
Total	1,152,134,241	x 1.9865	= 2,288,700,054	plus 12,774,573	= 2,301,474,627
General purpose		31 Dec 2013 population			
NSW	256,092,083	7,465,497	507,579,529	plus 2,870,196	= 510,449,725
Vic	197,872,181	5,790,990	393,729,711	plus 2,168,391	= 395,898,102
Qld	160,552,017	4,690,910	318,935,215	plus 1,672,585	= 320,607,800
WA	86,333,297	2,550,874	173,434,056	plus 1,130,593	= 174,564,649
SA	57,869,530	1,677,250	114,036,315	plus 595,975	= 114,632,290
Tas	17,841,132	513,955	34,943,827	plus 184,546	= 35,128,373
NT	8,305,092	242,573	16,492,551	plus 143,269	= 16,635,820
ACT	13,161,097	384,147	26,118,175	plus 82,760	= 26,200,935
Total	798,026,429	23,316,196	1,585,269,379	plus 8,848,315	= 1,594,117,694
Local road		2014-15 estimated factor			
NSW	102,737,788	x 1.9865	= 204,087,313	plus 1,139,130	= 205,226,443
Vic	73,004,223	x 1.9865	= 145,021,962	plus 809,453	= 145,831,415
Qld	66,346,830	x 1.9865	= 131,797,136	plus 735,637	= 132,532,773
WA	54,143,605	x 1.9865	= 107,555,584	plus 600,331	= 108,155,915
SA	19,460,622	x 1.9865	= 38,658,279	plus 215,774	= 38,874,053
Tas	18,765,211	x 1.9865	= 37,276,854	plus 208,063	= 37,484,917
NT	8,294,913	x 1.9865	= 16,477,739	plus 91,972	= 16,569,711
ACT	11,354,620	x 1.9865	= 22,555,808	plus 125,898	= 22,681,706
Total	354,107,812	x 1.9865	= 703,430,675	plus 3,926,258	= 707,356,933

Note: Bring forward amounts are included in the year in which they are entitled.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Figure 2-1 Determining the final factor for 2013–14

Under section 8 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth), the unadjusted factor for 2013–14 was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2012}}{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2011}} \times \frac{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2014}}{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2013}}$$

That is:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{22,920,065}{22,508,995} \times \frac{105.4}{102.4} = 1.0480$$

However, to account for the Australian Government's decision to bring forward the first two quarter payments in 2013–14 to the 2012–13 financial year, the unadjusted factor was adjusted in accordance with section 8(1)(c) of the Act as follows:

$$\text{Adjustment factor} = \frac{\text{2013–14 unadjusted amount} - \text{2012–13 adjustment amount} + \text{2014–15 adjustment amount}}{\text{2012–13 final entitlement}} \times \frac{1}{\text{Unadjusted factor}}$$

That is:

$$\text{Adjustment factor} = \frac{2,288,700,054 - 1,136,585,000 + 0}{2,202,470,732} \times \frac{1}{1.0480} = 0.4991$$

Therefore, the final factor for 2013–14 was determined through the multiplication of the unadjusted factor and the adjustment factor as follows:

$$\text{Final factor} = \text{Unadjusted factor (1.0480)} \times \text{Adjustment factor (0.4991)} = 0.5231$$

Figure 2-2 Determining the estimated factor for 2014–15

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

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2013}}{\text{Population of Australia at 31 Dec 2012}} \times \frac{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2014}}{\text{Consumer Price Index at March 2013}}$$

That is:

$$\text{Unadjusted factor} = \frac{23,316,196}{22,920,065} \times \frac{107.7}{105.4} = 1.0397$$

However, to account for the Australian Government's decision to pause indexation and the previous Government's decision to bring forward the first two quarter payments in 2013–14 to the 2012–13 financial year, the unadjusted factor will be adjusted in accordance with subsection 8(1)(c) of the Act such that the unadjusted amount is set to \$2,288,700,054. This means that the estimated escalation factor for 2014–15 is 1.9865.

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 actual cash payment for the next year.

Consequently, there are three ways in which funding provided under the Financial Assistance Grant programme can be reported: an estimated entitlement, an actual entitlement and the actual 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.

By 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.

Table 2-3 shows the allocation of the actual entitlement for 2013–14 among jurisdictions. Table 2-4 shows the allocation of the estimated entitlement for 2014–15 among jurisdictions and the percentage change in the grant from 2013–14 to 2014–15.

Table 2-3 2013-14 allocations of general purpose and local road grants among jurisdictions

State	General Purpose (GP)					Local Road (LR)					Total Grant	
	GP actual entitlement \$	% of total GP pool	31 Dec 2012 population	\$ per capita	LR actual entitlement \$	% of LR pool	Kilometre km	% of LR length	\$ per km	Total actual entitlement \$	% of total grant	
NSW	256,092,083	32.09	7,348,899	34.85	102,737,788	29.01	146,210	22.11	702.67	358,829,871	31.14	
Vic	197,872,181	24.80	5,679,633	34.84	73,004,223	20.62	129,464	19.58	563.90	270,876,404	23.51	
Qld	160,552,017	20.12	4,610,932	34.82	66,346,830	18.74	152,827	23.11	434.13	226,898,847	19.69	
WA	86,333,297	10.82	2,472,717	34.91	54,143,605	15.29	128,003	19.36	422.99	140,476,902	12.19	
SA	57,869,530	7.25	1,662,169	34.82	19,460,622	5.50	77,786	11.76	250.18	77,330,152	6.71	
Tas.	17,841,132	2.24	512,422	34.82	18,765,211	5.30	14,219	2.15	1319.73	36,606,343	3.18	
NT	8,305,092	1.04	236,869	35.06	8,294,913	2.34	12,750	1.93	650.58	16,600,005	1.44	
ACT	13,161,097	1.65	379,554	34.68	11,354,620	3.21	n/a	-	-	24,515,717	2.13	
Total	798,026,429	100.00	22,903,195	34.84	354,107,812	100.00	661,259	100.00	535.51	1,152,134,241	100.00	

Notes: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2011, ABS cat.no. 3101.0.

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

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Table 2-4 2014–15 allocation of estimated grant entitlement among jurisdictions and percentage change from 2013–14 actual grant allocation

State	General Purpose (GP)				Local Road (LR)				Total Grant		
	GP estimated entitlement \$	% change from 2013–14 actual grant	% of total GP pool	\$ per capita population 31 Dec 2013	LR estimated entitlement \$	% change from 2013–14 actual grant	% of LR pool	Kilometre length km	Total 2012–13 estimated entitlement \$	% change from 2013–14 actual grant	% of total grant
NSW	507,579,529	98.20	32.02	7,465,497	204,087,313	98.65	29.01	146,184	711,666,842	98.33	31.09
Vic	398,729,711	98.98	24.84	5,790,990	145,021,962	98.65	20.62	129,880	538,751,673	98.89	23.54
Qld	318,935,215	98.65	20.12	4,690,910	131,797,136	98.65	18.74	153,206	450,732,351	98.65	19.69
WA	173,434,056	100.89	10.94	2,550,874	107,555,584	98.65	15.29	127,797	280,989,640	100.03	12.28
SA	114,036,315	97.06	7.19	1,677,250	38,658,279	98.65	5.50	77,924	152,694,594	97.46	6.67
Tas	34,943,827	95.86	2.20	513,955	37,276,854	98.65	5.30	14,260	72,220,681	97.29	3.16
NT	16,492,551	98.58	1.04	242,573	16,477,739	98.65	2.34	12,957	32,970,290	98.62	1.44
ACT	26,118,175	98.45	1.65	384,147	22,555,808	98.65	3.21	–	48,673,983	98.54	2.13
Total	1,585,269,379	98.65	100.00	23,316,196	703,430,675	98.65	100.00	571,931	2,288,700,054	98.65	100.00

Notes: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2012, ABS cat.no. 3101.0. Figures do not include the brought forward (early) payment made in June 2012.

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

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Quantum of financial assistance grant allocations

Table 2-5 shows funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme since the introduction of the general purpose component in 1974–75 and the local road component in 1991–92.

Table 2-5 National financial assistance grant allocations, 1974–75 to 2013–14

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
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
Total	30,181,397,530	10,402,551,415	40,583,948,946

Notes: a Grants to the Northern Territory under the programme 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 (n/a = not applicable).
 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 programme commenced in 1995–96.
 NB: All funding represents actual entitlements.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

National Principles for the allocation of grants under the Act

The Act requires the Australian Government Minister (the Minister) responsible for local government 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 provide guidance for the states and the Northern Territory in allocating funding from the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local governing bodies within their jurisdiction.

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

Determining the distribution of grants within jurisdictions

Under sections 11 and 14 of the Act, funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme 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 instead of the territory having a system of local government.

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 programme. The state and Northern Territory governments determine the membership of, and provide resources for, their respective local government grants commission. Further detail on the local government grants commissions is provided at Figure 2-3.

Once each local government grants commission determines the recommended allocations to local governing bodies in their jurisdiction under the Financial Assistance Grant programme, 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.

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

Further, the Act requires 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 programme 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 2-3 Local government grants commissions

Section 5 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) 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; and
- 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 programme

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, 569 local governing bodies, including 10 declared local governing bodies made eligible under section 4(2)(b), received funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme in 2013–14 (Table 2-6).

Table 2-6 Distribution of local governing bodies by type and jurisdiction at 30 June 2014

Type	NSW	Vic	Qld ^c	WA	SA ^e	Tas	NT ^d	Total
Local governments ^a	152	79	77	138	68	29	16	559
Declared local governing bodies ^b	3	–	–	–	6	–	1	10
Total	155	79	77	138	74	29	17	569

- Notes:
- a These are local governing bodies, eligible under section 4(2)(a) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) as they are constituted under state or territory legislation.
 - b These are declared local governing bodies under section 4(2)(b) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth).
 - c Includes the de-amalgamations that took effect in Queensland from 1 January 2014.
 - d Includes the Northern Territory Roads Trust Account.
 - e Includes Outback Communities Authority established under the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* (SA).

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Methodologies of local government grants commissions

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

For allocating the general purpose component, local government grants commissions assess the amount each local government would need 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 taking account of each local governing body's assessed need. The recommended allocation of the local road component is based on each commission's assessment of their road expenditure needs. Local government grants commissions are required to make their recommendations in line with National Principles for the allocations under the Act.

A detailed description of each local government grants commission's methodology can be found in Appendix B. Further information about local government grants commissions can be found on the websites listed below and in Appendix C.

Internet addresses for local government grants commissions

Jurisdiction	Internet address
New South Wales	http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/commissions-and-tribunals/grants-commission
Victoria	http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/local-government/victoria-grants-commission
Queensland	http://www.qlggc.qld.gov.au
Western Australia	http://dlg.wa.gov.au/Content/LG/GrantsCommission/
South Australia	http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/LGGC
Tasmania	http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/domino/dtf/dtf.nsf/v-stategrants/home
Northern Territory	http://www.grantscommission.nt.gov.au

Allocations to local government in 2013-14

The Australian Government Minister (the Minister) approved the allocations of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local governing bodies for 2013-14 as recommended by local government grants commissions through state and Northern Territory ministers.

Appendix D contains the actual entitlements for 2013-14 and the estimated entitlements for 2014-15.

Table 2-7 provides the average general purpose allocation per capita to local governing bodies by jurisdiction and the Australian Classification of Local Governments. Table 2-8 provides the average local road allocation per kilometre by jurisdiction and classification. The Australian Classification of Local Governments was developed to aid comparison of similar local governing bodies. It is used here to indicate trends and allow comparisons of individual local governing bodies with the average for their category (Appendix F provides a description of the classifications).

The results in Table 2-7 and Table 2-8 suggest there are some differences in outcomes between jurisdictions. Notwithstanding the capacity of the classification system to group similar local governing bodies, it should be noted that considerable scope for divergence within these categories remains. For this reason, the figures should only be taken as a starting point for enquiring into outcomes. 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. Divergence can also occur because of the variations between jurisdictions of the relative ranking within the jurisdiction on the basis of need of the different classification categories.

Table 2-7 Average general purpose component per capita to councils 2013–14

Classification	Jurisdiction (\$)										Average
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT ^a				
Urban Capital City (UCC)	22.92	21.03	21.00	21.15	20.86	20.79	21.65				21.34
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	20.93	n/a	n/a	21.15	20.86	n/a	n/a				21.00
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	21.06	n/a	n/a	21.15	20.86	n/a	n/a				21.02
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	24.71	24.65	n/a	21.15	20.86	n/a	n/a				22.84
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	35.08	38.32	n/a	21.15	48.79	n/a	n/a				35.83
Urban Regional Small (URS)	134.07	172.77	124.10	90.10	120.73	68.91	27.89				105.51
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	97.42	147.47	148.22	47.34	21.84	20.79	n/a				80.51
Urban Regional Large (URL)	78.27	111.32	43.72	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				77.52
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	71.80	74.68	24.04	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				56.84
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	n/a	78.06	115.18	n/a	34.48	61.27	21.65				62.13
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	41.00	68.43	45.73	27.12	20.86	20.79	n/a				36.59
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	88.86	90.39	n/a	21.15	105.29	n/a	n/a				76.42
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	43.17	58.76	n/a	21.15	34.57	n/a	n/a				38.16
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	n/a	n/a	n/a	74.38	n/a	n/a	n/a				74.38
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	881.28	n/a	n/a	825.96	747.28	578.30	n/a				758.20
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	485.47	650.66	717.85	226.61	376.59	204.93	n/a				443.75
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	329.25	391.29	n/a	262.92	233.44	177.36	n/a				278.85
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	207.72	209.46	438.96	104.13	169.46	113.59	21.65				180.71
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	499.87	n/a	5,928.59	9,698.22	436.42	n/a	56.83				3,323.99
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	n/a	n/a	3,070.32	2,451.16	n/a	n/a	n/a				2,760.74
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	1,240.43	n/a	1,448.27	965.78	398.57	n/a	98.96				830.40
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	605.72	n/a	1,436.22	261.96	367.86	n/a	232.53				580.86
Total \$ per capita	69.77	69.80	70.02	70.49	69.54	69.31	72.16				70.16

Notes: a Excludes the Northern Territory Trust Fund.

n/a not applicable.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Table 2-8 Average local road component per kilometre to councils 2013-14

Classification	Jurisdiction (\$)										Average
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^a	SA ^a	Tas	NT				
Urban Capital City (UCC)	3,961.78	3,250.33	2,649.87	4,454.06	1,926.60	5,515.36	3,546.54				3,614.93
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	2,558.24	n/a	n/a	2,192.06	2,247.43	n/a	n/a				2,332.58
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	2,944.61	n/a	n/a	2,224.26	2,451.57	n/a	n/a				2,540.15
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	2,879.92	1,564.52	n/a	1,981.08	1,939.46	n/a	n/a				2,091.25
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	2,736.13	1,631.05	n/a	2,078.13	1,883.05	n/a	n/a				2,082.09
Urban Regional Small (URS)	1,412.49	1,085.48	667.22	1,350.84	823.24	n/a	n/a				1,067.85
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	1,643.02	1,189.10	663.49	1,467.84	693.27	3,792.24	n/a				1,574.83
Urban Regional Large (URL)	2,175.61	1,303.96	888.75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				1,456.11
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	2,279.85	1,463.90	1,494.15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				1,745.97
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	n/a	1,291.23	777.56	n/a	650.91	2,464.34	3,381.73				1,713.15
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	1,913.49	1,465.81	769.83	1,769.13	830.05	3,220.76	n/a				1,661.51
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	1,853.91	1,656.42	n/a	1,881.32	1,497.89	n/a	n/a				1,722.39
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	2,276.55	1,661.33	n/a	1,933.94	1,730.19	n/a	n/a				1,900.50
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,187.49	n/a	n/a	n/a				1,187.49
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	946.70	n/a	n/a	609.63	365.77	1,857.39	n/a				944.87
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	992.96	803.09	564.56	781.47	304.62	2,067.54	n/a				919.04
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	1,044.31	634.46	n/a	1,007.03	295.13	2,369.03	n/a				1,069.99
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	1,122.24	1,043.58	603.22	851.05	281.64	2,339.02	3,315.24				1,365.14
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	n/a	n/a	546.25	469.38	2,071.95	n/a	870.81				989.60
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	n/a	n/a	550.39	465.57	n/a	n/a	n/a				507.98
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	922.71	n/a	561.01	433.78	47.10	n/a	7,921.12				1,977.14
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	947.67	n/a	565.63	783.01	n/a	n/a	839.40				783.93
Northern Territory Trust fund	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	629.21				629.21
Total \$ per kilometre	1,922.90	1,431.73	869.38	1,469.53	1,178.82	2,953.21	2,929.15				1,559.90

Notes: a Averages for all classifications in these states includes special roads grants received by local government.

n/a not applicable.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Local governing bodies on the minimum grant

Local governing bodies that receive the minimum grant entitlement generally fall within the classification of capital city, urban developed or urban fringe, 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 2-9 provides details on local governing bodies on the minimum grant, by jurisdiction, from 2002–03 to 2013–14.

The per capita grant of these local governing bodies in 2013–14 was between \$20 and \$21, with slight differences between jurisdictions (see Appendix E). The differences arise from variations in data for population used by the Australian Government to calculate jurisdictions' share and those used by local government grants commissions for allocations to individual local governing bodies.

The proportion of the population covered by local governing bodies on the minimum grant varies widely between jurisdictions. In 2013–14, the proportion ranged from 26.9 per cent in New South Wales to 75.4 per cent in Western Australia. This generally reflects the degree of concentration of a jurisdiction's population in their capital city but can also arise because of the geographic structuring of local government and differences in the methodologies that local government grants commissions use.

In 2013–14, the proportion of the general purpose grant that went to local governing bodies on the minimum grant was 12.7 per cent nationally. It varied from 8.1 per cent in New South Wales to 22.6 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 82 in 2003–04 to 97 in 2013–14. The percentage of the population in minimum grant councils increased from 34.1 per cent in 2003–04 to 43.1 per cent in 2013–14. This has 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 objective of the Act for horizontal equalisation.

Table 2-9 Councils on the minimum grant by jurisdiction, 2002-03 to 2013-14

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
NSW											
\$ general purpose grant	341,916,239	358,832,105	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
\$ to minimum grant councils	27,799,562	26,481,959	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
% to minimum grant councils	8.1	7.4	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.1
Population per jurisdiction	6,662,212	6,710,408	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
Population for minimum grant councils	1,754,764	1,632,677	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
% of population in minimum grant councils	26.3	24.3	24.4	25.2	25.2	25.1	25.2	26.0	26.6	26.6	26.9
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	20/166	20/155	20/155	21/155	21/155	21/155	21/155	22/155	23/155	23/155	23/155
Vic											
\$ general purpose grant	257,091,396	266,191,972	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
\$ to minimum grant councils	10,542,345	10,883,040	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
% to minimum grant councils	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.6	4.4	7.3	8.2	8.6	8.6	7.6	8.5
Population per jurisdiction	4,884,952	4,941,398	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
Population for minimum grant councils	665,812	670,083	789,522	928,552	738,401	1,273,912	1,447,208	1,563,445	1,581,774	1,413,974	1,600,743
% of population in minimum grant councils	13.6	13.6	15.8	18.2	14.3	24.2	27.2	28.7	28.5	25.2	28.4
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	7/80	8/80	9/80	10/80	7/79	11/79	12/79	12/79	13/79	12/79	13/79

Councils on the minimum grant by jurisdiction, 2002–03 to 2013–14 (continued)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Qld											
\$ general purpose grant	197,578,337	207,097,211	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
\$ to minimum grant councils	33,578,476	34,075,645	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
% to minimum grant councils	17.0	16.5	12.4	11.0	11.0	10.7	10.7	10.6	17.4	20.4	20.5
Population per jurisdiction	3,754,154	3,844,405	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
Population for minimum grant councils	2,100,117	2,081,206	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
% of population in minimum grant councils	55.9	54.1	40.7	35.9	36.0	34.4	35.7	35.5	58.1	68.1	68.9
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	8/157	7/157	3/157	2/157	2/157	2/73	2/73	2/73	6/73	8/73	8/77
WA											
\$ general purpose grant	101,937,713	105,930,054	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
\$ to minimum grant councils	21,262,998	22,188,029	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
% to minimum grant councils	20.9	21.0	22.3	22.4	22.6	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.6	22.5	22.6
Population per jurisdiction	1,936,902	1,966,410	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
Population for minimum grant councils	1,340,055	1,363,077	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
% of population in minimum grant councils	69.2	69.3	73.9	73.5	74.2	74.0	75.2	75.3	75.4	74.9	75.4
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	28/142	28/142	30/142	30/140	31/140	31/139	31/139	31/139	31/138	30/138	31/138

Councils on the minimum grant by jurisdiction, 2002-03 to 2013-14 (continued)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
SA											
\$ general purpose grant	80,126,729	82,442,403	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
\$ to minimum grant councils	10,679,916	13,732,563	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
% to minimum grant councils	13.3	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.1	16.6	16.1	16.6	13.3	16.2	15.7
Population per jurisdiction	1,522,475	1,530,402	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
Population for minimum grant councils	675,601	847,861	850,511	852,943	834,072	876,276	861,778	900,691	810,045	892,807	864,995
% of population in minimum grant councils	44.4	55.4	55.4	54.7	52.9	55.0	53.8	55.5	49.3	53.9	52.3
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	17/74	22/74	22/74	22/74	20/74	21/74	20/74	21/74	20/74	20/74	18/74
Tas											
\$ general purpose grant	24,962,320	25,866,216	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
\$ to minimum grant councils	1,448,298	781,868	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
% to minimum grant councils	5.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.8	9.7	12.7	14.6	10.8	10.8	14.7
Population per jurisdiction	474,305	480,162	483,813	488,559	491,704	495,377	497,529	503,292	507,643	510,519	512,019
Population for minimum grant councils	91,602	48,071	48,533	48,794	93,708	158,901	210,772	245,667	181,900	183,365	251,030
% of population in minimum grant councils	19.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	19.1	32.1	42.4	48.8	35.8	35.9	49.0
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	2/29	1/29	1/29	1/29	2/29	3/29	4/29	5/29	4/29	4/29	5/29

Councils on the minimum grant by jurisdiction, 2002–03 to 2013–14 (continued)

	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
NT											
\$ general purpose grant	10,424,539	10,713,889	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
\$ 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	133,471
% to minimum grant councils	–	–	10.9	–	10.7	13.4	17.5	17.4	21.3	17.5	17.6
Population per jurisdiction	198,075	198,885	200,844	208,778	212,519	217,435	212,983	218,635	220,763	223,443	227,963
Population for minimum grant councils	–	–	69,958	–	70,245	17,856	124,029	126,424	156,597	130,295	133,471
% of population in minimum grant councils	–	–	34.8	–	33.1	8.2	58.2	57.8	70.9	58.3	58.6
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	0/63	0/63	1/63	0/62	1/61	2/16	4/16	4/16	6/16	5/16	5/16
Australia											
\$ general purpose grant	1,014,037,273	1,057,073,850	1,103,092,038	1,149,380,397	1,215,059,757	1,268,264,461	1,334,846,859	1,406,655,200	1,503,896,993	1,564,366,611	1,638,684,729
\$ to minimum grant councils	105,311,595	108,143,104	108,452,617	112,112,817	116,884,454	132,908,979	143,792,535	155,473,320	185,202,222	203,608,136	211,017,958
% to minimum grant councils	10.4	10.2	9.8	9.8	9.6	10.5	10.77	11.1	12.2	12.7	12.7
Population per jurisdiction	19,433,075	19,672,070	19,883,090	20,223,996	20,510,020	20,893,431	20,960,641	22,709,643	23,091,797	23,384,971	23,446,485
Population for minimum grant councils	6,627,951	6,642,975	6,475,889	6,495,780	6,493,562	7,111,637	7,526,082	8,605,205	9,628,437	10,145,971	10,233,955
% of population in minimum grant councils	34.1	33.8	32.6	32.1	31.7	34.4	35.9	34.3	41.0	42.4	43.1
Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	82/711	86/700	86/700	86/697	84/695	91/565	94/565	97/565	103/564	102/564	97/568

Note: The Northern Territory Road trust is not included as it does not receive an allocation under the general purpose component.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

LGB: Local governing bodies.

Council changes

During 2013–14, the number of local governing bodies in Queensland increased from 73 to 77. This change was implemented on 1 January 2014 and was a result of de-amalgamations. These included:

- Noosa Shire Council from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council;
- Livingstone Shire Council from the Rockhampton Regional Council;
- Mareeba Shire Council from the Tablelands Regional Council and
- Douglas Shire Council from the Cairns Regional 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 assumption can be incorrect.

In determining the allocation of the general purpose grant and the local road grant to councils, local government grants commissions implicitly determine a ranking for each council in their state on the basis of relative need. A comparison of councils on the basis of relative need is preferred to a comparison on the basis of the actual grant they receive. To compare relative need, analysis of the grant per capita under the general purpose component is provided at Appendix E. For the local road grant, allocations for each council is divided by their length of local road to obtain a relative expenditure needs measure. In tables E-1 to E-7, councils within a state are sorted on the value of the:

- general purpose grant per capita; and
- local road grants per kilometre.

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.

Councils should use these rankings when comparing their allocations under the Financial Assistance Grant programme with other councils in their state. For instance, Appendix D shows that in Victoria for 2013–14 under the general purpose component, Banyule City Council received \$3,712,080 while Frankston City Council received \$7,657,049. This translates to each person in Banyule being allocated \$30.03 per capita, while in Frankston it is \$58.12 per capita. This suggests that while the two councils have similar populations and similar locations, the Victoria Grants Commission assessed Frankston City as having the greater relative need. In Table E-2, Frankston is shown to rank 58th among Victoria's councils for general purpose grants while Banyule is ranked 65th.

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 however, it is appropriate for local government grants commissions to undertake a thorough review of their methodologies.

Since the Act commenced in July 1995, most local government grants commissions have undertaken major reviews of their methodologies, are currently undertaking such examinations or have such activities planned (Table 2-10).

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

Table 2-10 Status of most recent major methodology reviews by state at 30 June 2014

State	General purpose grants	Local road grants
NSW	No changes to methodology.	No changes to methodology.
Vic	General purpose grant methodology was reviewed with minor adjustments to the assessment of user fees and charges in calculating standardised revenue. The Victoria Grants Commission has incorporated socio-economic indexes for areas as well as data from Centrelink, Tourism Research Australia and the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia.	No changes to methodology.
Qld	No changes to methodology.	No changes to methodology.
WA	No changes to methodology since the last major review which was implemented for the 2012–13 grant determinations. Expenditure and revenue standards equations were updated for new data inputs.	No changes to methodology.
SA	No changes to methodology. Considered a KPMG review in July 2013 and undertaking a review on library visitors.	No changes to methodology.
Tas	No changes to methodology. The next major review scheduled for introduction is 2015–16.	No changes to methodology.
NT	No changes to methodology.	Road funding methodology was reviewed in 2012–13 and 2013–14. Implementation began in 2014–15.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

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 funding provided to individual local governing bodies. Changes in local government grants commission methodologies for improving allocations, most likely to achieve horizontal equalization, 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 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 needed 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.



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

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. In respect of the 2013–14 National Report, jurisdictions were asked to provide reports on:

- the methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13;
- developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government;
- actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies;
- reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery; and
- initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Developments in long-term financial and asset management plans

Jurisdictions were asked to provide reports on the developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government during 2013–14. While the full reports are provided at Appendix B, a summary of the progress for each state follows.

All 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, as well as to streamline reporting to the community.

Councils' long-term financial planning and asset management planning has improved and will continue to do so as the New South Wales Office of Local Government continues to work closely with councils to ensure ongoing improvements across New South Wales.

In **Victoria**, improving the alignment between long-term financial plans and asset management plans was a priority during 2013–14. Legislative reforms introduced in February 2014 required that the strategic resource plan of a council take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by the council. This strengthening of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic) reinforced the need for alignment between long-term financial plans and asset management plans.

Also in February 2014, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office issued an audit report titled *Asset management and maintenance by councils*. This report noted that in recent years Victorian councils had improved their asset management practices but that progress towards better practice had been relatively slow and there was still substantial room for improvement. In response, Local Government Victoria commenced an update of their asset management guidance with a focus on promoting and supporting better practice. The updated guidance is scheduled for release in 2014–15.

All **Queensland** local governments are required to have a long-term financial forecast covering at least 10 years and to update the forecast annually. To assist local governments, Queensland Treasury Corporation has created and maintains the Local Government Forecast Model. The model is available to all Queensland local governments and includes five years of historical data and 10 years of forecasts.

In 2013–14, Queensland Treasury Corporation released an updated version of the model and commenced a training programme with the support of the Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience. The aim is to improve the financial forecasting skills and knowledge of local government finance staff through the Local Government Forecast Model.

In **Western Australia**, all local governments were required to have in place from 1 July 2013 a strategic community plan and a corporate business plan, supported by asset management, workforce and long-term financial management plans. A compliance review of a random sample of plans submitted for 30 June 2013, including asset management and long-term financial management plans, was subsequently undertaken and feedback provided to local governments.

In addition, local government stakeholders participated in a workshop to prioritise capacity building efforts that should be directed towards country local governments. This workshop prioritised a project to support local governments with conducting self-assessment on their asset management capability through the National Assessment Framework, and also to conduct condition and rating assessments on their assets.

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 that covers a period of at least 10 years.

The Australian Government-funded Local Government Reform Fund Project (which targeted long-term financial and asset management plans) was completed during the year. The final phase of the project incorporated the Local Government Association of South Australia's Business Partner Program which pairs an business partner with a cluster of three, four or five country councils in a geographical region.

In 2010, the **Tasmanian** Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania secured funding of \$870,000 through the Australian Government's Local Government Reform Fund. The funding was used to develop and implement long-term financial and asset management planning in Tasmanian councils. An independent evaluation of the project was

conducted in 2013 and found there had been significant achievements made in asset and financial management for local government in Tasmania.

In 2013, the Tasmanian Government amended the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) to mandate long-term financial and strategic asset management planning for Tasmanian councils, as well as other related financial and asset management initiatives.

In the **Northern Territory** during 2013–14, advancements in asset management practices for the local government sector continued to be achieved in line with the objectives of the National Partnership Agreement *Quality Measurement of Assets and Financial Management Data in Local Government – Northern Territory*.

The Local Government Association of Northern Territory delivered training sessions and workshops for elected members and council staff. This training aimed to provide councils with tools and skills to develop asset and financial management systems and processes that enabled them to deliver sustainable asset investment strategies and support informed resource allocation decisions.

The **Australian Capital Territory** is implementing the ACT Government Infrastructure Plan 2011–2021. The ACT Government established in October 2013 The Capital Framework which is a new process to assess capital works funding proposals.

In December 2013, the ACT Government launched its Partnerships Framework focusing on delivery models for public private partnerships to allocate scarce capital where best justified, achieve optimal risk allocation and delivery models, and ensure fit for purpose for size of the jurisdiction and project.

Performance measures between local governing bodies

All local governments have a legal requirement, under their state local government Act, to report on their performance. These reports may be in the form of annual reports, performance statements, financial statements or strategic planning reports.

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

For this national report, state and territory governments and local government associations were asked to report on measures undertaken in 2013–14 to develop and implement comparative local government performance indicators. A summary of these reports follows for each state.

In **New South Wales**, the *2012–13 Comparative Information on New South Wales Local Government Councils* was produced marking its 23rd year of production. The report contains a range of performance indicators used to calculate financial assistance grants, analyse councils' financial health and check compliance of rates collected.

In late 2013, New South Wales released a discussion paper as part of the first stage of council and public consultation on a new approach to performance measurement. This paper set out proposed principles and objectives as well as a proposed approach to developing indicators across the four key areas of financial performance, asset management, governance and service delivery. Importantly, the paper also canvassed the possibility of a state-wide community satisfaction survey to provide further useful data with which to assess council performance.

The **Victorian** Government passed legislation in February 2014 that introduced a mandatory system of performance reporting to improve the transparency and availability of performance information on councils. This will be the first standardised system of reporting for local government of any jurisdiction in Australia and puts Victoria at the forefront of transparency in local governance.

The mandatory performance reporting framework consists of 70 indicators of performance across 11 service areas including indicators of financial performance and sustainable capacity. The framework also includes a checklist of 24 items considered essential for supporting good governance and management in local government. Councils will be required to report trend information over time and will provide an accompanying narrative to support interpretation of their results. Councils will be required to collect data against the indicators from 1 July 2014 and will report their performance for the first time as part of the 2014–15 annual report.

In **Queensland**, the *Queensland Local Government Comparative Information Report* assists local governments in their endeavours to develop new and more effective ways to deliver their services. It provides an effective tool by which they can monitor trends over time and benchmark services performance both internally and with other councils.

Western Australian continued to use the Integrated Planning and Reporting Advisory Standard as the performance measurement standards and the annual Capability Survey to enable local governments to assess and report on their progress.

Local governments made significant improvements in building their capacity to plan strategically for the future, with a survey of local government capability in March 2014 reporting that 96 per cent of local governments have adopted strategic community plans, 85 per cent have adopted corporate business plans, 90 per cent have workforce plans and 80 per cent have asset management and long term financial management plans.

The Western Australian Government has supported local governments to meet their regulatory requirements with the publication of guidelines and advisory standards, a dedicated website, training programmes, funding and advice. There were 25 grants totalling \$561,372 provided to support workforce planning.

In **South Australia**, the Local Government Association of South Australia's former Comparative Performance Measurement Project has been put on hold due to declining participation by councils. In 2013–14, the Local Government Association of South Australia began exploring data definitions across a number of functional areas and the outcome of this work will inform an ongoing review of the Performance Measurement Project.

The **Tasmanian** Government has continued to produce the Sustainability Objectives and Indicators report to measure council performance on an annual basis. This helps to drive sustainability reform and improve performance, and encourage the local government sector to do the same.

The project allows councils to assess their performance in key strategic areas of financial and asset management, planning and development. The project is also anticipated to promote excellence in council performance and improve community engagement.

The Tasmanian Auditor-General also reports to the Tasmanian Parliament annually on local government authorities. This report includes an analysis and commentary on council performance in the areas of financial and asset management, viability and sustainability and

also sets the benchmarks by which councils can measure their performance and plan for improvement.

In the **Northern Territory** during 2013–14, data from councils was collected and aggregated by the Local Government Association of Northern Territory into a territory-wide report, but separated between regional and municipal council responses. All Northern Territory councils completed the first round of data collection with the results aggregated at 30 September 2013.

To collect individual council data, the Local Government Association of Northern Territory developed a web-based self-assessment tool which provided a pictorial and textual report on where individual councils are positioned in relation to asset management and long-term financial planning. The intent of this tool is to empower councils with baseline data and a mechanism to help assess and evaluate their asset and financial management capacity.

Efficiency and effectiveness reforms

As part of their reports, jurisdictions were asked to provide information on the reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery. A summary for each state follows.

In 2013–14, **New South Wales** implemented an Early Intervention and Performance Improvement Framework. This enables the New South Wales Minister for Local Government and the New South Wales Office of Local Government to take stronger action when a council is dysfunctional or failing to comply with its obligations.

The **Victorian** Government worked with Victorian councils on a range of collaborative procurement and shared services projects during 2013–14. This work included bituminous road resealing, work cover agency procurement and governance of shared services. These projects resulted in cost savings and better provision of services, and helped participating councils develop best value tools and best practice strategies to undertake further work.

The Victorian Government has developed a new performance reporting framework to ensure that all councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way.

In October 2013, the Victorian Government streamlined or removed 38 local government reporting requirements to reduce the reporting burden on councils and boost the benefits to their communities.

The **Queensland** Government continued to remove unnecessary interference and red tape for Queensland local governments with the *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld). This allows local governments to dispose of non-current assets on their own terms without state interference if the disposal is to a government agency or a community organisation. The *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) also provided streamlined processes to ensure the de-amalgamations of four local governments went smoothly on the transfer day, with the four new local governments beginning on 1 January 2014.

The *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) also strengthened the government's commitment to put councillors and mayors clearly in charge by removing the restriction on a person, if they choose to do so, from being both a councillor and a director of a local government corporate entity.

The **Western Australia** Government continued to support country local government initiated reform by supporting Regional Collaborative Groups. The Western Australian Government also implemented metropolitan reform to build a stronger local government sector for the future. This included the distribution of \$1.7 million in grants to local government for initial transition planning.

In **South Australia**, the Local Government Association of South Australia in February 2014 launched the My Local Services App. The app has been developed in close consultation with councils to deliver kerbside waste collection schedules, parks, libraries and event information on the mobile platform.

The Local Government Association of South Australia Workforce Planning project was finalised early in the year with 39 councils involved. Councils that completed the project received a comprehensive workforce plan and workforce development strategies covering skills gaps, staff retention, succession planning, recruitment, training, mentoring, resource sharing and collaborative initiatives and practices.

A 12-month pilot programme to assist councils with legal matters under the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) started in March 2014. Its purpose is to assist councils to reduce overall legal expenditure and maximise value from required expenditure. By 30 June 2014, eight councils had agreed to participate in the pilot. The pilot is expected to provide information on levels of demand that will shape future legal services offered by the Local Government Association of South Australia.

In **Tasmania**, the Role of Local Government project is a collaboration between the Tasmanian Government and local government. Its objective is to establish a clear understanding of the roles and capabilities of local government, identify strengths and capability gaps, and develop actions to build a sector that is sustainable, efficient, effective and responsive to community needs. Phase one of the project concluded in December 2012 with eight statements describing the roles of local government.

Phase two of the project will identify strengths and capability gaps, and actions and strategies to strengthen the local government sector. Delivered throughout 2013 and 2014, this second phase has involved a number of activities to engage stakeholders and build a comprehensive picture of local government capability to deliver on the eight roles.

In late 2013, the **Northern Territory Government** commissioned Deloitte to provide an updated report on financial sustainability of regional councils. Deloitte reviewed the progress that had been made by councils to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and therefore their sustainability.

In addition, in 2013-14 the Northern Territory Government increased the financial assistance offered to regional councils by increasing the annual Northern Territory operational subsidy funding pool by \$5 million to \$25 million a year.

The Indigenous Matching Jobs programme was extended for a further three years which subsidises up to 50 per cent of the wages of approximately 500 Indigenous employees to provide core local government services. Most of these employees live in the territory's rural and remote areas.



Reporting requirements

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

During 2013–14, all jurisdictions pursued initiatives aimed at promoting the delivery of local government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Appendix B contains reports prepared by state and territory governments and local government associations on these initiatives. A summary of key initiatives is also provided later in this chapter.

Closing the Gap

In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to six targets for closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in urban, rural and remote areas. The six COAG targets were to:

- close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2031;
- halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018;
- ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities by 2013;
- halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018;
- halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates for Indigenous young people by 2020; and
- halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018.

Closing the Gap aimed to improve opportunities for Indigenous Australians from all levels of government. Funding was committed in the following areas:

- Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes;
- Supporting Indigenous Early Childhood Development;
- Improving Remote Indigenous Housing;
- Investments in Schooling; and
- New Remote Service Delivery Model.

State, territory and local government initiatives

An outline of key activities undertaken by states, territories and local government associations in improving the provision of local government services to Indigenous people in 2013–14 is as follows.

All 152 councils in **New South Wales** are required to prepare plans under the integrated planning and reporting framework to facilitate community strategic planning and delivery of council services to best meet community needs. The integrated planning and reporting framework allows councils and communities to respond flexibly to local need. The integrated planning and reporting guidelines include the requirement for a community strategic plan to be developed in consultation with groups within the local community and based on principles of social justice. These requirements include consideration of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within each local community.

In **Victoria**, and as a result of work undertaken on the Local Government Aboriginal Employment Project in 2013–14, the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council included Aboriginal employment as a priority in their strategic plan for 2014–15.

In 2013–14, the Victorian Government with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Municipal Association of Victoria, Reconciliation Victoria and a number of Victorian Councils, peak organisations and Aboriginal organisations, worked on the development of the Magolee website which documents best practice by councils in supporting Indigenous Victorians. It is anticipated that the website will go live in early 2015.

There are two notable examples of Victorian councils that have actively engaged with Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: Latrobe City Council which won the 2014 National Award for Excellence in Local Government and also the National Award for Youth Employment for its Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program, and Hume City Council which won the 2014 National Award for Excellence in Local Government for Disability Access and Inclusion in its School Holiday Program for Indigenous Children with a Disability.

The **Queensland** Government continued to provide funding to Indigenous local governments to support the provision of services to their communities. In 2013–14, there was a funding pool of \$31.6 million for the State Government Financial Aid programme for Queensland's 16 Indigenous councils. This was provided across three separate components. Each council received a \$28.6 million allocation in lieu of rates to assist in the delivery of local government services such as community and town planning, urban storm water management, roads, environment and transport and water and sewerage.

In 2013–14, the Queensland Government's Business Incentive Scheme was introduced. This application based funding programme supports projects that enhance the operational efficiencies and profitability of existing council owned businesses or new and innovative businesses which create employment and improve the economic base of the council and the community. Thirteen projects were funded with a total funding pool of \$1.5 million.

The \$1.5 million Service Delivery Fund was the third component of Queensland State Government Financial Aid in 2013–14. Its objective is to support Indigenous councils to deliver services efficiently and build long-term financial sustainability by maximising opportunities to reduce operating costs and increase own-source revenue. Each Indigenous council received an allocation for initiatives that reduce operating costs and increase own-source revenue.

Other funding provided by the Queensland Government to Indigenous councils in 2013–14 included \$3.5 million under the Revenue Replacement Program, an initiative under Queensland’s alcohol-related harm reduction strategy for nine Indigenous local governments which surrendered their council-held canteen licences in 2009. Funding was provided under this programme to assist councils to maintain community services previously funded by the profits from alcohol sales.

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

The **Western Australian** Government has adopted an Aboriginal Investment Strategy to guide future funding and service delivery. An implementation plan is in development.

The Western Australian Local Government Association has continued to advocate and participate in bilateral discussions on normalisation of service delivery to Aboriginal communities.

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities is establishing a new advisory committee to provide input to the planning process. The Western Australian Local Government Association continues to provide advice to the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities project to ensure the interests of local government are represented.

In **South Australia**, the Local Government Association of South Australia continued to assist the Kurna Local Government Leadership Group, which has led to 25 councils resolving to enter into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Kurna people. The councils have committed more than \$185,000 to establish and operate the committee. At 30 June 2014, work was proceeding to finalise the agreement.

The **Tasmanian** Government is not aware of any specific local government initiatives undertaken in 2013–14 in Tasmania in relation to service delivery to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

During 2013, the **Northern Territory** Department of Local Government and Regions undertook a Northern Territory-wide consultation on possible improvements to governance arrangements and service delivery in the bush. The consultation included 177 community visits, 279 meetings and 3,214 people.

As a result of these consultations, legislation was passed in 2014 to create 63 local authorities in remote Northern Territory Indigenous communities as of 1 July 2014. The purpose of local authorities is to be the ‘voice’ of the community and the interface with the local council.

Australian Government expenditure and progress

Financial assistance grants to Indigenous local governing bodies

Of the 569 local governing bodies that received funding in 2013–14 under the Act, 31 were Indigenous (see Table 4-1). The Australian Capital Territory also receives funding under the Act as it maintains both territorial and local government functions.

To be eligible to receive funding under the Act, Indigenous local governing bodies must be established in one of three ways:

- under a state government's normal local government legislation, for example the Aurukun and Mornington local governments in Queensland and the Ngaanyatjaraku local government in Western Australia;
- under a state government's distinct legislation, for example the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and the Maralinga Tjarutja Councils in South Australia; and
- following a declaration by the Australian Government Minister, acting on advice from the state minister, that it is a local governing body for the purposes of the Act.

Table 4-1 shows the distribution of the 31 Indigenous local governing bodies by jurisdiction and the means by which they became eligible for funding under the Act.

During 2013–14, \$57.1 million was provided to 31 Indigenous local governing bodies under the Financial Assistance Grant programme. Of this, \$45.6 million was provided under the general purpose component and \$11.4 million in local road component. The specific funding provided to these Indigenous local governing bodies is shown in Appendix D and are identified by an asterisk (*) next to their name.

Table 4-1 Number of Indigenous local governing bodies at 1 July 2013

State	Established under state local government legislation	Established under distinct state legislation	Declared local governing bodies	Total Indigenous local governing bodies
Qld	16	–	–	16
WA	1	–	–	1
SA	–	2 ^a	3	5
NT	9	–	–	9
Total	26	2	3	31

Notes: a Established under the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (SA)* and the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 (SA)*.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

General purpose payments and Australia's Indigenous population

In addition to the funding provided to Indigenous local governing bodies, some of the funding received by mainstream local governing bodies under the Financial Assistance Grant programme is provided to reflect the number of Indigenous people within their boundaries.

When the allocation of funding to local governing bodies under the Financial Assistance Grant programme is determined, local government grants commissions must comply with agreed distribution guidelines called National Principles (see Appendix A). For the general purpose component, local government grants commissions apply cost adjusters where it has been determined that the cost of providing a local government service is affected by factors such as demographic profile, remoteness or climate.

National Principle 1 requires local government grants commissions to allocate the general purpose component on the basis of relative needs. In addition, National Principle 5 relates specifically to Indigenous people:

Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders

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

In complying with National Principle 5, some local government grants commissions apply cost adjusters reflecting the size of the Indigenous population of a local governing body when assessing the cost of providing certain services.

In this way, local government grants commissions try to take into account the specific needs of Indigenous people and the subsequent effect on the finances of a local governing body – in terms of revenue received as well as expenditure requirements – when determining the allocation of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme.

A

National Principles



Under section 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cwlth)* (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 National Principles. The National Principles are set out in Figure A-1. Figure A-2 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, under 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 A-1 National principles governing allocation by States and the Northern Territory among local governing bodies

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 in assessing 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 peoples and Torres Strait Islanders

Financial assistance shall be allocated to councils in a way, which recognises the needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders 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.

B. 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 programme) 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 usage of roads in each local governing area.

Figure A-2 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* (Cwlth) (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; and
- 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 or commercial property) will tend to receive relatively less grant money.

B

State and territory government and local government association submissions



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

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

During preparation of this report, state and territory governments and local government associations were asked for input on:

- the methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13;
- developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government;
- actions to develop and implement comparative performance measures between local governing bodies;
- reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery; and
- initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

All state governments and the Northern Territory Government responded by directly addressing each issue.

Due to its special status as both a territory and a local government, the Australian Capital Territory was not required to directly address the issues. The Australian Capital Territory Government, however, was asked for and provided input under similar headings to the second, third, fourth and fifth headings.

While not required to do so, most local government associations also directly addressed the issues, except the first regarding methodology for distributing Australian Government funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme, which is primarily a state and Northern Territory government matter.

Report from New South Wales

This report has been provided by the Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government on behalf of the New South Wales Government.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission methodology has not changed significantly since 2012–13. The two 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* (Cwlth).

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 the provision of services 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 21 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:

Number of units × standard cost × 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 21 selected services. The calculation is based on a state-wide average of councils' net costs, excluding extreme values, using selected items from councils' financial reports, averaged over five years; and

- the disability factor is the measure of disadvantage for the council.

A disability factor is the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission 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, if it is estimated that it would 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, the disability factor would be 20 per cent. 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 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 duplication of services. In addition to disabilities, '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 = (council measure ÷ standard measure - 1) × 100 × 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; and
- 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.

In an attempt to deliver improved outcomes to smaller rural communities, the 2013–14 modelling was adjusted:

- the standard cost for unsealed local roads in the general purpose component was doubled on the basis that the actual standard cost did not reflect the ability of small rural councils to adequately fund these roads;
- removal of a number of 'other' disability factors from the administration and governance function for a number of councils;
- removal of the 'urban density' measure from the recreation function; and
- relaxing of the upper capping limit to facilitate the effect of the changes for rural remote councils.

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 councils' 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. An additional component of the isolation allowance is included which 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 the basis for assessing revenue-raising capacity because rates, based on property values, are the principal source of council 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 Valuer-General of New South Wales. 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 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. 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 the infrastructure needs of each council 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 be determining 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 process of consultation between the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission, the then Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales (now known as Local Government NSW) and local government generally.

Local Government NSW and local governments recommended to the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission that water and sewerage services should not be included in the distribution principles 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; and
- the New South Wales 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 calculations. In the same way, the consequences of poor council decisions of the past are not considered.

Generally, the levels of expenditure by a council on a particular service do not affect grants. Use of a council's expenditure is generally limited to determining a New South Wales standard cost for each selected service. The standard costs for these services are then applied to all councils in 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.

Accordingly grants to councils affected by boundary changes are maintained at the previous year's level if the outcome is negative. No New South Wales council required protection under this provision.

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 councils' proportion of the state's population, local road length and bridge length.

General expenditure allowances formulae

Allowances for most services are calculated on the following general formula:

$$Ac = Nc \times Es \times Dc$$

where:

Ac	=	allowance for the council for the expenditure service
Nc	=	number of units to be serviced by council
Es	=	standard expenditure per unit for the service
Dc	=	disability for the council for service in percentage terms

Road length expenditure allowances formulae

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

$$Ac = Nc \times Es \times \frac{Lc}{Nc} - \frac{Ls}{Ns}$$

where:

- Ac = allowance for road length allowance
- Nc = number of relevant properties for the council
- Es = standard cost per kilometre

$$\frac{Lc}{Nc} = \text{council's relevant length of road per relevant property}$$

$$\frac{Ls}{Ns} = \text{standard relevant length of road per relevant property}$$

Isolation expenditure allowances formulae

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

$$Ac = Pc \times ([Dsc \times K1] + [Dnc \times K2] + Ic)$$

where:

- Ac = the isolation allowance for each council
- Pc = the adjusted population for each council
- Dsc = the distance from each council's administrative centre to Sydney
- Dnc = the distance from each council's administrative centre to the nearest major regional centre (a population centre of more than 20 000)
- Ic = the additional per capita allowance due to industrial award obligations (if applicable)

K1 and K2 are constants derived from regression analysis

Specific purpose payments formulae

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

$$1 - \frac{Gc}{(Nc \times Es) + Ac}$$

where:

- Gc = the specific purpose grant received by the council for the expenditure service
- Nc = number of units to be serviced by council
- Es = standard expenditure per unit for the service
- Ac = allowance for the council for the expenditure service

General revenue allowances formulae

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
	Tc	=	council's value per property

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

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

The standard tax rate (ts) is calculated as:

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

Pensioner rebates revenue allowances formulae

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
	Ps	=	the proportion of eligible pensioner assessments for all councils

The standardised rebate for the council is:

$$Rc = 0.25 \times Tc \times ts$$

where:	Tc	=	the average value per residential property in the council
	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

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

1. General purpose grant to local governing bodies will be allocated as far as practicable on a full equalisation basis as defined in the Act; 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.

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.

1. Urban [metropolitan] area
 'Urban area' means an area designated as an 'urban area'. These include:
 - a. Sydney Statistical Division;
 - b. Newcastle Statistical District; and
 - c. Wollongong Statistical District.
2. Rural [non-metropolitan] area
 'Rural area' means an area not designated as an 'urban area'
3. Initial distribution
 - a. 27.54 per cent to local roads in urban areas
 - b. 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
 - 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
- b. 93 per cent distributed to councils on the basis of:
 - i. 80 per cent distributed on length of roads
 - ii. 20 per cent distributed on population

6. Data

Population is based on the most up-to-date Estimated Resident Population figures available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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.

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.

The method of application of the statistics shall be agreed to between representatives of the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission and the Local Government NSW.

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

All councils in New South Wales now 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, as well as to 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; and
- Resourcing Strategy – including a Long-Term Financial Plan (10 years+), Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plans (10 years+), and Workforce Management Strategy (four years).

Rather than discouraging councils from investing in infrastructure and economic development, the framework is designed to ensure that councils approach these activities 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.

The Office of Local Government was formed on 24 February 2014 and was previously a Division of the New South Wales Department of Premier and Cabinet.

For 2013–14, the (then) Division of Local Government continued to provide oversight and support for councils developing and implementing Long-Term Financial and Asset Management Plans. In part, this has been undertaken through the Promoting Better Practice review programme, which aims to improve the viability and sustainability of councils by providing an assessment of council practices and overall ‘health’.

The Promoting Better Practice programme has involved reviewing financial and asset management plans and offering support and advice to ensure they are effectively implemented as an integrated part of council’s operations. The Promoting Better Practice process is designed to:

- generate momentum for a culture of continuous improvement and greater compliance across local government;
- promote good governance and ethical conduct principles; and
- identify and share innovation and good practice in local government.

Councils’ long-term financial planning and asset management planning has improved and will continue to do so as the New South Wales Office of Local Government continues to work closely with councils to ensure ongoing improvements across New South Wales.

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

The *2012–13 Comparative Information on New South Wales Local Government Councils* marks the 23rd year the publication has been produced. The report contains a range of performance indicators. Data sources include council financial reports, rating records and Australian Bureau of Statistics’ population data. The information collected has also been used to calculate financial assistance grants, analyse councils’ financial health and check compliance of rates collected. The New South Wales Office of Local Government continues to make the publication and the raw data freely available and accessible via the internet to promote use, transparency and accountability.

The *2012–13 Comparative Information on New South Wales Local Government Councils* publication includes a whole of sector overview as well as a two page snapshot of each council and incorporates relevant high level demographic and socio-economic indicators for each local government area. The results of the New South Wales Treasury Corporation Report on the Financial Sustainability of the NSW Local Government Sector and the (then) Division of Local Government’s Local Government Infrastructure Audit are also reflected.

Building on changes made to the report in 2011–12, the *2012–13 Comparative Information on New South Wales Local Government Councils* publication features more user-friendly and informative modes of presenting council data. At the same time, New South Wales is undertaking further work to develop a new local government performance measurement framework.

The New South Wales Office of Local Government is working collaboratively with councils to develop core, consistent performance indicators that will build a picture of the overall sustainability of councils across New South Wales. This framework will build on existing financial and other performance data and is designed to capture the overall efficiency and effectiveness of councils, rather than a narrower focus on statutory compliance. It will enable councils to drive their own continuous improvement as well as help local communities to understand

the performance of their council and the New South Wales Government to better measure performance.

In late 2013, a discussion paper was issued as part of the first stage of council and public consultation on a new approach to performance measurement. This paper set out proposed principles and objectives as well as a proposed approach to developing indicators across the four key areas of financial performance, asset management, governance and service delivery. Importantly, the paper also canvassed the possibility of a state-wide community satisfaction survey to provide further useful data with which to assess council performance.

Since the release of the discussion paper, the New South Wales Office of Local Government has worked with councils, sector representatives and other interested organisations to develop a more detailed outline of the proposed framework and a set of draft indicators for further consultation. This work has taken into account feedback received to date.

Performance indicators set under this framework will provide a consistent approach to measuring performance across four key areas – financial sustainability, infrastructure management, community leadership and service delivery. This project will enable councils to drive their own improvement over time, enhance accountability and assist the New South Wales Government and others to better understand and support performance.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

In August 2011, *Destination 2036* brought together all 152 New South Wales councils with New South Wales Government leaders to discuss challenges impacting the efficiency and effectiveness of councils and to develop solutions for creating a stronger local government system. This landmark event was hosted by the then Division of Local Government, together with the then Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales and Local Government Managers Australia (New South Wales).

This event and further sector-wide consultation resulted in a *Destination 2036 Action Plan*, released in June 2012, with 34 actions under five key areas to achieve efficient and effective service delivery, quality governance, financial sustainability, appropriate structures in local government, and strong relationships between state and local government.

The first initiative under this plan was initiated when, in April 2012, an Independent Local Government Review Panel was appointed to drive key strategic directions identified through *Destination 2036* and develop options to improve the strength of local government in New South Wales. The Independent Local Government Review Panel was tasked with investigating and identifying options for governance models, structural arrangements and boundary changes for local government in New South Wales.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel undertook extensive engagement as part of its work and released a series of reports and supporting material that reflected its deliberations and sector feedback.

At the same time, a Local Government Acts Taskforce was appointed to review the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and *City of Sydney Act 1988* (NSW) to ensure both laws continue to meet the current and future needs of the community and local government in New South Wales. Following release of a Preliminary Ideas paper (October 2012), a series of workshops were held across New South Wales to discuss the taskforce's proposals and submissions were received from both the sector and public more broadly.

Both the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce provided final reports to the New South Wales Government during the reporting period. These reports made a series of important findings and recommendations designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of individual councils and the broader local government sector as a whole. These reports were released for public and council consultation as part of the process of developing a New South Wales State Government response.

In 2013–14, New South Wales further developed measures to support more efficient and effective council performance, building on the work of:

- New South Wales Treasury Corporation’s *Report on the Financial Sustainability of the NSW Local Government Sector*, which provided a financial assessment and benchmarking report of infrastructure backlog of councils seeking access to the New South Wales Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme;
- the Local Government Infrastructure Audit, which verified council information on infrastructure management, identified trends in infrastructure needs and identified current infrastructure exposure risk; and
- the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce’s final reports as well as supplementary reports and materials produced in conjunction with these reviews.

These reports have assisted performance at a sector level by providing an improved understanding of key issues that underpin the sustainability of local government in New South Wales.

Importantly, an Early Intervention and Performance Improvement Framework was implemented during the reporting period. This enables the New South Wales Minister for Local Government and the New South Wales Office of Local Government to take stronger action when a council is dysfunctional or failing to comply with its obligations.

A further *Destination 2036* action is the development of a consistent performance measurement framework for councils and a comprehensive programme to support improvement. The New South Wales Office of Local Government is continuing to work with the local government sector on this key initiative to drive improvement to the delivery of efficient and effective local government services.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

All 152 councils in New South Wales are required to prepare plans under the integrated planning and reporting framework 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 include the requirement for a community strategic plan to be developed in consultation with groups within the local community and based on principles of social justice. These requirements include consideration to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within each local community.

Report from Victoria

This report has been provided by the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, Minister for Local Government on behalf of the Victorian Government.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

General purpose and local road component funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme is allocated by the Victoria Grants Commission in accordance with the National Principles formulated under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) (the Act).

For each council, a raw grant is obtained which is calculated by subtracting the *standardised revenue* for a council 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 in the Act and National Principles to provide a minimum grant to each council. As outlined below, increases and decreases in the general purpose grant outcomes have been capped, 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 2013–14 are found in Table B-6.

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 virtually 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 by Victorian councils in 2012–13 equalled \$6.82 billion. Total gross standardised expenditure in the Victoria Grants Commission's allocation model for 2013–14 therefore also equals \$6.82 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 derived by multiplying the relevant unit of need (e.g. population) by:

- the average Victorian council expenditure on that function, per unit of need; and
- a composite cost adjustor which takes account factors that make service provision cost more or less for individual councils than the Victorian state average.

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 summarised in Table B-1.

Table B-1 Victorian major cost drivers

<i>Expenditure function</i>	<i>Major cost driver</i>	<i>Average expenditure per unit</i>
Governance	Population (adjusted)	\$64.72
Family and community services	Population	\$134.92
Aged and disabled services	Population > 60 years + Disability pensioners + Carer's allowance recipients	\$450.98
Recreation and culture	Population	\$263.64
Waste management	Number of dwellings	\$305.55
Traffic and street management	Population	\$119.99
Environment	Population (adjusted)	\$69.73
Business and economic services	Population (adjusted)	\$123.04

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 on 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 in assessing relative expenditure needs for these functions take account of high rates of vacant dwellings at the time the Census is taken. Councils with a vacancy rate above the Victorian 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 the particular characteristics of individual councils which impact on the cost of service provision on a comparable basis. Each cost adjustor has been based around a Victorian state weighted average of 1.00 with a ratio of 1:2 between the minimum and maximum values, to ensure that the relative importance of each expenditure function in the model is maintained.

The 14 cost adjustors used in the calculation of the 2013–14 general purpose grants are: aged pensioners, English proficiency, environmental risk, Indigenous population, urban roads, population density, population dispersion, population growth, population less than six years, regional significance, remoteness, scale, socio-economic and tourism.

Because 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.

For the 2013-14 allocation, the Victoria Grants Commission made a slight adjustment to the cost adjustor weightings against the waste management expenditure function. This change has seen the population density cost adjustor decrease from 20 per cent to 10 per cent, and the regional significance cost adjustor increase from zero to 10 per cent.

The intention of this change is to improve the ratio of standardised expenditure to actual expenditure for waste management for large rural shire and regional centres.

Net standardised expenditure

Net standardised expenditure has been derived 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.

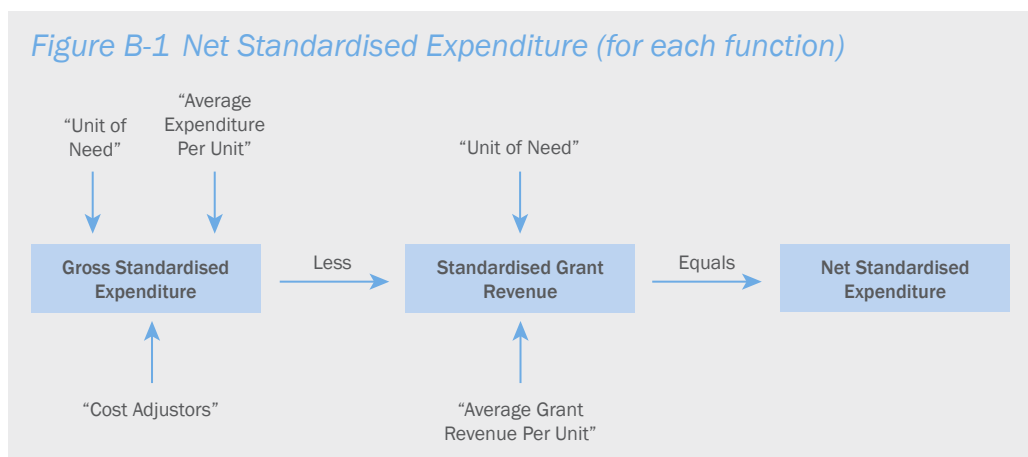
Average grant revenue on a per unit basis (based on actual grants received by local government in 2012-13) is shown in Table B-2.

Table B-2 Victorian average grant revenue

<i>Expenditure function</i>	<i>Major cost driver</i>	<i>Average grants per unit</i>
Governance	Population (adjusted)	\$4.86
Family and community services	Population	\$33.56
Aged and disabled services	Population > 60 years + Disability pensioners + Carer’s allowance recipients	\$185.21
Recreation and culture	Population	\$6.59
Waste management	Number of dwellings	\$0.49
Traffic and street management	Population	\$1.86
Environment	Population (adjusted)	\$2.21
Business and economic services	Population (adjusted)	\$3.31

Diagrammatically, the calculation of net standardised expenditure for each expenditure function is described in Figure B-1: Net Standardised Expenditure (for each function)

Figure B-1 Net Standardised Expenditure (for each function)



Standardised expenditure for the local roads and bridges expenditure function within the general purpose grants model is now based on the grant outcomes for each council under the Victoria Grants Commission's local roads grants model. This incorporates a number of cost modifiers (similar to cost adjusters) 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 programme 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. The payments in lieu of rates received by some councils for major facilities such as power stations 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 derivation of the average rates for each of the property classes is shown in Table B-3.

Table B-3 Victorian derivation of the average rates

Category	Three year average valuations \$ billions	Three year average rate revenue \$ billions	Average rate
Residential	\$974.023	\$2.782	\$0.00286
Commercial/industrial/other	\$195.060	\$0.694	\$0.00356
Farm	\$75.669	\$0.232	\$0.00307

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 Victorian 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.

For each council, for each of the nine functional areas, the relevant driver (such as population) is multiplied by the Victorian state median revenue from user fees and charges. For some functions, this is then modified by a series of 'revenue adjusters' to take account of differences between municipalities in their capacity to generate fees and charges, due to their characteristics.

The standard fees and charges used for each function (based on median actual revenues generated by local government in 2012–13) are shown in Table B-4, along with the revenue adjusters applied.

Table B-4 Victorian standard fees and charges for function and revenue adjustors

<i>Expenditure function</i>	<i>Major driver (units)</i>	<i>Standard fees and charges per unit</i>	<i>Revenue adjustors</i>
Governance	Population	\$11.61	Nil
Family and community services	Population	\$11.01	Socio-economic
Aged and disabled services	Population > 60 + Disability pensioners + Carer' allowance recipients	\$55.83	Household income
Recreation and culture	Population	\$18.66	Valuations (per cent commercial)
Waste management	Number of dwellings	\$25.49	Nil
Local roads and bridges	Population	\$0.77	Nil
Traffic and street management	Population	\$5.66	Valuations (per cent commercial)
Environmental protection services	Population	\$0.80	Nil
Business and economic services	Population	\$27.83	Tourism plus value of development

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

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 regional meetings held with councils throughout the year.

All data used by the Victoria Grants Commission in allocating general purpose grants has been updated where possible, and a significant number of data inputs have been altered since the 2012-13 allocation.

The following updates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics release of data from the most recent Census of Population and Housing held in 2011:

- estimated resident population (as at 30 June 2012);
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population;
- number of building approvals;
- median weekly income levels;
- number of individuals employed by industry;
- population dispersion (Victoria Grants Commission calculation);
- number of occupied and unoccupied buildings;
- levels of English proficiency; and
- immigration figures.

The Victoria Grants Commission has also incorporated the updated Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas data, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, into the 2013-14 general purpose grants allocation methodology.

In addition to the Australian Bureau of Statistics data updates, the Victoria Grants Commission's 2013–14 allocation model has also incorporated the following updates:

- Centrelink data on aged pensioners, disability pensioners, and those receiving a carers allowance;
- Tourism Research Australia data detailing the number of international visitors, day trips and overnight stays; and
- University of Adelaide figures calculating each council's position on the national Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia.

Minimum grants

The available general purpose grants pool for Victorian councils represents, on average, \$69.52 per head of population (using Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates as at 30 June 2012). 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 \$20.86 for 2013–14).

Without the application of this principle, general purpose grants for 2013–14 for the following 13 councils would have been below the \$20.86 per capita level: Bayside, Boroondara, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Manningham, Melbourne, Monash, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse and Yarra. The minimum grant principle has resulted in the general purpose grants to these councils being increased to that level.

Capping

For the 2013–14 allocations, due to the number of updated data sources being incorporated into the allocation methodology, the Victoria Grants Commission has capped all downward movements in general purpose grants compared with their estimated entitlements for the previous year (i.e. no council will receive a smaller grant than in 2012–13).

Upward movements in general purpose grants have been capped at 10 per cent (excluding the City of Melbourne, which exceeds this cap due to its status as a minimum grant council).

Estimated entitlements 2013–14

A summary of the changes in estimated general purpose grant entitlements from 2012–13 to 2013–14 is shown in Table B-5.

Table B-5 Victorian changes in estimated general purpose grant entitlements

Change in General Purpose Grant	Number of councils
Increase of more than 10.0%*	1
Increase of 10% (capped)	2
Increase of 7.5% to <10.0%	6
Increase of 5.0% to <7.5%	12
Increase of 2.5% to <5.0%	31
Increase of 0.0% to <2.5%	22
Increase of 0.0% (capped)	5
Total	79

Note: *Increase exceeds 10.0 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 assist with repairs and restoration work.

In 2013-14, there were 40 grants allocated to 27 councils totalling \$1,209,661. Details on these grants are provided in Table B-6.

Table B-6 2013-14 Victorian grants on natural disasters

Council	Natural disaster	Amount
Alpine Shire Council	Flood	\$23,579
Ballarat City Council	Flood	\$35,000
Baw Baw Shire Council	Flood (3 events)	\$105,000
Benalla Rural City Council	Flood	\$35,000
Campaspe Shire Council	Flood	\$35,000
Cardinia Shire Council	Flood	\$35,000
East Gippsland Shire Council	Flood	\$35,000
Golden Plains Shire Council	Flood	\$35,000
Greater Bendigo City Council	Flood (2 events)	\$70,000
Greater Dandenong City Council	Flood	\$22,505
Greater Shepparton City Council	Flood	\$35,000
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Flood	\$35,000
Indigo Shire Council	Flood	\$1,871
Latrobe City Council	Flood	\$35,000
Loddon Shire Council	Flood	\$35,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Flood and storm (3 events)	\$105,000
Moira Shire Council	Flood (2 events)	\$47,034
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Flood and storm (3 events)	\$105,000
Murrindindi Shire Council	Flood (2 events)	\$42,685
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Flood and storm	\$35,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Flood (2 events)	\$24,899
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Flood	\$35,000
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Flood	\$35,000
Wellington Shire Council	Flood (2 events)	\$51,793
Whitehorse City Council	Flood	\$15,295
Wyndham City Council	Storm	\$35,000
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Flood (3 events)	\$105,000
Total		\$1,209,661

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 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 account of 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.

Traffic volume data

The allocation of local roads grants for 2013–14 was based on traffic volume data collected by all councils during the 12 months to June 2012.

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

Victorian councils reported a total of 129,462 kilometres of local roads as at 30 June 2012, an increase of 358 kilometres or 0.28 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 road type categories after the Victoria Grants Commission changed them from kerbed/unkerbed to urban/rural. Variation changes are outlined in Table B-7.

Table B-7 Victorian council changes in local road length

Change in length of local roads	Number of councils
Increase of more than 5.0%	3
Increase of 1.0% to 5.0%	10
Increase of up to 1.0%	26
No change	26
Decrease of up to 1.0%	10
Decrease of 1.0% to 5.0%	3
Decrease of more than 5.0%	1
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 remained unchanged from 2012-13 for the 2013-14 allocations. These are detailed in Table B-8.

Table B-8 Victorian asset preservation costs

Road Type	Daily Traffic Volume Range	Standard Annual Asset Preservation Cost \$/km
Urban	< 500	\$3,600
	500 – <1,000	\$4,900
	1,000 – <5,000	\$6,600
	5,000+	\$10,700
Rural	Natural surface	\$350
	< 100	\$2,500
	100 – <500	\$5,200
	500 – <1,000	\$5,800
	1,000+	\$6,600
Bridges	Concrete deck	\$60 per square metre
	Timber deck	\$100 per 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 generated by 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 level of need of the council relative to others. Relatively high cost modifiers add to the network cost calculated for each council, and so increase its local roads grant outcome.

A number of changes were made to the cost modifiers for the 2013-14 allocation and these are detailed in Table B-9.

Table B-9 Victorian changes to the cost modifiers for the 2013–14 allocation

Cost modifier	Changes made to cost modifier
Freight	<p>The Victoria Grants Commission has constructed a new freight cost modifier index that uses employment data from the 2011 Census to identify industries assessed as being relatively more freight-intensive. This index is derived of total employment in these industries relative to the total resident population within the municipality.</p> <p>The index infers that those municipalities with higher levels of employment in such industries will see relatively higher levels of freight carriage on their local road networks, leading to more rapid surface deterioration and relatively higher road maintenance costs. Index values have been spread across a range of 0.95 to 1.10.</p>
Climate	<p>The Victoria Grants Commission has developed a new climate index by identifying the length of urban roads and rural roads that fall within the five climatic zones used by Standards Australia to produce an average climate rating for both rural and urban roads within each municipality.</p> <p>Urban road index values are spread across a range from 0.95 to 1.10. Rural roads index values are spread across a range of 0.75 to 1.25, reflecting the relatively greater influence of climate conditions on rural roads.</p>
Materials	<p>The Victoria Grants Commission has constructed a materials availability index by determining the distance between the nearest quarry location and the council headquarters.</p> <p>These distance values have been spread across a range between 0.95 (most accessible) and 1.05 (least accessible). All metropolitan councils, excluding those in interface areas, have had their index set at the minimum 0.95 to reflect the availability of materials from a range of sources.</p>
Sub-grades	<p>The Victoria Grants Commission has developed a new sub-grades index by identifying the total length of urban and rural roads in each municipality built on each of the eight sub-grade categories as determined by Standards Australia.</p> <p>An average sub-grade rating for each council has been calculated based on the level of reactivity of each soil type, which has then been converted into an index ranging from 0.95 to 1.10. This index reflects the relative level of road maintenance costs for each council based on their relative level of soil reactivity.</p>

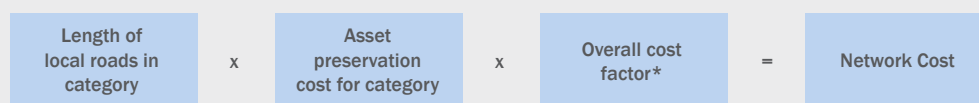
Grant calculation

The Victoria Grants Commission calculates a total network cost for each council's local road network. This represents the relative annual costs faced by the council in maintaining its local road and bridge networks, based on average annual preservation costs and taking account of 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 generation, climate, materials availability, sub-grade conditions and strategic routes.

Mathematically, the calculation of the network cost for a single traffic volume range for a council is illustrated in Figure B-2.

Figure B-2 Victorian calculation of the network costs for a council single traffic volume range



Note: *Overall cost factor is calculated by multiplying the cost factors for freight loading, 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.

Estimated entitlements 2013-14

In general, where a significant change has occurred in a council's local roads grant for 2013-14, this is due to the adjustments made to the cost modifiers under the allocation model, as well as changed road length and traffic volume data supplied by councils to the Victoria Grants Commission.

A summary of the changes in estimated local roads grant entitlements from 2012-13 to 2013-14 is in Table B-10.

Table B-10 Victorian summary of changes in estimated local roads grant entitlement

Change in local roads grant	Number of councils
Increase of 7.0% (capped)	26
Increase of 5.0% to <7.0%	9
Increase of 2.5% to <5.0%	16
Increase of 0.0% to <2.5%	13
Increase of 0.0% (capped)	15
Total	79

Capping

For the 2013-14 allocations, due to the number of changes made to the cost modifiers under the local roads grant allocation methodology, the Victoria Grants Commission has capped all downward movements (i.e. no council will receive a smaller local roads grant than in 2012-13) and upward movements to seven per cent.

2013-14 Victorian Government stated priorities

The stated priorities for 2013-14 were to support councils to be more sustainable and accountable, and to explore opportunities to enhance the standard of behaviour in local government. This was done through:

- legislative reform – introduction of the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Conduct) Bill 2014 into the Victorian Parliament in April 2014;
- commencing renegotiations of the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement;
- exploring opportunities for reducing the reporting burden on local government;
- facilitating open and ongoing communication and partnerships between the Victorian Government and Victorian local governments;
- targeting assistance to ensure councils sustainability and proper governance in response to identified circumstance, e.g. natural disaster assistance;
- comprehensively reviewing Victoria's local government election arrangements and submission of recommendations for potential reform to the Victorian Government;
- increasing collaborative procurement opportunities between councils, business and the community;
- producing a Differential Rate Guidelines to ensure a consistent application of the differential rating system across Victoria;

- comprehensively reviewing the Victorian Public Libraries, and exploring interrelated state-wide collaborative initiatives to deliver benefits efficiencies, consistency and opportunities to Victorian public libraries; and
- continuing to rollout the Local Government Reform Fund focusing on ‘best value’, procurement and internal audit. These projects focus on aligning capacity, strategy and sustainable outcomes for councils, which complement the nationally funded work.

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

Improving the alignment between long-term financial plans and asset management plans was a priority during the year.

Legislative reforms introduced in February 2014 required that a council's strategic resource plan must take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by the council. This strengthening of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic) reinforced the need for alignment between long-term financial plans and asset management plans.

Also in February 2014, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office issued an audit report titled *Asset Management and Maintenance by Councils*. The audit report noted that in recent years Victorian councils had improved their asset management practices but that progress towards better practice had been relatively slow and there was still substantial room for improvement.

In response Local Government Victoria commenced an update of their asset management guidance with a focus on promoting and supporting better practice. The updated guidance is scheduled for release in the next financial year.

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

The Victorian Government passed legislation in February 2014 that introduced a mandatory system of performance reporting to improve the transparency and availability of performance information on councils. This will be the first standardised system of reporting for local government of any jurisdiction in Australia and puts Victoria at the forefront of transparency in local governance.

The mandatory performance reporting framework consists of 70 indicators of performance across 11 service areas including indicators of financial performance and sustainable capacity. The framework also includes a checklist of 24 items considered essential for supporting good governance and management in local government. Councils will be required to report trend information over time and will provide accompanying narrative to support interpretation of their results.

Councils will be required to collect data against the indicators from 1 July 2014 and will report their performance for the first time as part of the 2014–15 annual report.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The Victorian Government undertook a number of initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery, including working with Victorian councils on a range of collaborative procurement and shared services projects during 2013–14. This work

included successful projects across a number of areas including bituminous road resealing, work cover agency procurement and governance of shared services. These projects resulted in cost savings, better provision of services and helped participating councils develop best value tools and best practice strategies to undertake further work. Following the success of these projects, the Victorian Government will facilitate and provide funding to another round of collaborative procurement projects in the next financial year.

Strategic resource plans

Victorian councils are required to prepare a four year strategic resource plan under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic). The strategic resource plan must take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by council and contain statements describing the required financial and non-financial resources. An analysis of council 2013-14 strategic resource plans indicated that Victorian councils collectively expect to spend over \$8.45 billion on capital works over the next four years.

Natural disaster and emergency management response

The Victorian Government provided targeted support to municipalities most heavily affected by natural disasters, as well as delivered a range of programmes that supported councils in responding to such events. These initiatives included:

- the *Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program*, which deploys additional emergency management capacity to councils in conjunction with the Municipal Association of Victoria; and
- the *Murrindindi Assistance Package*, which assists Murrindindi Shire Council in rebuilding its capacity following the Black Saturday bushfires.

Local Government Amendment (Governance and Conduct) Bill 2014

In April 2014 legislation was introduced proposing to enhance the standard of behaviour in the local government sector while providing appropriate oversight by the Victorian Government. This followed an extensive review undertaken of the current Councillor Conduct framework and a range of other governance issues since May 2013. As part of this review, extensive consultation was undertaken with the local government sector including peak bodies. Over 200 submissions were received.

Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Amendment Bill 2014

In June 2014 legislation was passed by the Victorian Parliament which provided that the panel of administrators at the Brimbank City Council continue to hold office until the first meeting following the council's next general election in October 2016.

Performance reporting framework

The Victorian Government has developed a new performance reporting framework to ensure that all councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way. Effective performance reporting by councils is essential for ensuring accountability to residents and ratepayers as to how public money is being spent and the quality of services delivered. The framework becomes mandatory from 1 July 2014.

Local government electoral review

A comprehensive review of Victoria's local government election arrangements commenced in July 2013. The independent review, the first holistic review of its kind for many years, was conducted by a three member Local Government Panel and looked at all aspects of the election system. The review was prompted in part to address increasing complaints received about candidate behaviour at elections as well as declining trends in voter participation. Topics included the voter franchise, candidate qualifications and nomination, information to voters, campaign donations, method of election, provision of election services, non-voter enforcement and ward structures.

The Local Government Panel produced a detailed discussion paper and conducted extensive consultation throughout Victoria with councils, peak local government groups and the wider community. Potential reforms in two reports with 55 recommendations were subsequently submitted to the Victorian Government for consideration.

Reducing the local government reporting burden

An initiative is underway to reduce the reporting burden on councils to enable local government to focus on delivering services important to their communities and improve efficiency.

The Victorian Government is leading work through the Local Government Inter-Departmental Network to identify a number of local government reporting requirements for streamlining or reduction across Victoria. In October 2013, streamlining or removal of 38 local government reporting requirements was announced to reduce the reporting burden on councils and boost the benefits to their communities.

Report frequency and detail has been adjusted, data collections have been automated and fine-tuned, and grant reporting has been streamlined. For example school immunisation data reporting, kindergarten funding report requirements have been streamlined, and maternal and child health services have been automated.

Work is continuing to simplify funding agreements and further streamline reporting between the Victorian Government and local governments.

Work will continue with the sector through the Local Government Reform Strategy Reference Group which is represented by council chief executive officers to identify other reporting reductions which impose the greatest burden on councils. Reducing the reporting burden is also a key feature of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Victorian State–Local Government Agreement renegotiations

The previous Victorian Minister for Local Government met with most councils between 2012 and mid-2013 to ensure their perspective was fully considered in preparing a revised Victorian State–Local Government Agreement. Councils provided constructive feedback on the current agreement, with a number indicating that the current agreement was too aspirational and needed a greater focus on practical elements to improve the state–local government relationship.

A revised Victorian State–Local Government Agreement was drafted to include four elements to move it to a more operationally focused agreement:

- incorporate Local Government Impact Statements in the Victorian Government Cabinet process;

- streamline state regulatory and reporting requirements on local government;
- implement an ongoing work programme to simplify and streamline funding arrangements between the two levels of government; and
- commit the sector to work with the Victorian Government to demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery and productivity gains, reflected in the results of the local government performance reporting framework.

Each portfolio already works extensively with local government in a range of ways. To increase recognition of the strength of existing working relationships, the operational arrangements for each ministerial portfolio would be documented as a support to the revised agreement.

A draft of the Victorian State–Local Government Agreement was released to the local government sector at the 2013 Local Government Ministerial–Mayors Forum. Feedback was coordinated via the Municipal Association of Victoria to enable finalisation of the agreement.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Local Government Aboriginal Employment Project, led by the Municipal Association of Victoria (which comprises representatives from all of Victoria's 79 councils) continued to:

- support local government in their active engagement with Indigenous communities;
- support Indigenous communities as they strengthen their links with local government;
- encourage partnerships between the Victorian Government and local governments dealing with Indigenous issues; and
- improve outcomes for Indigenous people and local government primarily in relation to reconciliation, service delivery, employment and cultural heritage.

As a result of work undertaken on the Local Government Aboriginal Employment Project in 2013–14 and earlier, the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council has included Aboriginal employment as a priority in the Municipal Association of Victoria's Strategic Plan for 2014–15.

Over 2013–14, Victorian Government with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Municipal Association of Victoria, Reconciliation Victoria and a number of Victorian Councils, peak organisations and Aboriginal organisations worked on the development of the Magolee website which documents best practice by councils in supporting Indigenous Victorians. It is anticipated that the website will go live in early 2015.

There are two notable examples of Victorian councils that have actively engaged with the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities:

- Latrobe City Council which won a 2014 National Award for Excellence in Local Government and also the National Award for Youth Employment for its Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program; and
- Hume City Council which won the National Award for Excellence in Local Government for Disability Access and Inclusion in its School Holiday Program for Indigenous Children with a Disability.

Report from the Municipal Association of Victoria

This report has been provided by Mr Rob Spence, Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of the Municipal Association of Victoria.

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

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) supports transparency and greater accountability in measuring councils' performance for the community. The MAV argues for staged implementation, proposing that councils initially report on a small number of indicators and over time expand the reporting framework. The MAV submission to the regulatory impact statement (RIS) also raised questions about the accuracy of estimated costs, with the likely compliance and reporting costs far higher in the MAV's experience than estimated within the RIS. MAV were able to achieve changes in the specifications of individual indicators to better reflect the complexities and characteristics of those service areas, and the MAV will continue to seek a phased introduction and fewer indicators to provide high quality data. The MAV is also undertaking detailed costing analysis on behalf of councils for various services to ensure that performance measures relating to pricing are as accurate and comparable as possible.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local government funding vehicle

The MAV established a project aimed at introducing a bond for local government. The impetus of the project was the defined benefit shortfall, which resulted in councils topping up the shortfall by over \$400 million. This provided sufficient scale to commence the implementation of a new debt instrument aimed at reducing the price of councils' access to long-term finance

In 2013–14, the MAV established the legal and operational structures for the first public bond issue for local government undertaken in Australia. The Local Government Funding Vehicle was established and will transform the way councils borrow money and deliver intergenerational savings to the sector. The first issuance of the Local Government Funding Vehicle occurred in early 2014–15, with more than 30 councils participating. Expected savings arising from the Local Government Funding Vehicle are in the order of 75 to 90 basis points on loan pricing by accessing wholesale markets at credit ratings above those of retail banks.

As an interim solution, the MAV continued with its short-term collaborative procurement of traditional bank debt at extremely competitive pricing for the 2013–14 year.

Patchwork project

The MAV continued to promote and develop Patchwork, a web application that connects staff from different agencies working with clients in common. Through the pilot project, implemented in July 2013 in five municipalities, Patchwork is proving to be a useful tool to improve communication and collaboration between councils and other organisations, delivering better outcomes for families, particularly vulnerable families. This project links together various service agencies and improves service collaboration, provides opportunities for more coordinated care, potentially improving service quality while simultaneously ensuring efficiency.

The project has now been extended to December 2014, involving a further 15 councils, and the MAV is assisting with training and implementation across councils and other organisations.

Food safety regulation

The MAV has previously partnered with the state in the development of an instrument for the regulation of mobile food businesses. The model attempts to ensure mobile food businesses are captured by the regulatory process, while minimising the cost of the regulation.

Use of the STREATRADER online registration system by temporary and mobile food businesses has exceeded all expectations, with 18,354 premises registered by June 2014. This MAV-managed project is delivering real benefits for all by enabling food businesses to register once to operate in any municipality. This project also allows councils to see the track record of food businesses operating in other municipalities and provides a more robust, consistent and transparent food safety regulatory system, enabling better targeting of regulatory effort where it is needed.

Planning capacity improvement

The MAV, in partnership with the former Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, commenced a pilot programme to evolve the MAV STEP Planning Process Improvement Program to include additional areas of importance to councils such as strategy, customer service and staff development. The pilot builds on the past programme, but recognises that improved performance requires a whole-of-organisation approach to the delivery of planning services. The pilot programme, assisted by 10 councils from metropolitan and regional Victoria, will develop a reporting framework to enable monitoring and benchmarking of performance.

Energy efficient street lighting procurement

The MAV continues to work with individual councils, regional groups and regional greenhouse alliances to roll-out energy efficient street lighting bulk changeover projects. The MAV street lighting replacement programme is the largest energy efficiency initiative in Australian local government history, and the second largest lighting replacement programme in the world (behind only New York City in scale). Seventy-two councils have signed up to or are underway with the program, which equates to 183,000 energy efficient luminaires.

The projects will reduce greenhouse emissions by over 1.2 million tonnes and save the sector up to \$340 million over the 20-year asset life. A number of strong regional projects are being supported by the MAV, including:

- Great South Coast – a collaborative partnership between six councils in the Barwon region;
- Watts Working Better – a collaborative partnership between nine councils in the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance; and
- Lighting the Regions – a collaborative partnership between 16 councils in the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance.

Report from Queensland

This report has been provided by the Hon David Crisafulli MP, former Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience on behalf of the Queensland Government.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The identified road component of the Financial Assistance Grant programme 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 local road grants for Queensland. This formula is:

- 62.85 per cent of the pool is allocated according to road length; and
- 37.15 per cent of the pool is allocated according to population.

General purpose component

A new methodology was implemented for the general purpose component in 2011–12 and has continued to be used since that point in time. The new methodology complies with the National Principles and no further changes were made for the 2013–14 grant allocation.

Note that due to council de-amalgamations, the number of councils in Queensland increased from 73 to 77. Because this change was implemented on 1 January 2014, the third and fourth quarterly payments were divided between each new council and the remaining council. These amounts were approved by the Australian Government. From 2014–15 onwards, these councils will be treated the same as all other councils.

As before, every local governing body in Queensland is entitled to a minimum grant under the National Principles. This minimum grant is equivalent to 30 per cent of the general purpose component pool distributed on a per capita basis. In 2013–14, this amount equated to \$20.90 per capita. The remaining 70 per cent of the general purpose component pool 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 to be applied to all local governments within Queensland.

After application of these averages, the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission uses various cost adjustors which allow for factors outside a council's control which 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, garbage charges, fees and charges, and other grants and subsidies.

The rating assessment has remained: the total Queensland rate revenue is divided by the total land valuation for Queensland to derive a cent in the dollar average, which is then multiplied by each council's total land valuation. Note that both valuation figures above are an average of 10 years, to avoid fluctuations.

$$\frac{\text{Queensland total rate revenue}}{\text{Queensland total valuation (10 year average)}} = \text{Cent in the dollar average} \times \text{Council total valuation (10 year average)}$$

This is then adjusted to allow for a council's capacity to raise rates, using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA). The methodology uses three of the indexes:

- Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (SEIFA 2);
- Index of Economic Resources (SEIFA 3); and
- Index of Education and Occupation (SEIFA 4).

Because Indigenous councils do not levy rates, 20 per cent of their State 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. These are:

- Financial Assistance Grant programme identified local road component (50 per cent);
- State Government Financial Aid (Indigenous councils only – 20 per cent); and
- Financial Assistance Grant programme general purpose component (100 per cent).

Queensland revenue assessment model is described in Table B-11.

Table B-11 Queensland revenue assessment model

Revenue category	Revenue driver	Unit of measure (state average)
Rates	Total valuations	Average cent in dollar rates: \$0.010
Garbage charges	Number of bins serviced	\$287 per bin serviced
Fees and charges	Population	\$413 per capita
Other grants	Actual grants received	Identified Road Grant (50 per cent used) State Government Financial Aid (20 per cent used) Minimum grant component of the General Purpose Grant (100 per cent used)

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;
- roads; and
- environment.

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission considers which of the suite of cost adjusters are applied to which service categories. Expenditure categories, the units of measure and the cost adjusters applied in assessing the cost of service provision are outlined in Table B-12.

Table B-12 Outline of expenditure assessment 2013–14

Service expenditure category	2013–14 unit of measure	Services cost adjustors				
		Location	Demography – Indigenous	Demography – age	Demography – Indigenous/age	Scale
Administration	Actual remuneration category + \$431.56 per capita + \$426.71 per property / \$143.85 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Public order and safety	\$29.72 per capita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education, health, welfare and housing	\$27.59 per capita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garbage and recycling	\$190.00 per bin / \$91.23 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Community amenities, recreation, culture and libraries	\$176.96 per capita	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Building control and town planning	\$223.98 per residential property / \$70.29 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓
Business and industry development	\$38.58 per capita	✓				✓
Roads	Road expenditure assessment (see Table B-13)	✓				✓
Environment	\$111.58 per residential property / \$37.62 per capita (Indigenous councils)	✓				✓

Roads

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission uses an asset preservation model to assess road expenditure, estimating the cost to maintain a council's road network, including bridges and hydraulics. The dollar values allocated on the basis of traffic volumes and the cost adjusters applied are detailed in Table B-13.

Table B-13 Queensland road expenditure assessment model

		Cost adjustors (%)										
		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	
Unformed	272	-	25.0	-	-	-	5.0	10.0	2.0	5.0	-	
<40	544	-	20.0	-	-	-	5.0	10.0	2.0	5.0	-	
Rural	40-150	2,600	-	20.0	-	10.0	10.0	5.0	10.0	2.0	5.0	-
	150-250	4,725	-10.0	15.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	5.0	2.0	5.0	10.0
	250-1,000	6,671	-7.5	10.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	5.0	10.0
	1,000-3,000	8,447	-7.5	10.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	5.0	10.0
	>3,000	11,634	-7.5	10.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	5.0	10.0
Urban	<500	9,295	-7.5	10.0	-2.5	5.0	5.0	2.5	2.5	-	2.0	5.0
	500-1,000	14,455	-7.5	10.0	-2.5	5.0	5.0	2.5	2.5	-	2.0	5.0
	1,000-5,000	22,978	-7.5	10.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	-	2.0	5.0
	5,000-10,000	41,678	-7.5	10.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	-	2.0	5.0
	>10,000	71,233	-7.5	10.0	-5.0	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	-	2.0	5.0

Allowances are given for heavy vehicles, which increase the road usage, increasing a council's road expenditure amount. These are outlined in Table B-14.

Table B-14 Queensland allowances given for heavy vehicles

Vehicles	Allowances
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 the cost of providing services to its community. The current methodology uses the following cost adjustors:

- location – represents the additional costs in the provision of services related to the council location and 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 the average population being one; and
- 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 Indigenous, aged and young residents.

The cost adjusters applied to service categories is identified in Table B-12.

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 2013–14.

Application of the Amalgamation Principle

2012–13 was the first year in which the National Principle for council amalgamation was not applied after the 2008 local government reforms. Therefore, where the outcome of the methodology was a decreased general purpose component for an amalgamated council, that council was allowed to decrease to below the level of the sum of the pre-amalgamated constituent councils. Additionally, an increase cap of 15 per cent and a decrease cap of 10 per cent were applied to councils, except councils which were found to have material errors in their road data, as confirmed with independent road auditors. This continued in 2013–14.

Application of the minimum grant principle

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission determined, on the basis of the methodology, that the following councils were to receive a 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, and Cairns Regional Council.

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

All Queensland local governments are required to have a long-term financial forecast covering at least 10 years and to update the forecast annually.

To assist local governments, Queensland Treasury Corporation has created and maintains a local government forecast model. The model is available to all Queensland local governments and includes five years of historical data and 10 years of forecasts.

In 2013–14, Queensland Treasury Corporation released an updated version of the model and commenced a training programme, with the support of the Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience, to improve the financial forecasting skills and knowledge of local government finance staff through the model.

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

The *Queensland Local Government Comparative Information Report* continued in 2013–14 to assist local governments 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 with other councils.

The Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) included the relevant measures of financial sustainability. These are also included in the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012 (Qld). The measures are used to evaluate the financial sustainability of local governments in Queensland.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The Queensland Government continued to remove unnecessary interference and red tape for Queensland local governments with the *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) which was assented to on 7 November 2013. The *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) builds on the work previously done by the Queensland Government to ensure mayors and councillors are clearly in charge of their councils and are free to operate in a manner which best serves their local community.

The *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) made a number of significant reforms to matters relevant to local government, including allowing local governments to dispose of non-current assets on their own terms without state interference if the disposal is to a government agency or a community organisation. The *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) also provided streamlined processes to ensure the de-amalgamations of four local governments went smoothly on the transfer day, with the four new local governments hitting the ground running on 1 January 2014.

The *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Qld) also strengthened the government's commitment to put councillors and mayors clearly in charge by removing the restriction on a person, if they choose to do so, from being both a councillor and a director of a local government corporate entity.

The Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 was also introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 3 June 2014. It delivers the final element of empowerment for local governments by giving them the choice to run their own quadrennial local government elections under defined circumstances. It also delivers on Queensland's commitment to ensure consistency between local government and state electoral processes.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery 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 2013–14, \$31.6 million was the funding pool for the State Government Financial Aid programme for Queensland's 16 Indigenous councils. This was provided across three separate components. Each council received a \$28.6 million allocation, in lieu of rates, to assist in the delivery of local government services such as community and town planning, urban storm water management, roads, environment and transport and water and sewerage.

In 2013–14, the Queensland Government's Business Incentive Scheme was introduced as an application based funding programme for projects that enhanced the operational efficiencies and profitability of existing council owned businesses or for new and innovative businesses which create employment and improve the economic base of the council and the community. Thirteen projects were funded with a total funding pool of \$1.5 million.

The \$1.5 million Service Delivery Fund was the third component of the State Government Financial Aid in 2013–14. Its objective is to support Indigenous councils to deliver services efficiently and build long-term financial sustainability by maximising opportunities to reduce operating costs and increase own-source revenue. Each Indigenous council received an allocation based on information provided by councils detailing initiatives undertaken to reduce operating costs and to increase own-source revenue.

Other funding provided by the Queensland Government to Indigenous councils in 2013–14 included \$3.525 million under the Revenue Replacement Program, an initiative under Queensland's alcohol-related harm reduction strategy for nine Indigenous local governments which surrendered their council-held canteen licences in 2009. Funding was provided under this programme to assist councils to maintain community services previously funded by the profits from alcohol sales.

Under the Indigenous Economic Development Grant programme, Queensland continued 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 Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, which each received \$160,000 to support 3.2 full-time equivalent positions.

Report from the Local Government Association of Queensland

This report has been provided by Mr Greg Hallam PSM, Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

During 2013–14, the LGAQ and Queensland local governments have risen to the challenge to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions, improving council operations and strengthening relationships with communities. The LGAQ and its subsidiaries continue to support Queensland local governments in adapting to increasing community expectations, with greater involvement in the delivery of a variety of services, while improving and achieving internal council efficiencies.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The LGAQ noted the distribution by the Queensland Government of the Financial Assistance Grant programme and refer to the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission report online at <http://www.qlggc.qld.gov.au>.

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

Queensland councils have (as a legislative requirement) developed adopted and made use of long-term financial and asset management plans, with a strong focus on long-term sustainability. The Queensland Treasury Corporation maintained its local government support with its 10 year financial modelling tool and on request financial sustainability assessments. The LGAQ's Total Solutions also offers assistance to councils in improving asset management practices.

Other projects progressed in 2013-14 to assist asset management include the Road Asset Valuation Toolbox, through the Roads and Transport Alliance (a partnership between Queensland Government and local government). This was named a leading example of the collaborative effort being made to improve asset management by the Queensland Transport, Housing and Local Government Parliamentary Committee. The toolbox provides councils with online road valuation methodology resources, including a set of definitions, specifications and user manuals for local councils.

In addition, activities undertaken by the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (a pilot launched in late 2011 in four regions to develop new joint water and sewerage management approaches) included operational staff training, aligning Drinking Water Quality Management Plans across councils, price benchmarking, tendering arrangements, sharing laboratory services where possible and regional asset management frameworks. Regional Queensland, along with New South Wales, is the only part of Australia where water services are provided primarily by local government.

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

Comparisons between councils remain difficult, due to the many different factors and challenges influencing councils' operations and service delivery. Some of these factors may be outside council control (for example climate, terrain and remoteness) and must be taken into account when making local government service comparison across Queensland.

In 2013-14, the LGAQ has undertaken a review of possible benchmarking and comparison opportunities that could be used in Queensland local government. As part of this work, a Local Government Financial Sustainability Colloquium was held in August 2013. Further work will be progressed on this issue in 2014-15.

Reforms undertaken during 2013-14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

LGAQ outlined online resources, shared service arrangements and specific projects aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery in Queensland.

Online resources

The LGAQ continues to provide a large suite of online resources for councils. A new initiative was the establishment of a legislative compliance service – a centralised online tool to help councils map, track and report on applicable state and federal legislation and regulation. At the time of writing, 4,420 compliance obligations are outlined in this resource.

Shared service arrangements

Queensland councils continue to participate in large scale shared service arrangements primarily set up by the LGAQ 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, Total Solutions, Propel Partnerships, Local Buy, Resolute IT, Local Government Mutual Liability, Local Government Workcare and Queensland Local Government Health Plan.

Local Government Infrastructure Services is a consultancy and procurement service for water, waste, roads, demand management, disaster management and infrastructure recovery areas. During 2013–14, Local Government Infrastructure Services transitioned to become wholly owned by the LGAQ, to better focus on partnering solely with councils.

Other significant achievements for 2013–14 include:

- implementing Local Government Infrastructure Services' Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia award-winning Asset Management tool;
- procurement expertise in delivering cost savings of more than \$800,000 for a South East Queensland council in its Alliance Contract negotiations;
- programme management of flood restoration works following the 2012 and 2013 natural disasters, which has helped councils successfully deliver more than \$200 million in projects;
- development of a revolutionary geothermal programme; and
- Energy Efficiency Guidance Model, Capex Prioritisation Model and Project Management Framework system.

Total Solutions is a fee-for-service tailored business solutions and training for councils. Services include industrial relations, organisational and economic development, governance and delegations support, performance management, media and communications planning, and executive level coaching and mentoring. Specifically developed during 2013–14 were:

- an accredited Local Government Elected Member training package to allow councillors to undertake continued and formally recognised professional development; and
- a wide range of soft-skill courses, computer training and new online learning services.

Propel Partnerships is a venture specifically created in 2006 to help the public sector build capacity and transform service delivery. The 24/7 Out of Hours and Disaster Management Contact Centre, launched in 2013 to offer standard out of hours call centre support and guaranteed disaster management support to councils, partnered with a further 10 councils during 2013–14.

Local Buy is a procurement business set up in 2001 to aggregate the buying power of local government, shorten procurement timeframes and streamline the interaction of business and councils. During 2013–14, key projects included:

- finalising the telecommunications contract, resulting in data and mobile pricing reductions for Queensland councils;
- establishing a dedicated officer to manage intergovernmental interactions; and
- developing a Civil Works and Road Resurfacing panel.

Resolute IT is an information technology business to deliver web hosting, managing and consulting services, with over 80 per cent of its customers based more than 200 kilometres from Brisbane. During 2013–14, Resolute IT began assisting councils with new hybrid cloud solutions.

Local Government Mutual Liability (LGM Queensland) is a legal liability self-insurance scheme. During 2013–14, LGM Queensland provided members with a continued contribution rebate, based on implementation of risk management procedures. LGM Queensland also developed a quarterly electronic claim update to inform members of the circumstances and lessons to be learned from actual claims made against councils.

Local Government Workcare is a workers' compensation self-insurance scheme jointly driven by Queensland councils, council controlled entities and the LGAQ. During 2013–14, Local Government Workcare was granted a further four year self-insurance license term and continued to achieve performance outcomes that exceeded Queensland averages in all claims management key areas. The ongoing safe plan safety management system audit programme was also further streamlined to facilitate more councils conducting internal audits.

Queensland Local Government Health Plan is a joint initiative of the LGAQ and Health Link Consultants, supported by HCF, to reduce health insurance costs. This provides employees with an additional workplace benefit specific to local government and supports efforts to identify councils as attractive employers. During 2013–14, over \$13,000 in excess reimbursements were paid to council employees in the 25 participating councils.

Specific projects

Concept to Construction – Development Assessment Innovation Project is a project partnership between the Queensland Government, the LGAQ and the Council of Mayors (South East Queensland). Announced in May 2013, the project enabled councils to adopt innovative, best practice development assessment systems. The Development Assessment Innovation Project ended in July 2014 having fully achieved each of its deliverables for the nine participating high growth councils, including:

- assessing each participating council's development assessment business against the Framework of Leading Development Assessment Practice developed by the Council of Mayors (South East Queensland);
- developing two year action plans for each participating council;
- working with participating councils to implement solutions of their choice;
- implementing and supporting pilot projects; and
- developing the Queensland Development and Planning Portal.

Development Assessment Monitoring Project is a partnership between the LGAQ and Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) launched in early 2014 to develop an electronic reporting tool for development assessment processes of the participating local governments.

Coastal Councils Adaptation Taskforce is a Queensland coastal local government alliance was established in February 2014 to improve local government capacity to adapt to coastal challenges.

Human Resource Metrics is a project that in 2011, the LGAQ began work with 19 councils to develop a consistent set of human resource metrics. This benchmarking tool assists in better managing workforce matters and provides a foundation for strategic workforce planning.

Building on this work, in 2012 the LGAQ accessed funding from Skills Queensland to develop a local government workforce planning model. In 2013–14, workforce planning began to roll out across councils with in-house briefings provided by the LGAQ. Data that has been collected during this exercise has been shared at the 2013 LGAQ Finance Summit and collection of the 2014 data set is underway.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The LGAQ has provided information on the Indigenous Leaders Forum and social housing as initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Indigenous Leaders Forum

There were two meetings of the Indigenous Leaders Forum (comprising mayors, councillors and senior council officers of the 17 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils (including Torres Shire Council)) convened in October 2013 and June 2014. The latter meeting was held on Thursday Island and was the first to be convened outside of Cairns or Brisbane. This helped the local economy and provided an opportunity to showcase the local community.

Requests from government agencies for additional access to the Indigenous Leaders Forum and its membership prompted the convening of ‘conversations’ to complement the work of the Indigenous Leaders Forum. A first-ever policing conversation was attended by executive members of the Queensland Police Service as well as all relevant regional officers.

Other key outcomes from the Indigenous Leaders Forum include:

- ongoing consultation on implementation of the Government Home Ownership programme;
- agreement on the new Police/Local Government Operational review methodology;
- ongoing discussions around the review of the Retail Store Mode;
- input into government training policy; and
- a workforce capacity strategy.

Social housing

As detailed in the LGAQ’s 31 March 2014 submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics’ Inquiry into Affordable Housing, Queensland councils have been a major provider of social housing for many years. At the time of the submission, 58 councils (82 per cent) delivered social housing. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils are often the sole manager of long-term housing properties in their local government area. Land administration matters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are extremely complex and the LGAQ advocated for a specific land administration and housing strategy that includes all three spheres of government to assist in their continued economic and social development.

To respond to the challenges presented by recent Australian Government and Queensland Government housing policy changes, during 2013–14 the LGAQ worked with councils on the community housing registration decision making process and has published the information booklet *Local Government and Community Housing*.

Report from Western Australia

This report has been provided by the Hon Tony Simpson MLA, Minister for Local Government, Community Services, Seniors and Volunteering, Youth on behalf of the Western Australian Government.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission completed a comprehensive review of its general purpose component methodology in 2012, which was applied to the 2012–13 grant determinations and remains relatively unchanged for 2013–14.

General purpose component

The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission retained the Balanced Budget method for allocating the general purpose component, albeit with many changes. These changes were predominantly calculations associated with the formulas behind the Balanced Budget. The most significant change is that the disabilities are calculated prior to the standards.

The Balanced Budget approach to horizontal equalisation applies to all 138 local governments in Western Australia and is based on the formula: assessed expenditure need – assessed revenue capacity = assessed equalisation requirement.

Calculation of assessed revenue capacity is based on a standardised mathematical formulae updated annually and 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 based on a standardised mathematical formulae updated annually, involving the assessment of 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. Disabilities applied to expenditure standards are provided in Table B-15.

Table B-15 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. This approach ensures that a local government's population needs are considered and smaller local governments are not compensated excessively for small populations.

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

To calculate the disabilities applied to the expenditure standards, the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission uses data from a wide range of sources, which wherever possible is collected from independent bodies and not the local government themselves. These data sources are provided in Table B-16.

Table B-16 Western Australian data sources

Data type	Source
Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia	National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Population, population forecasts	Australian Bureau of Statistics, Western Australian Department of Planning – <i>Western Australia Tomorrow: Population Report No 7 2006–2026</i>
Population dispersion	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Regional centres	Determined by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission
Indigenous population	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Terrain	Department of Home Affairs and Environment – <i>Biophysical Attributes of Local Government</i>
Cyclone	Australian Building Standards for Cyclone Prone Areas
Off-road drainage data	Road Information Returns, Main Roads Western Australia
Interest expenditure/investment revenue	Western Australian Treasury Corporation, Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission Information Returns
Valuations, area, assessments	Landgate (Valuer General)
RCI rates, agricultural rates, pastoral rates, mining rates	Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission Information Returns
Climate	Bureau of Meteorology

Methodology refinements for 2013–14

There were no significant updates to the methodology in 2013–14 as the methodology review was completed for the 2012–13 Grant Determinations.

Expenditure and revenue standards were calculated in the same way as in 2012–13, however equations were updated to reflect the new input data.

2013–14 General Purpose Component Allocations

In 2013–14, 31 local governments received the minimum grant entitlement, which equated to \$21.01 per capita. Local governments that received a minimum grant in 2013–14 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* (Cwlth).

In 2013–14, there were still some local governments receiving significantly less than their calculated equalisation. The Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission has continued to phase-in increases and decreases to lessen the impact on local governments, agreeing to adopt a maximum increase of 16 per cent and a maximum decrease of 10 per cent for the general purpose component.

Detailed calculations and explanations are available on the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission's website at <http://dlg.wa.gov.au/Content/LG/GrantsCommission/>.

Local road grant funding

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

Under the current principles, seven per cent of the Australian Government funds provided under the local road component 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 a third of the cost of special projects funded under this programme. The amounts involved for 2013–14 are provided in Table B-17.

Table B-17 Western Australian 2013–14 local road grant funding

Component	Amount
Roads servicing Indigenous communities	\$2,492,601
Bridges	\$4,985,201
Distributed according to the APM	\$99,096,648
Total	\$106,574,450

Special Projects – roads servicing remote Indigenous communities

The Special Projects funds for Indigenous access roads for 2013–14 are provided in Table B-18.

Table B-18 Western Australian 2013–14 Special Projects funds for Indigenous access roads

Component	Amount
Special Project funds from Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission	\$2,492,601
State funds from Main Roads Western Australia	\$1,246,300
Total	\$3,738,901

The Indigenous Roads Committee advises the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission on procedures for determining the allocations of Australian Government road funds

for roads servicing remote Indigenous communities and recommends the allocations that are made each year. Membership of the committee is made up of representatives from each of the following organisations:

- Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission (Chair);
- Western Australian Local Government Association;
- Main Roads Western Australia;
- Western Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs;
- Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and
- Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities.

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 programme.

Special Projects – bridges

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

The Special Project funds for bridges are only allocated to preservation type projects, recognising that some of these projects may include some upgrading and that preservation includes replacement when the existing bridge has reached the end of its economic life.

The funds for the preservation of bridges for 2013–14 are provided in Table B-19.

Table B-19 Western Australian funding for the preservation of bridges 2013–14

Component	Amount
Special Project funds from the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission	\$4,985,201
State funds from Main Roads Western Australia	\$2,492,600
Total	\$7,477,801

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

- Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission (Chair);
- 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. The 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 make applications to the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission for bridge funding each year.

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

All local governments were required to have in place from 1 July 2013 a Strategic Community Plan and a Corporate Business Plan, supported by Asset Management, Workforce and Long Term Financial Management Plans.

A compliance review of a random sample of plans submitted for 30 June 2013, including Asset Management and Long Term Financial Management Plans, was subsequently undertaken and feedback provided to local governments.

In addition, local government stakeholders participated in a workshop hosted by the Western Australian Department of Regional Development to prioritise capacity building efforts that should be directed towards country local governments. This workshop prioritised a project to support local governments with conducting self-assessment on their asset management capability through the National Assessment Framework; and also to conduct asset condition and rating assessments to their assets. The project has been designed so that local governments will capture the knowledge required to enable them to collect asset data and to carry the collected data through into their Asset Management Plans and Long Term Financial Plans. With funding obtained through the Country Local Government Fund, the planning of this project commenced during 2013-14, including the establishment of a panel of asset management consultants qualified to deliver specialist training to up to 75 country local governments. The first consultant contracts from the panel were released on 30 June 2014.

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

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities continued to use the Integrated Planning and Reporting Advisory Standard as the performance measurement standards and the annual Capability Survey to enable local governments to assess and report on their progress.

Local governments made significant improvements in building their capacity to plan strategically for the future, with a survey of local government capability in March 2014 reporting that 96 per cent of local governments have adopted Strategic Community Plans, 85 per cent have adopted Corporate Business Plans, 90 per cent have Workforce Plans and 80 per cent have Asset Management and Long Term Financial Management Plans.

To assist local governments to meet the regulatory requirements, local governments have been supported with the publication of guidelines and advisory standards, a dedicated website, training programmes, funding and advice. There were 25 grants totalling \$561,372 provided to support Workforce Planning.

Reforms undertaken during 2013-14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The Western Australian Government provided details on the country local government and metropolitan reform.

Country local government reform

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities continues to support the country local government initiated reform including support to local governments engaged in Regional Collaborative Groups. Four Regional Collaborative Groups prepared Regional Business Plans identifying potential opportunities for collaboration between local governments in their region. The objective is to deliver better services and cost savings through implementation of these collaborative initiatives, with support provided through the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund.

In 2013–14, the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities:

- provided resources to support the local governments of Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin and York (the South East Avon Regional Transition Group) to progress an amalgamation proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board;
- attended regular meetings of the South East Avon Regional Transition Group to progress reform options;
- participated in community workshops and presentations to assist the South East Avon Regional Transition Group;
- continued to meet with the Town of Narrogin to finalise reform options;
- provided regular communications on reform developments to community and stakeholders;
- provided advice and support to 21 local governments participating in four Regional Collaborative Groups to progress implementation of collaboration initiatives;
- finalised project outcomes for Regional Collaborative Groups including; asset management, information and communication technology, payroll processing, skills shortage agreements;
- assessed project outcomes of Regional Collaborative Groups and provided quarterly report updates to the Western Australian Department of Regional Development on the allocation of the Country Local Government Fund;
- provided three grants totalling \$349,000 for the implementation of Regional Business Plans; and
- provided one grant totalling \$25,600 to support amalgamation planning and implementation in Narrogin.

Metropolitan reform

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities is leading the development and implementation of the Western Australian Government's agenda for local government reform, with metropolitan Perth local governments a major focus. This is a priority for the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities and is in line with the Western Australian Government's goal to build a stronger local government sector for the future. Outcomes for local governments will be the ability to deliver better services, reduced bureaucracy and cost savings through economies of scale. During 2013, the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities:

- provided policy support for the Western Australian Government's response, released on 30 July 2013, to the 30 recommendations from the year-long Metropolitan Local Government Review;

- provided strategies and policy support to enable the Western Australian Minister for Local Government to formally lodge 12 proposals for changes to Perth's local government boundaries with the independent Local Government Advisory Board;
- provided dedicated support to the Local Government Advisory Board during its inquiries into 38 proposals for reform to metropolitan local government boundaries (the Local Government Advisory Board is conducting the Metropolitan Local Government District Inquiries under the existing provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*);
- analysed and advised on financial requirements in preparation for local government reform and oversaw the distribution of \$1.7 million in grants to local governments for initial transition planning;
- combined with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Local Government Managers Australia (Western Australia) to develop an online toolkit to guide local governments through the tasks to be completed for the introduction of changes;
- supported services to the high level Metropolitan Reform Implementation Committee established during the year to oversee the implementation of the metropolitan local government reforms (membership includes representatives from WALGA, the Local Government Managers Australia (Western Australia) and local governments participating in Local Implementation Committees);
- engaged with other Western Australian Government agencies to identify and consider any matters arising from local government reform that would affect them so they could prepare for the changes ahead; and
- provided regular communications on metropolitan local government reform developments to the community and other stakeholders.

Report from the Western Australian Local Government Association

This report has been provided by Mayor Troy Pickard, President of the Western Australia Local Government Association.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The distribution methodology for the general purpose component of Financial Assistance Grant programme was reviewed in 2011–12. Changes resulting from this review were introduced for the 2012–13 financial year. The methodology for distributing the road grant component of the Financial Assistance Grant programme was unchanged from previous years.

The distribution methodology resulted in some major changes to the nominal general purpose component allocation for some local governments. In 2012–13, the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission decided to mitigate these changes by placing limits on increases and decreases to local governments' annual general purpose component allocation. In 2013–14, the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission also applied such limits: maximum increases were 14.91 per cent and maximum decreases were 11.28 per cent.

Overall, the continued phase-in of the new methodology over 2013–14 was well received by local governments in Western Australia. The key problem, however, preventing greater horizontal fiscal equalisation remains: the increasing inadequacy of the Financial Assistance Grant programme funding pool. The Financial Assistance Grant programme as a proportion of total Australian Government taxation revenue has decreased from approximately 1.2 per cent in 1991–92 to 0.6 per cent in 2013–14.

As a result of this decreased assistance from the Australian Government, local governments must increasingly draw upon the fiscal capacity of their communities. While this may be possible for some local governments in urban areas with high average incomes, the same cannot be said of most local governments in Western Australia. Rural councils, in particular, are heavily reliant on grant funding and already have rate levels at or near their feasible maximum. Indeed, in 2008, the Productivity Commission found that rural and remote local governments were already drawing heavily on their fiscal capacities and had little potential to increase their own-source revenue.¹ Until grant assistance is restored to previous levels, revenues and fiscal capacities will become increasingly unequal among local governments and many will continue to struggle to achieve financial sustainability.

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

Working on the implementation of Integrated Planning and Reporting was a key focus for local government sector in Western Australia during 2013–14. The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) worked with the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities, Local Government Managers Australia (Western Australia) and representatives from local governments in Western Australia to support the sector during this period of change. The WALGA has been represented on a Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities reference group established to assist in the development of updated Integrated Planning and Reporting Frameworks and Guidelines; this work is due for completion in early 2015.

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

The local government sector in Western Australia implemented Integrated Planning and Reporting from July 2013. As a result there was little activity undertaken on comparative performance measures in 2013–14. Nonetheless, some local governments worked with the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities to assess their own performance against the future requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. As the reforms are bedded down and Western Australian local governments gain further experience with the integrated frameworks, comparative performance measures will be developed (these are likely to be developed from 2014–15 onwards). WALGA sought to ensure that those local governments that were selected in a random sample by the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities to provide their Integrated Planning and Reporting documents for appraisal were not unduly reprimanded for the quality or variance from that of their documentation.

¹ Productivity Commission 2008, *Assessing Local Government Revenue Raising Capacity*.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

General reforms undertaken in 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery focused on the integration of local government's asset management, financial management and workforce management responsibilities with strategic community plans.

In terms of specific reform initiatives, the Western Australian Government's Metropolitan Local Government Reform programme was a major advocacy focus of the local government sector and WALGA during 2013–14. The reform process will result in a reduction in the number of local governments in metropolitan Perth due to amalgamations and boundary changes.

One of WALGA's key activities in this period was to work jointly with the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities and the Local Government Managers Australia (Western Australia) in developing the Local Government Reform Toolkit. The toolkit is primarily an online resource that provides guidance on the numerous tasks local governments will have to manage in the lead-up to the metropolitan reform commencement date of 1 July 2015 and beyond. While the toolkit was developed in response to the Metropolitan Local Government Reform programme, it will also be a useful resource across the sector in guiding best practice processes. Other local government reform activities undertaken by WALGA during this period included:

- advocating for sufficient Western Australian Government funding for the Metropolitan Local Government Reform programme;
- establishing a Metropolitan Reform Implementation Policy Forum to inform the WALGA's advocacy on a number of metropolitan reform issues;
- establishing a Country Reform Policy Forum to research, develop and consider best practice approaches to governance models for rural local governments in Western Australia; and
- participating in a pilot session with the Shire of Esperance and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government. This focused on service delivery reviews and the 'how to' manual for local government (produced by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government) which will assist local government to review their current and future service delivery.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Council of Australian Governments National Aboriginal Reform Agreement provides the current framework for the Australian and state and territory governments to work together with Aboriginal Australians and the broader community to achieve the target of Closing the Gap in Aboriginal disadvantage. The key objective, from a local government perspective, is the progressive transfer of responsibility for municipal and essential services to the Western Australian Governments (and therefore, local governments), as outlined in the 2009 National Partnership Agreement on Remote Aboriginal Housing. A total of 22 local governments are affected in Western Australia. The agreement finishes on 30 June 2015 and the Australian Government has confirmed it will not be providing funding for municipal and essential services after this date.

The Western Australian Government recently accepted a payment of \$90 million to transfer responsibility for municipal and essential services to the Western Australian Government

from 1 July 2015. The Western Australian Government has adopted an Aboriginal Investment Strategy to guide future funding and service delivery. An implementation plan is in development.

WALGA has continued to advocate and participate in bilateral discussions about normalisation of service delivery to Aboriginal communities, as set out in the Sector Communique to the State Government (2011). The sector continues to be concerned about the lack of planning and funding for local governments to assume responsibility for municipal service delivery to Aboriginal communities in a fiscally responsible or acceptable manner.

The Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities is establishing a new advisory committee to provide input to the planning process. WALGA continues to provide advice to the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Communities project to ensure the interests of local government are represented.

Report from South Australia

This report has been provided by the Hon Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Local Government, on behalf of the South Australian Government and the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA).

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The methodology used to assess the general-purpose component of the Financial Assistance Grant programme 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* (Cwlth).

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.

General-purpose component formulae

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. The key to these formulae are:

- 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 = (expenditure or income)/ U
- RRI = Revenue Relativity Index. CRI = Cost Relativity Index (previously known as the disability factor). They are centred around 1.00, i.e. RRI_s or CRI_s equals 1.00. If more than one CRI exists for any function then they are multiplied together to give an overall CRI 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 Index of Economic Resources from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas. Where no revenue relativity index exists the $RRI_c = 1.0$. Currently in all expenditure calculations, with the exception of roads and stormwater, there are no disability factors applied and consequently $CRI_c = 1.0$.

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, (\$20.75 for 2013–14), 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 2013–14 grants, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission constrained changes to council's grants to between minus five and positive 12 per cent. Changes in grant for the majority of councils were in the range of minus 1.5 per cent and positive nine per cent.

Grants to three councils were reduced at higher levels of minus five, three and two per cent as part of a process of decreasing grants in a manageable way for these councils and three councils received increased grants of around 12 per cent. An iterative process is then undertaken until the full allocation is determined.

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 South Australian 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 RRI_c and those for South Australia as a whole, and multiplying this back by the council's population.

The South Australian 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, namely residential, commercial, industrial, rural and other.

To overcome fluctuations in the base data, valuations, rate revenue and population are averaged over three years. RRI_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 2013-14, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission continued to exclude library subsidies from the grant calculations along with the libraries expenditure function due to concerns over the consistency of data provided by councils to the Public Library Services section of the South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

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 South Australia 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 the comparison to be consistent and to compare like with like.

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, in this example to reconstruct or maintain a kilometre of road. Accordingly, the methodology allows for a 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, Cost Relativity Indexes measure relative costs 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 B-20 details the approach taken to expenditure functions included in the methodology.

For 2013–14, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission continued to exclude the libraries expenditure function from the methodology, as discussed above for library subsidies. Data gathered relating to visitor numbers has shown inconsistencies over the averaging period used by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission (three years), with some significant fluctuations in data for many councils. This issue is being investigated as part of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission’s methodology review.

Table B-20 South Australian expenditure functions

Expenditure function	Standard cost	Units of measure
Waste management	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of residential 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 zero to 14 years per Australian Bureau of Statistics Census and estimated resident population
Health inspection	Reported expenditures ¹	Establishments to inspect
Libraries	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of library visitors
Sport and recreation	Reported expenditures ¹	Population aged five – 49 years per Australian Bureau of Statistics Census and estimated resident population
Sealed roads – built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of built-up sealed road
Sealed roads – non-built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of non-built-up sealed road
Sealed roads – footpaths etc.	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of built-up sealed road
Unsealed roads – built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of built-up unsealed road
Unsealed roads – non-built-up ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of non-built-up unsealed road
Unformed roads ⁵	Reported expenditures ¹	Kilometres of unformed road
Stormwater drainage maintenance ^{2, 3}	Reported expenditures ¹	Number of urban properties ⁴
Community support	Reported expenditures ¹	Three year average population 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

- Notes:
- 1 Council's net expenditure reported in the South Australian Local Government Grants Commissions' 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 Cost Relativity Indexes 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 Cost Relativity Indexes 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 general post office to the main service centre for the council (as published in the Local Government Association of South Australia's South Australian Local Government Directory);
 - 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;
 - 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 from 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; and
- provision of cultural and tourist facilities – assessed to be high, medium or low.

This 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. The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission is aware that there are many 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 inherent or special 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, the knowledge gained during visits to council areas and as a result of discussions with elected members and staff.

The calculated standards by function are outlined in Table B-21.

Table B-21 South Australian summary of figures by function

Total Population = 1,654,778

<i>Function</i>	<i>Standard in dollars</i>	<i>Unit of measure per capita</i>	<i>Total units of measure</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>
Expenditure functions				
Waste management	164.51	0.41038	675,116	Number of residential properties
Aged care services	129.50	0.15955	262,473	Population aged more than 65
Services to families and children	55.01	0.17640	290,198	Population aged zero to 14
Health inspection	271.36	0.01289	21,209	Establishments to inspect
Libraries	–	–	–	Number of visitors
Sport and recreation	137.15	0.78107	1,284,932	Population aged five to 49
Sealed roads – built up	10,076.86	0.00640	10,533	Kilometres of sealed built-up
Sealed roads – non built up	10,076.86	0.00456	7,494	Kilometres of sealed non-built-up
Sealed roads – footpaths	12,833.81	0.00640	10,533	Kilometres of sealed built-up
Unsealed roads – built up	1,562.80	0.00044	725	Kilometres of formed and surfaced, and natural surface formed built-up road
Unsealed roads – non built up	1,562.80	0.02863	47,101	Kilometres of formed and surfaced, and natural surface formed non-built-up road
Roads – unformed	122.41	0.00534	8,779	Kilometres of natural surfaced unformed road
Stormwater drainage – maintenance	68.42	0.44292	728,640	Number of urban, industrial and commercial properties including exempt
Community support	39.86	0.99994	1,644,993	Three year average population Socio-Economic Index for Areas Advantage Disadvantage Cost Relativity Index
Jetties and wharves	3,337.66	0.00005	77	Number of jetties and wharves
Public order and safety	20.47	0.56315	926,438	Total number of properties
Planning and building control	1,235.12	0.02819	46,379	Number of new developments and additions
Bridges	5,847.39	0.00067	1,103	Number of bridges
Other special needs	1.00	28.65709	47,143,400	Total of dollars attributed

South Australian summary of figures by function (continued)

<i>Function</i>	<i>Standard in dollars</i>	<i>Unit of measure per capita</i>	<i>Total units of measure</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>
Revenue functions				
Rates – residential	0.0031	145,019	238,291,129,107	Valuation of residential
– commercial	0.0058	18,769	30,876,879,737	Valuation of commercial
– industrial	0.0090	2,763	4,546,070,265	Valuation of industrial
– rural	0.0029	20,253	32,826,417,363	Valuation of rural
– other	0.0024	10,186	16,756,361,634	Valuation of other
Subsidies	1.00	19.37079	31,866,636	The total of the subsidies

Calculated standards by function

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission uses Table B-21 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 councils 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 Cost Relativity Indexes 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 grant, (\$20.75 for 2013–14), the grant is adjusted to bring it up to the per capita minimum entitlement. The balance of the allocated amount, less 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 2013–14 grants, constrained changes to councils to between minus five and positive 12 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 pool 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 Local Government Transport Advisory Panel which 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 distribution of Financial Assistance Grant programme.

It has a broad responsibility for management and local governance of the unincorporated areas of South Australia. The Outback Communities Authority has a particular emphasis on providing assistance in the provision of local government type services 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 2013–14 per capita grant was \$365.96.

General purpose component to the Outback Communities Authority was held to zero change for 2013–14 in recognition of the one-off increase of \$100,000 provided in 2012–13. This approach prevented a decrease in grants for the Outback Communities Authority for 2013–14.

Aboriginal Communities

Since 1994–95, the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has allocated grants to five Aboriginal communities recognised as local governing authorities. The Aboriginal communities are Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, Gerard Community Council Incorporated, Maralinga Tjarutja, Nipapanha Community Council Incorporated and Yalata Community Council Incorporated.

Again 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, which 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 pool of funding for South Australia since the initial study. For 2013–14, the per capita grant varied from \$182.35 for the Gerard Community Council to \$1,147.81 for the Maralinga Tjarutja Community.

Changes to Methodology for 2013–14

There have been no changes to the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission's methodology for 2013–14, except for the continued exclusion of the libraries expenditure function on the expenditure side and library subsidies on the revenue side.

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has completed a full review of its methodology and recommendations were presented by KPMG in July 2013. Consideration of the recommendations will take place in due course.

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

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 that covers a period of at least 10 years.

The Australian Government-funded Local Government Reform Fund Project (which targeted long-term financial and asset management plans) was completed during the year. The final phase of the project incorporated the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) Business Partner Program, which paired an LGASA business partner with a cluster of three, four or five country councils in a geographical region to:

- establish (or reinforce) skill sets to enable council staff to maintain, on an ongoing basis, their asset plans, long-term financial plans and service level plans; and
- establish a peer support network within a cluster of councils to maintain these skills after the expiry of the business partner period.

Separate to the Local Government Reform Fund, the LGASA continued to provide financial sustainability support to councils. This included guidance papers for the purposes of:

- estimating useful lives of infrastructure assets;
- fair value measurement;
- calculating full cost of projects ('costing principles for local government') and
- national competition policy and competitive neutrality.

The LGASA participated with the Australian Local Government Association in producing the national State of the Assets report which:

- assessed the current position of councils in relation to implementation of asset management plans and long-term financial plans;
- provided an assessment of the current stock of transport assets in terms of condition, function and quality, with associated confidence levels; and
- provided additional perspectives based on rural and urban classifications and individual state or territory data.

Further work is now being undertaken with the Australian Local Government Association to include assets other than roads.

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

The LGASA's former Comparative Performance Measurement Project has been put on hold due to declining participation by councils. In 2013-14, the LGASA began exploring data definitions across a number of functional areas and the outcome of this work will inform an ongoing review of the Performance Measurement Project.

Financial Indicators

Each year, the LGASA assembles an update report providing the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector as a whole. The 2014

update report (covering the 12-year period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2013) included data on the operating surplus (deficit), net financial liabilities ratio and operating surplus ratio, for the sector as a whole.

In addition, the report provided a comparison between categories of councils in respect of 2012–13 actual results for their operating surplus ratio and net financial liabilities ratio.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The LGASA is working with mobile technology as a reform to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery.

A major milestone in February 2014 saw the launch of the My Local Services App. The app has been developed in close consultation with councils to deliver kerbside waste collection schedules, parks, libraries and event information on the mobile platform. Some features, such as the issue reporting function, work in every council area. As at June 2014, 30 councils in South Australia had signed on to deploy the My Local Services App, providing all features to their residents.

Waste

During 2013–14, Community Wastewater Management Scheme construction activity started at Mallala, continued at Mount Compass and reached turn-key status at Beachport, the largest scheme under the current funding arrangement. Other projects supported by the Community Wastewater Management Scheme Management Committee were, by 30 June 2014, in various stages of design, public consultation, tender call and development approval. They included Cowell, Port Neill, Truro, Peterborough, Penneshaw and Wirrabara.

Third-party data validation for the joint Community Wastewater Management Scheme Management Committee/Flinders University research into high-rate algal ponds has been completed by a nationally accredited testing agency and aims to achieve faster treatment, reduced costs, lower evaporation and lower the carbon footprint of the treated wastewater. The Community Wastewater Management Scheme Management Committee continued its technical and seed funding support of the Community Wastewater Management Scheme Joint User Groups assisting the establishment of the Eyre Peninsula group incorporating nine councils during 2014. The South East Joint User Group continues to operate successfully and is demonstrating significant benefits in improved management and monitoring of schemes in the region. The Community Wastewater Management Scheme Management Committee continues to liaise closely with, and provide advice to, the Essential Services Commission of South Australia in its ongoing introduction of regulatory and monitoring procedures and requirements for council providers of water and wastewater services.

Climate change

The LGASA Renewable Energy Pilot Program raised more than \$280,000 for the Solar Innovation Fund, which was used to fund innovative local government renewable or low-emission energy technology projects. This Renewable Energy Pilot Program was undertaken in two rounds, with seven round-one projects completed by 30 June 2014. Projects included sustainable lighting for community areas in Victor Harbor and a water reuse facility in Tea Tree Gully. The remaining five round-two projects were to be completed by the end of 2014.

Since February 2013 the LGASA, University of South Australia and District Council of Mallala have undertaken extensive testing and application of the Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways tool. The aim was to identify and evaluate potential sea level rise adaptation strategies for the coastal settlements of Parham, Webb Beach, Thompson Beach and Middle Beach. The method comprised identification of coastal settlements at risk from sea level rise using digital elevation models and site surveying, along with extensive community engagement activities regarding the options for adaptation. Outcomes will be used to consider how the LGASA will support councils with assets at risk from sea level rise. The findings have already resulted in the LGASA committing to expand the scope of the tool and to undertake further testing of the tool with other councils in the next financial year.

Guidance to assist the development of regional adaptation plans, including undertaking integrated vulnerability assessments, has been reviewed, updated and consolidated into one document. The Climate Adaptation Planning Guideline represents the most up-to-date methods, processes and scientific data for climate adaptation planning. The Climate Adaptation Planning Guideline will be available in the next financial year. The paper version will be accompanied by a web-based tool, which is being developed with the re-design of the LGASA website.

The LGASA completed the Climate Change Impacts on Local Government Assets Project during 2013-14 by integrating the model, developed as part of the project, into the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia National Asset Management System Plus toolkit and through hosting training sessions in Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne. The project outcomes will enable local government asset managers to determine the likely impact of climate change on roads and as more resources become available, other asset classes.

Public health

The LGASA worked closely with the South Australian Government, to deliver training and development opportunities to support council work on public health planning and implementation of the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA). This was complemented by comprehensive guidance materials, population health profiles (prepared for the LGASA by the University of Adelaide for each council/group of councils working together in this area) and resources prepared to support arrangements for the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA) which came into full operation just two weeks before the start of the 2013-14 financial year.

The LGASA held a successful two-day forum in March 2014 for more than 100 environmental health officers and other delegates. The forum provided support to environmental health officers on the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA), the *Food Act 2001* (SA) and other relevant legislation, including the *Emergency Management Act 2004* (SA).

A series of information papers about the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA) and its particular application to councils were published on the LGASA website and circulated to councils along with updated guidance for cooperation between councils and other authorities, ensuring adequate sanitation measures are in place to promote public health and model policies and procedures.

Community services

Through a strong relationship with the Local Government Community Managers' Network and the Australian Local Government Association, the LGASA remained in touch with Australian Government reforms to the Home and Community Care and the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). In consultation with councils, the LGASA prepared a

position paper on the role of local government in community support for ageing communities. This paper assisted with discussions at the national level about the future of Home and Community Care service delivery.

The LGASA was a key partner in creating the cross-sector Volunteering Strategy for South Australia, launched in February 2014. The strategy was developed with three partners – the South Australian Government, Volunteering SA and NT and South Australia’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The LGASA continues to have a role in delivering the strategy through representation on the Volunteering Strategy Partnership Board and provision of executive officer assistance to working groups. The *Volunteer Workforce Health and Safety Training Framework: A Guide for Local Government* was developed and published during the year. This identifies key issues, including recent changes to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)*, for councils to consider when engaging volunteers.

Workforce planning

The LGASA Workforce Planning project was finalised early in the year with 39 councils involved. Councils that completed the project received a comprehensive workforce plan and workforce development strategies covering skills gaps, staff retention, succession planning, recruitment, training, mentoring, resource sharing and collaborative initiatives and practices.

The project spanned three years and the results reflected the changing nature of the workforce and its opportunities and limitations during that period. Hard to fill job roles initially reflected the impact of the mining boom but as the project proceeded this situation changed to reflect changed economic circumstances. Critical or hard to fill job roles that spanned this period included managers or leaders, environmental health officers, planners, building surveyors and records management officers. The LGASA received a final report and recommendations will be addressed in consultation with the sector in the following year.

Anti-corruption

The LGASA continued to work closely with the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption and provided a range of material for councils to help manage their administrative requirements in accordance with best practice. The LGASA also provided funding to a University of Adelaide project designed to explore public attitudes to corruption.

Legal services pilot

A 12-month pilot programme to assist councils with legal matters under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* started in March 2014. The purpose of the pilot is to assist councils to reduce overall legal expenditure and maximise value from required expenditure. Activities included:

- the provision of legal advice by a qualified and experienced legal practitioner;
- acting as a first point of contact for councils seeking assistance with legal matters;
- a legal services governance audit; and
- production of a quarterly issues summary for participating pilot councils to share legal advice.

By 30 June 2014, eight councils had agreed to participate in the pilot. It is expected the pilot will provide information on levels of demand that will shape a future legal service to be offered by the LGASA.

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

The Local Government Research and Development Scheme is a primary source of funding for research in local government. Funded through tax equivalent payments by the Local Government Finance Authority, it is overseen by an advisory committee.

The scheme has approved a total of 557 projects since its inception in 1997 and provided \$23.9 million in funding. This has attracted significant matching funds and in-kind support from other sources.

Key projects funded by the Local Government Research and Development Scheme during 2013–14 were:

- extension of Plant Selector + for regional South Australia and image library;
- Inspections Made Easy: electronic input forms for environmental health professionals;
- public housing stock transfer – impacts and implications for local government;
- green procurement by South Australian Local Government;
- enabling rural migrant settlement;
- identifying planning issues on rural/primary industry land;
- development of a China Strategy and Guide;
- tourism, events, development research;
- vegetation management near power lines;
- good practice guidelines for development bonds;
- abundant species management;
- online and distance learning;
- open data / creative commons licensing;
- The Future of Libraries;
- guidelines for establishing section 41 committees;
- chief executive officer appraisal process – code of practice;
- local excellence expert panel research;
- mining task force; and
- Indigenous graduates in local government.

Guidelines and model policies

The LGASA continued to provide a range of material, to assist councils to meet their governance obligations. These included model policies and procedures, guidelines, information papers and codes of practice. Those published or updated in 2013–14 included the Meeting Procedures Handbook.

Procurement

As part of the 2012 Year of Procurement, the LGASA established a partnership with Norman Waterhouse Lawyers to create a suite of policy, tendering and contracting documents for use by councils in South Australia. The result was a comprehensive procurement manual,

contracting and tendering templates and guidelines that provided councils with clarity, certainty, value and support throughout the procurement process.

An increasing number of councils were using the templates to improve efficiency, lower procurement costs and reduce procurement risk.

Guidelines and model policies

The LGASA continued to provide a range of material, to assist councils to meet their governance obligations. These materials include model policies and procedures, guidelines, information papers and codes of practice. Those published or updated in 2012–13 included:

- Better Practice Model – Internal Financial Controls;
- Model Rating Policy;
- Council Members' Allowances and Benefits Model Policy;
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention – Model Policy;
- Confidentiality Guidelines: How to Apply Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA);
- Public Consultation Guideline; and
- Guide to preparing a Strategic Management Plan.

Education and training

During 2012–13, the LGASA provided training and support programmes to just under 2,000 council members and staff who attended LGASA courses and seminars during the year.

Eighty council elected members enrolled in online training modules and up to 50 council elected members accessed the online self-assessment tool.

Development planning

During 2012–13, the LGASA launched two comprehensive resources to assist councils in the planning and delivery of growth and development. These included:

- Guide to Managing Growth which was launched at the April 2013 LGASA General Meeting. The guide provided a step-by-step practical resource to navigate the key stages of significant development processes, with the flexibility to be applied to a range of development scenarios. It provided a number of model methods and processes, as well as worksheets and checklists that promote best practice; and
- Economic Impacts Scenario Assessment Model which was introduced to councils in August 2012. The model provides a tool for measuring the short and long-term financial impacts to council on a development scenario. The model facilitated more informed long-term financial planning and asset planning and assisted councils to ensure that they can sustainably fund and maintain the infrastructure that supports development.

Emergency preparedness and resilience

The LGASA's Emergency Assessment Reporting System was developed to capture real time information about emergency events to allow better response and recovery planning. The system is based on the tremendous functionality of smartphones, the scalable capacity of cloud and the power of information access via the web. Fundamental to this application of technology is its combination with the local resources of people on the ground where the emergencies are

actually happening. The smartphone app includes a routine business module which will allow councils to record every day incidents in a consistent format within a web map interface, the data from which can be downloaded in several file formats.

The LGASA continued to lobby the South Australian Government to provide adequate levels of assistance to councils recovering from the impact of natural disasters. The LGASA also facilitated the development of an *Infrastructure Damage Assessment and Claims Guide* for councils to streamline the claims process and provide adequate levels of transparency and probity.

Climate change

In February 2013, the LGASA successfully completed the \$340,000 Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project. This project was a partnership between the then Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, CSIRO, University of South Australia, City of Onkaparinga and the District Council of Mallala. The decision map and financial model developed under the project are optimising decision pathways, through improved evaluation of the likely costs, benefits, financial liability and identified timing of actions for a suite of possible policy actions.

In March 2013, the LGASA completed the LGASA Mutual Liability Scheme Climate Adaptation Project, which ran from mid-2008 and gave all South Australian councils a framework to understand the risks of climate change to their business operations and to plan ways to adapt in the short and long-term.

Waste management

The LGASA worked closely with Zero Waste SA and councils to develop guidelines for waste management in multi-unit dwellings. Preparation of these guidelines commenced in early 2013. The LGASA continued to support regional councils involved with Zero Waste SA's Regional Implementation Program by providing planning assistance which saw the successful completion of many projects across regional South Australia.

Wastewater management

About \$6 million was allocated to Community Wastewater Management Systems construction projects during 2012-13, as part of the sixth year of a 10-year funding agreement between the South Australian Government and the LGASA.

During the year, the Donovans township scheme was completed and the Tulka scheme required only minor non-construction matters to be finalised. The Mount Compass and Beachport schemes, with a combined value of more than \$14 million, were well advanced towards completion, while the Mallala scheme was tendered in part, with the design and construction contract already awarded.

Governance

The LGASA established a three person expert panel to develop a vision for a 'Council of the Future'. The expert panel was chaired by the Hon Greg Crafter AO, and included Ms Christine Trenorden and Professor Graham Sansom. The key role of the expert panel was to consider the future of the local government sector and, in particular, the 'Council of the Future':

Shared services

The LGASA undertook a comprehensive review of progress in shared services initiatives over the past seven years. The *Shared Services in SA Local Government* report, released in September 2012, documented a number of shared services pilot programmes, funded by the LGASA's Working for Stronger Communities Program and outlined proposed next steps. Acting on the recommendations of this report, the LGASA initiated an outreach programme, providing a platform for creating shared services in regional areas, commencing with the Eyre Peninsula and the Central Local Government Region.

LGASA schemes

The LGASA Mutual Liability Scheme and Workers' Compensation Scheme exist to provide insurance, liability and risk services to local government and its employees. These two schemes are managed and overseen by boards comprising representatives from major stakeholders including relevant unions, the South Australian Government, councils and the LGASA.

Public health

The LGASA supported councils in their preparations for the commencement of the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA) which came into full operation on 16 June 2013. The Public Health Project funded by the South Australian Government ensured comprehensive consultation with councils on the development of the South Australia's inaugural Public Health Plan, the McCann Review, re-made regulations and guidelines for the operation of the general duty and principles contained within the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA). The LGASA project manager actively visited the regions and provided briefings to council members and staff on the operation of the *Public Health Act 2011* (SA) and preparation of councils' regional public health plans.

Libraries

The LGASA continued to assist the Libraries Board of South Australia, Public Library Services and councils with the roll-out of the One Library Management System (1LMS). This leading edge management system enabled councils to save \$2.6 million in procurement and implementation costs. Further savings are predicted to occur over time. By 30 June 2013, the 1LMS had been rolled out across 37 councils and the remaining was expected to be connected within the following 12 month period. In 2012–13, libraries recorded more than 11.5 million visits and lent more than 18.5 items.

Council websites

In early 2013, the Unity website system passed its 10th anniversary of supporting professional council websites and producing bulk savings. Conservative estimates are that during this 10-year period, the 90 participating councils (from South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania) had saved more than \$6 million by working together. The LGASA marked the anniversary with a celebration with its shared service partner Deloitte Digital at the April 2013 LGASA general meeting.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The LGASA continued to assist the Kurna Local Government Leadership Group, which has led to 25 councils resolving to enter into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Kurna people. The Indigenous Land Use Agreement incorporates:

- a protocol to simplify *Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994* (SA) processes;
- an Aboriginal heritage protocol;
- a planning protocol;
- a liaison committee; and
- establishment of a fund supported by participating councils.

The councils have committed more than \$185,000 to establish and operate the committee. At 30 June 2014, work was proceeding to finalise the agreement.

Report from Tasmania

This report has been provided by the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, Treasurer and Minister for Planning and Local Government on behalf of the Tasmanian Government and in liaison with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT).

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

Comprehensive details on the Tasmanian State Grants Commission's methodology for distributing the 2013–14 grants is available in the Tasmanian State Grants Commission Annual Report for 2013–14 that is available online at: <http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au>.

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 methodological revisions incorporated each year.

The last major model restructure occurred in 2012–13 when the Tasmanian State Grants Commission applied changes to its roads preservation model. The next year when major methodological changes will be introduced into the models is the 2015–16 distribution.

The 2013–14 distribution was a 'between year' such that only data updates were applied.

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

In 2010, through the Australian Government's Local Government Reform Fund, the Tasmanian Government and the LGAT secured funding of \$870 000 through a National Partnership Agreement. The funding was used to develop and implement long-term financial and asset management planning in Tasmanian councils.

After extensive consultation with the local government sector in 2013, the Tasmanian Government approved the drafting of amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) to mandate long-term financial and strategic asset management planning for Tasmanian councils, as well as other related financial and asset management initiatives. The amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) were passed by both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament in the 2013 spring session and requires councils to:

- maintain long-term financial management and strategic asset management plans (10 years) and financial and asset management strategies;
- maintain an asset management policy;
- review their long-term financial management and strategic asset management plans, financial management and asset management strategies and asset management policy every four years;
- notify the Director of Local Government of the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet (as soon as practicable) when their long-term strategic asset management plan, financial management strategy, asset management strategy and asset management policy have been adopted by the council;

- report financial and asset management sustainability indicators in their financial statements;
- maintain an audit panel; and
- develop their strategic plan every 10 years, as opposed to at least every five years, to align and integrate with the financial and asset management planning process.

The amendments also provides a power for the Tasmanian Minister responsible for local government to make statutory rules (orders) regarding long-term financial management and strategic asset management planning, financial management and asset management strategies, asset management policies, audit panels and financial and asset management sustainability indicators.

Three ministerial orders were developed in consultation with the LGAT and the local government sector. The orders, proclaimed and gazetted in February 2014, were the:

- *Local Government (Content of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014*, which outlines the minimum requirements necessary for all long-term financial and asset management planning documents;
- *Local Government (Management Indicators) Order 2014*, which lists the financial and asset management sustainability indicators (the same indicators that the Auditor-General reports annually to the Tasmanian Parliament); and
- *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014*, which provides guidance to councils on the structure, membership and primary functions of audit panels.

The Tasmanian Government has also developed a practice guide for the establishment of local government audit panels. The Guide provides a practical introduction to the functions of an audit panel, guidance on appropriate audit panel membership and explains the context within which audit panels are required to operate under the new legislation.

The Tasmanian Government has also been working closely with the LGAT in generating other guidance material to assist councils in implementing the new legislative requirements. Additionally, the LGAT has commissioned the Institute of Public Works and Engineering Australasia to develop 17 practice summaries to provide practical guidance on a range of long-term financial and asset management planning. These will be able to be used by other jurisdictions. The development of the guidance material is in its infancy, however, the Tasmanian Government will continue to liaise with the LGAT and councils to ensure the package of guidance material is appropriate and delivered to councils in a timely fashion for use in developing long-term planning documentation.

An independent evaluation of the Local Government Reform Fund project was conducted in 2013. The evaluation found there had been significant achievements made in asset and financial management for local government in Tasmania with all project milestones met. Further details are available online at: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au>.

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

The Tasmanian Government has continued to produce the Sustainability Objectives and Indicators report to measure council performance on an annual basis.

The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project is a key initiative of the Tasmanian Government to drive sustainability reform and improve performance and to encourage the local government sector to do the same. The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project forms part of the Government's Financial Sustainability Framework for Local Government, of which the overall objective is to ensure the local government sector improves its sustainability and develops and improves its financial and asset management capability and capacity. The Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project was progressed in close collaboration with the LGAT and is linked to the Financial and Asset Reform Project.

The project allows councils to assess their performance in key strategic areas of financial and asset management, planning and development. The project is also anticipated to promote excellence in council performance and improve community engagement. It will also assist the Tasmanian Government and local government in setting priorities for performance improvement within the sector.

Development of the sustainability indicators to which council performance is compared have been developed through a comprehensive consultation process. Councils' performance against these indicators is monitored annually and councils are encouraged to improve their performance by:

- tracking their performance in relation to other councils;
- using changes in indicators to assess or review the impacts of large projects within their municipality; and
- communicating with their communities about their performance.

The sustainability indicators reported upon by the Tasmanian Government in the Sustainability Objectives and Indicators report are the same as those collected and analysed by the Auditor-General during his annual audit of council financial statements. The Auditor-General's report on Tasmanian local government authorities, presented to the Tasmanian Parliament annually, includes an analysis and commentary on council performance in the areas of financial and asset management, viability and sustainability and also sets the benchmarks by which councils can measure their performance and plan for improvement.

The Tasmanian Government has recently commenced work on expanding the current Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project to incorporate other contemporary indicators and quantitative metrics that measure council performance across the full suite of local government roles and responsibilities under a new framework. While this project is in its infancy, it is envisaged that the new performance management framework will also identify mechanisms for obtaining the required performance data and statistics as well as a communications strategy that will describe the means by which council performance will be analysed and reported.

It is important to note that the Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project, and the comprehensive consultation process used to develop the sustainability indicators, will continue to be used as part of the implementation of the performance management framework. It is intended that the existing indicators and statistics of the Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project will be incorporated into a more comprehensive framework that assesses and reports upon council performance across their full array of roles, responsibilities and obligations to their community.

Core local government data continues to be provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for its Local Government Finance Statistics and to the Tasmanian State Grants Commission for

its distribution of the Financial Assistance Grant programme general purpose and local road components to local government.

Currently, the LGAT conducts a comprehensive biennial workforce survey. It is anticipated that this data collection will be incorporated into the annual data collection conducted by the Tasmanian Government, improving the quality and cohesiveness of the data set.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The Role of Local Government project is a collaborative project between the Tasmanian Government and local government. The project was established in 2012 by the Premier's Local Government Council in response to the ongoing public debate about the current and future role of local government. The objective of the project is to establish a clear understanding of the roles and capabilities of local government, identify strengths and capability gaps, and develop actions to build a sector that is sustainable, efficient, effective and responsive to community needs.

The project has been delivered in two phases. Phase one of the project concluded in December 2012 when the Premier's Local Government Council approved eight role statements describing the role of local government.

Phase two of the project will identify strengths and capability gaps, and actions and strategies to strengthen the local government sector. Delivered throughout 2013 and 2014, this second phase has involved a number of activities to engage stakeholders and build a comprehensive picture of local government capability to deliver on the eight roles. The Local Government Role Assessment Final Report, endorsed by the Premier's Local Government Council in August 2014, provides an overview of the sector's performance across the eight roles of local government, identifies factors driving reform and proposes a range of reform opportunities.

In August 2014, the Premier's Local Government Council approved the Terms of Reference for four high-level working groups dedicated to the priority areas of: collaboration, economic development, governance and legislation. The working groups comprise senior Tasmanian Government and local government officials. All working groups are required to develop a draft three year Strategic Action Plan by the end of 2014. The LGAT participates on all the working groups, and chairs two of them.

Up-to-date information on progress of the Role of Local Government project, including a copy of the reports, are available on the project's website available online at:
<http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au>.

In parallel to the Role of Local Government project, the LGAT has strengthened its focus on improving capability in a range of functional areas through development of a forward Training Calendar and provision of sectoral tools such as delegations and compliance registers, the workplace behaviour toolkit and work health and safety training.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Tasmanian Government is not aware of any specific local government initiatives undertaken in 2013–14 in Tasmania in relation to service delivery to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Report from the Northern Territory

This report has been provided by the Hon Adam Giles MLA, Chief Minister, on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

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* (Cwlth).

The Northern Territory Grants Commission, in assessing relative need for allocating general purpose funding, uses the balanced budget approach to horizontal equalisation based on the formula:

Assessed expenditure need – Assessed revenue capacity = 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 Australian Bureau of Statistics' estimated resident population figures and then adjust the figures to align with the population total advised to the Australian Government from the Northern Territory Department of Treasury and Finance. The Northern Territory's funding is based on this total population figure. The same rationale was used for the 2013–14 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* (Cwlth), 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 regional council 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 programme, library and local roads grants are recognised in the methodology. In the case of recipients of the Roads to Recovery programme grants,

50 per cent of the grant was included. Recipients of library grants and local roads grants have the total amount of the grant included.

The Northern Territory Grants Commission considers that, given unique circumstances within the Northern Territory, this overall revenue raising capacity approach provides a reasonable indication of a council's revenue raising capacity.

For the 2013-14 allocations, financial data in respect of the 2011-12 financial year 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 adjusters reflecting the assessed disadvantage of each local government are applied.

The Northern Territory Grants Commission 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 to acknowledge the financial drains on municipal councils caused by urban drift. This expenditure category was used also for the 2013-14 grant allocations.

Cost adjusters

The Northern Territory Grants Commission uses cost adjusters to reflect a local government's demographics, geographical location, its external access and the area over which it is required to provide local government services. All these influence the cost of service delivery. There are three cost adjusters being 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 is greater than assessed expenditure need, meaning that there is no assessed need. However, as the Australian Government 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.

Formulae in Northern Territory

1. Revenue component

All councils:

Assessed revenue raising capacity	=	Total identified local government revenue
Total local government revenue	=	Assessed Northern Territory average revenue + other grant support + 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 2011-12	=	Actual state local government gross income 2011-12
Actual state local government gross income 2011-12	=	\$127,890,900
Other grant support	=	Roads to Recovery programme grant 2012-13 50 per cent, library grant 2012-13 and roads grant 2012-13
Budget term	=	Population x per capita amount
Total local government revenue for 2013-14 allocations	=	\$308,721,516

2. Expenditure components

Total local government expenditure of \$308,721,516 is apportioned over each expenditure component.

(a) General public services (\$122,290,643)

Community population/Northern Territory population x general public services expenditure x Aboriginality

(b) Public order and safety (\$16,442,454)

Community population/Northern Territory population x public order and safety expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(c) Economic affairs (\$20,537,796)

Community population/Northern Territory population x economic affairs expenditure x (location + dispersion)

(d) Environmental protection (\$14,728,908)

Community population/Northern Territory population x environmental protection expenditure

(e) Housing and community amenities (\$55,175,227)

Community population/Northern Territory population x housing and community amenities expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(f) Health (\$4,371,522)

Community population/Northern Territory population x health expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(g) Recreation, culture and religion (\$44,049,195)

Community population/Northern Territory population x recreation, culture and religion expenditure x (location + dispersion)

(h) Education (\$961,372)

Community population/Northern Territory population x education expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(i) Social protection (\$15,964,399)

Community population/Northern Territory population x social protection expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(j) Regional centre allowance (\$14,200,000)

Relevant municipal councils x assessed expenditure impacts

3. 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 (post the roads funding methodology review referred to earlier in this report) are in Table B-22.

Table B-22 Northern Territory road weighting

Road type	Weighting
Sealed	27.0
Gravel	12.0
Cycle path	10.0
Formed	7.0
Unformed	1.0

The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.

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

In 2013–14 advancements in asset management practices for the local government sector continued to be achieved in line with the objectives of the National Partnership Agreement *Quality Measurement of Assets and Financial Management Data in Local Government – Northern Territory*.

In 2012–13, the Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Regions provided funding to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) to continue the development of long-term financial and asset management plans within councils. Through the funding provided, in 2013–14 LGANT employed a project officer who coordinated the delivery of a number of training sessions and workshops for elected members and council staff.

The intent of these sessions were aimed at providing councils with the necessary tools and associated skills to develop, and put in place, asset and financial management systems and processes that enabled councils to deliver sustainable asset investment strategies and support informed resource allocation decisions thereby reducing risks to service delivery.

The LGANT has advised that it has completed delivering the National Asset Management Strategy, Sustainable Communities and Long Term Financial Management training to all Northern Territory member councils. This training provided some tools and knowledge for participants to develop policies, prepare plans/strategies and governance around the management of council assets.

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

In response to the delivery of the National Asset Management Strategy programme, the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government developed a council self-assessment tool to assist councils evaluate their progress with implementing the elements of the Local Government Planning Minister's Council Financial Sustainability Frameworks. In 2013–14, councils' data was collected and aggregated by the LGANT into a Northern Territory-wide report but separated between regional and municipal council responses.

To collect individual council data, the LGANT developed a web-based self-assessment tool which provided a pictorial and textual report on where individual councils are positioned in relation to asset management and long-term financial planning. The intent of this tool is to empower councils with baseline data and a mechanism to aid in assessment and evaluation of their asset and financial management capacity.

All Northern Territory councils completed the first round of data collection with the results aggregated as at 30 September 2013.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

In late 2013, the Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Regions commissioned Deloitte to provide an updated report on financial sustainability of regional councils. Deloitte reviewed the progress that had been made by councils to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and therefore their sustainability.

In addition, in 2013–14 the Northern Territory Government increased the financial assistance offered to regional councils by increasing the annual Northern Territory operational subsidy funding pool by \$5 million to \$25 million per annum.

The Indigenous Matching Jobs programme was extended for a further three years which subsidises up to 50 per cent of the wages of approximately 500 Indigenous employees to provide core local government services. Most of these employees live in the Territory's rural and remote areas.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

During 2013 the Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Regions undertook a Northern Territory-wide consultation on possible improvements to governance arrangements

and service delivery in the bush. The consultation included 177 community visits, 279 meetings and 3,214 people.

As a result of these consultations, legislation was passed in 2014 to create 63 local authorities in remote Indigenous communities as of 1 July 2014 in the Northern Territory. The purpose of local authorities is to be the 'voice' of the community and the interface with the local council.

From 1 July 2014, the Northern Territory Government will provide \$5 million annually for regional councils to support local authority priority projects. Local authorities will meet a minimum of six times a year and monitor local expenditure and responses to local complaints.

Report from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

This report has been provided by Mayor Damien Ryan, President of the Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT) on behalf of the LGANT.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

The Northern Territory Grants Commission completed its review of its road funding methodology during the 2013–14 financial year after the Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment completed road audits in council areas. The effect of the changes were that the weightings for road length types altered to better reflect the whole of life maintenance costs of the road network.

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

During the year, the LGANT assisted the following councils with their long-term asset and financial planning: Central Desert Regional Council, Roper Gulf Regional Council, Katherine Town Council, Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Barkly Regional Council, Victoria Daly Regional Council, MacDonnell Regional Council, West Arnhem Regional Council, Belyuen Shire Council and Wagait Shire Council.

All of these councils have yet to adopt asset management plans for each category of infrastructure assets that they are responsible for. While formal adoption of asset management plans has not yet occurred all regional, shire and municipal councils are aware of the need to have them in place and are progressing with their development.

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

Financial sustainability ratios are reported in the annual reports of some councils which comprises most actions taken to develop comparable performance measures. Ongoing work is being undertaken on developing model financial statements for councils and these are expected to be ready for the 2014–15 financial year.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The leading reforms undertaken and included in the 2013–14 annual reports of councils during the year were to do with:

- improving waste management, including sites that allow waste to be sorted prior to any waste going to landfill, recycling centres that sell reclaimed and recycled goods, the establishment of areas for the collection of chemical and hazard wastes, and gaining recognition through Territory Tidy Towns Awards;

- linking fibre optic cabling to council facilities to improve data processing and to make library services more accessible;
- upgrading council sporting facilities to allow national and smaller sporting events to occur in council areas;
- establishing local authorities in more than 60 communities in regional council areas to enable community input and engagement on council decision making;
- releasing city centre master plans to inform residents and property owners of council plans including those to do with parking;
- implementing solar generation at council libraries to reduce utility costs;
- providing children services that match the early childhood education and care regulations;
- undertaking new activities and supporting numerous events for seniors, youth and disabled persons;
- refreshing home care services to meet national standards;
- delivering services to outstation living areas for the first time; and
- deploying workforce mentors to retain employees in jobs.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

With Indigenous peoples in the Northern Territory comprising some 33 per cent of the Northern Territory population, all councils deliver services to Aboriginal communities. Regional councils deliver the bulk of these services to more than 60 towns which are made up largely of Aboriginal residents.

Councils provide a diverse range of services to Aboriginal communities with most revenue coming from government grants. Apart from the diversity of services already offered by all councils, the following are some initiatives aimed at assisting Indigenous residents that are outside the norm for local government:

- school nutrition programmes;
- remote Indigenous broadcasting;
- safe houses and centres for women;
- Centrelink and Australia Post services;
- community stores;
- public housing services;
- night patrol services and sobering up shelters;
- money management;
- mechanical workshops;
- reconciliation action plan;
- veterinary services (animal management);
- childcare, crèche and out of school hours care;
- youth, sport and recreation activities;
- domestic violence education and community violence mediation;

- Remote Jobs and Communities programme;
- outstations/homelands maintenance; and
- essential services (power and water).

Report from the Australian Capital Territory

This report has been provided by Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister for the Australian Capital Territory on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government.

The ACT 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 ACT Government service provision between 'state-like' and 'local-like' functions. This is demonstrated by the ACT Government's engagement with local government through membership of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (formally the South East Regional Organisation of Councils), and the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, as well as engagement with other jurisdictions through the Council of Australian Governments.

The ACT 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 ACT Government works closely with the New South Wales Government and local government in the region to address matters of common interest. The ACT 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 local government

The ACT Government provided information on the ACT Government *Infrastructure Plan 2011-2021*, The Capital Framework, its Partnerships Framework and the Strategic Asset Management Plans.

The ACT Government Infrastructure Plan 2011-2021

The ACT Government *Infrastructure Plan 2011-2021* outlines the following future strategic objectives:

- implementing strategic asset management and service planning across ACT 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 ACT Government infrastructure;
- strengthening strategic infrastructure planning by developing closer links with ACT Government prioritisation processes; and
- engaging in continuous improvement of the planning and delivery of new infrastructure investment in the ACT.

The Capital Framework

In October 2013, the ACT Government established The Capital Framework which is a new process for the upfront assessment of capital works funding proposals in the ACT. The Capital Framework delivery enhances upfront rigor in needs analysis, identification of risks and delivery model assessment driving improved value for money outcomes in the ACT. The Capital Framework focuses on four stages of the process. These stages include:

- Stage 1 (Conceptualise): Investment Logic Workshop;
- Stage 2 (Present): Early Project Overview;
- Stage 3 (Prove): Single Assessment Framework; and
- Stage 6 (Measure): Post Implementation Review.

Stages four and five (Procurement and Implementation respectively) are addressed through the ACT Procurement Guidelines. The results of the Capital Framework will ensure the ACT Government:

- addresses the right problems and pursues the right benefits;
- chooses the best value for money investments;
- delivers investments as planned; and
- realises the benefits it set out to achieve.

The ACT Government worked with the support of the Victorian, South Australian and Tasmanian Governments in establishing The Capital Framework.

Since the introduction of The Capital Framework, the ACT Government continues to implement improvements to the planning, management and review of capital works projects. The revised arrangements and guidance materials enable agencies to better anticipate cost, time and quality pressures and to ensure lessons from past projects are captured and considered for similar projects in the future.

The Capital Framework also includes post implementation reviews which enable assessment of how the project performed against the expectations set out in the initial business case. Projects are identified for these reviews at the business case or procurement plan stage.

The Partnerships Framework

The ACT Government also launched its Partnerships Framework in December 2013 which focuses on the two delivery models of Public Private Partnerships and Design Construct Maintain Operate.

The ACT Partnerships Framework has three objectives:

- allocating scarce capital where best justified;
- achieving optimal risk allocation and delivery models; and
- ensuring fit-for-purpose for size of the jurisdiction and project.

The ACT Partnerships Framework places the ACT in an improved position to manage the risks associated with Public Private Partnership's project procurement and delivery and achieve the significant savings generally associated with this form of project delivery. The ACT Partnerships Framework also addresses how unsolicited proposals are considered in relation to the ACT Government's infrastructure programme.

The Public Private Partnerships model has been used widely in other Australian jurisdictions for major projects and has been adopted by the ACT Government as it can increase the likelihood of a project being delivered on time and on budget, as the contractor is not paid until the asset is commissioned and accepted. The Public Private Partnerships model also has a greater focus on whole-of-life costs and increased innovation.

The Partnerships Framework seeks to reduce the costs of delivery under Public Private Partnerships for both the government and bidder by seeking to short-list to two proponents at the Request for Proposal stage.

Strategic Asset Management Plans

The ACT Government also supports a Strategic Asset Management programme providing financial assistance for agencies to establish Strategic Asset Management Plans for their management of the ACT Government's assets. The Strategic Asset Management programme seeks to foster better practice that increases the ACT's economic capacity, reduces future costs, grow the city in a way that meets the changing needs of the ACT demographic and maintain current infrastructure.

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

The ACT Government does not undertake to develop or implement comparative performance measures with other local governments. The ACT Government does undertake analysis on the Report on Government Services information; however this reporting focuses on 'state-like' government services.

Reforms undertaken during 2013-14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The ACT Government provided information on its Service ACT, Digital Canberra, Human Services Blueprint, making services sustainable, information services, roads and public spaces, sustainable transport, and performance and accountability.

Service ACT

The ACT Government is driving a more citizen centric approach to service delivery across government. The ACT Government established the Service ACT policy platform to improve access to government services. This provides a principled framework for a more coherent approach to service design that delivers an integrated, consistent experience for the community and business.

Key elements of implementation include standardising business processes so they are easier to navigate, facilitating a more collaborative systems approach to service design, joining up information and communications technology systems so they talk to each other, and increasing the availability of digital services where appropriate. These objectives are being realised through a range of service reform work, including the delivery of Digital Canberra and the Human Services Blueprint.

Digital Canberra

The *Digital Canberra Action Plan 2014-2018*, released in March 2014, is the roadmap of how the ACT Government is going to:

- accelerate business engagement with the digital economy and help businesses access new customers and markets;
- promote Canberra as a modern, dynamic, digital city;

- use technology to be a more open government and to give citizens greater choice in how and when they use services; and
- be more innovative in how we engage with the community and local small business.

One particular initiative within the *Digital Canberra Action Plan 2014–2018* places a specific focus on using digital technologies to enhance government service delivery through collaboration with the private sector – the Digital Canberra Challenge. The Digital Canberra Challenge engages ACT innovators and small and medium sized enterprises in the development of digital solutions aimed at improving government services and operations. The programme stimulates innovation in electronic and mobile technologies, in turn helping to improve community access to government and public sector services and deliver productivity-based savings. In 2013–14, the Digital Canberra Challenge undertook projects that focused on regulatory control for events, streamlined access to government booking systems and online systems to assist access to hospital services.

Human Services Blueprint

In May 2014 the ACT Government released its Human Services Blueprint, a whole of system reform agenda to better use government investment in social outcomes. Co-designed by government and the community sector, the Human Services Blueprint is about:

- **Creating a better service experience;**
services are person centred – simple, respectful and easy to navigate;
services are better matched to people’s actual needs – right support, right time, right duration;
- **Improving economic and social participation, especially amongst disadvantaged Canberrans;**
building people’s skills and capacity;
connecting government and community services where people require a joined-up response;
- **Making services sustainable;**
providing quality and value for money services by reducing red tape and duplication; and responding early to reduce future demand for higher cost services.

The Human Services Blueprint will improve the effectiveness of governance, structural and supporting processes so the service system operates in a more person-centred and integrated way. It will enable community, health, education and justice systems to work in alliance to join up support to people and families. The Human Services Blueprint represents significant reform to the way human services are delivered in the ACT. The rollout will be initiated through a phased implementation over the next three years.

Information services

In 2013–14, the ACT Government delivered improvements to a number of information services, with a focus on digital service delivery to develop greater efficiency. Improvements included:

- enhancing Canberra Connect’s online customer services and progressing building works on the new shopfront in Gungahlin;
- creating a gateway specifically designed for payments of government bills via Smartphones, which will be integrated into Canberra Connect’s SmartForms and include a range of new and enhanced online functionality;

- expanding the use of Cashlink, a whole of government receipting and payment system, and the ACT Government Customer Relationship Management service, which handles interactions between the ACT Government and customers; and
- modernising library services to keep pace with increasing community demand for electronic resources and maintaining a strong social media presence.

Roads and public spaces

In 2013–14, the ACT Government undertook a number of other projects to increase the capacity of the ACT's road network and improve road safety. Stage one of the Cotter Road upgrade and the widening of Parkes Way between Glenloch Interchange and Edinburgh Avenue was physically completed. Construction began on the Ashley Drive – Erindale Drive upgrade and on a dedicated bus lane for Canberra Avenue between Hindmarsh Drive and the Monaro Highway.

Funded by the Australian Government in celebration of Canberra's centenary, the \$42 million upgrade of Constitution Avenue between Vernon Circle and Anzac Parade began preliminary construction work. The vision is for a vibrant, mixed-use, tree-lined grand avenue and the upgrade will ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place. There will be dedicated bus lanes in each direction with buses given priority at intersections, a separate cycleway, street furniture, onstreet parking, lighting and design flexibility to allow for future light rail.

The ACT Government completed upgrades of the public spaces around the Waramanga, Farrer and Red Hill shopping centres and began work on the upgrade of Chapman shopping centre. Work also began on a new dog park in O'Connor and a programme to replace barbecues in areas including Yarralumla Bay, Lake Ginninderra, Bowen Park and Lennox Gardens.

Sustainable transport

Most of the planning work for a new ACTION bus network, Network 14, was completed and a real time passenger information system, renamed NXTBUS, began roll out. The new bus network was created with the help of MyWay travel data and information obtained from a large-scale community engagement programme attracting more than 2,300 pieces of feedback. Network 14, expected to start in late 2014, will offer more direct and frequent bus services and enhanced services to a number of locations.

In July 2013, the Capital Metro Agency was established to oversee the development of light rail in Canberra, providing high quality, reliable and convenient public transport that will attract people, business and investment. Detailed design work and planning has been undertaken over the last year towards the delivery of the first stage of Capital Metro, a 12 kilometre service along one of Canberra's busiest and fastest growing corridors. From the city to the developing suburbs of Gungahlin in the north, stage one will transform Northbourne Avenue and the City. Capital Metro will encourage smarter land-use and create a transport system that puts people first.

Performance and accountability

As part of the implementation of the ACT Government Strategic Service Planning Framework, the first set of directorates' transformational service advice was presented to ministers in November 2013. The advice sets out key medium to long-term proposed reform proposals to use technology and other innovation to transform services, so as to address changing community needs. The ACT Government endorsed further work by directorates on these initiatives.

The ACT Government Evaluation Policy and Guidelines aim to build evaluation maturity across government, and to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of government services. In 2013–14, directorates undertook a comprehensive programme of evaluations across directorates, including:

- annual report to the Legislative Assembly on progress of the ACT Government's Business Development Strategy;
- an evaluation of the Improving Services for Families programme;
- evaluations for public transport (bus) activities including Centenary Loop and Early bird fare trial;
- evaluations as part of the Health Infrastructure Program, which incorporates capital asset development, digital health infrastructure, changes in models of care, service delivery and workforce planning to respond to growing health service demand and changing service delivery models;
- the first stage of the evaluation of the Centenary of Canberra; and
- continuing support for the evaluation of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy*.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

At 30 June 2013, 6,517 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 1.7 per cent of the ACT population. As elsewhere in Australia, higher levels of disadvantage and a younger age profile are important service delivery considerations with regard to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT. Approximately half of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the ACT were aged under 23 years in 2013. This is much younger than the non-Indigenous population, half of whom were aged under 35 years in 2013.

Links to national plans and policy

The ACT Government remains committed to the Council of Australian Governments Close the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage. The ACT Government participates in a number of national agreements, partnerships, plans and strategies that direct efforts to achieve more equitable life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This commitment is articulated through specific ACT Government plans for the delivery of education, health, housing, justice and employment services.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

In 2013–14, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body held eight community forums including a high tea, chief executive officer meeting, Women's Yarning, renewal of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement and two on the whole-of-government agreement.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body also held meetings with the ACT Government Chief Minister, ACT Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and ACT Government Cabinet members. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body also met the Human Rights Commission and the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body elections were held during National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week. NAIDOC Week

was held from 7 to 14 July 2014. This required amendments to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008 (ACT)* to allow changes to polling from Saturday to Saturday during the week. Aligning the election with NAIDOC Week allowed for more effective promotion of the election and candidates through concurrent NAIDOC Week activities.

Employment

Under the ACT Public Service Employment Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, the number of employees identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander increased from 238 as at 30 June 2013 to 253 as at 30 June 2014.

The entry level ACT Public Service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship Program operated during 2013–14 and has been reviewed to facilitate longer term sustainability as part of an employment entry pathways programme. The revised traineeship includes buddies and mentors for trainees. The buddies and mentors will be sourced through the ACT Public Service Indigenous Staff Network.

During 2013–14, the ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services undertook an Inquiry into ACT Public Service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment. The committee's report, which made 31 recommendations was finalised in early 2014 and an ACT Government response to the report was provided during 2013–14. The ACT Government response agreed to 14 recommendations, agreed-in-principle with 16 recommendations, and noted one recommendation of the report.

A review of the ACT Public Service Respect Equity and Diversity Framework, of which the Employment Strategy is an element, was conducted in 2014 concurrently with the release of the Standing Committee's inquiry report. Twenty of the report recommendations were considered during the review process. These recommendations related to initiatives or actions contained in the ACT Public Service Employment Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Job Readiness Support Program

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Job Readiness Support Program provides a tailored approach to meet individual needs. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Job Readiness Support Program was tendered for during the 2013–14, and incorporated a focus on a more tailored approach to meet individual needs in providing support services and outcomes based reporting.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Job Readiness Support Program is delivered by Northside Community Service Limited and Imagineering Training Pty Ltd. The total contract value is \$671,945.45 (GST exclusive) over three years or \$223,981.82 (GST exclusive) a year.

Participants are offered two training sessions a year as well as ongoing support provided by Northside Community Service Limited. Support offered includes assisting participants with child care, community transport and linkages with other services including Centrelink. Assistance with job applications, interview techniques and career counselling is also provided to all participants prior to completion.

National Disability Insurance Scheme and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

The Australian Government and the ACT Governments are investing \$21.8 million over three years to prepare the ACT sector and people with disabilities for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

From these investments sector development funding is being dedicated in the ACT to:

- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to prepare for the NDIS;
- support Aboriginal service providers to deliver NDIS services (if they choose); and
- increase the capacity of disability organisations to provide culturally appropriate services.

In early 2014, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body was consulted about the best way to support community members to prepare for the NDIS. In June 2014 the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body recommended that an outreach worker be based in one organisation while working across all organisations, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander clients. The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body advised the ACT Government that community feedback recommended the outreach worker conduct community forums and information sessions, have the ability to provide individual advice for particular circumstances, and be based in Gugan Gulwan to engage with youth with disability.

On the basis of the advice from the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body, Gugan Gulwan was invited (June 2014) to submit a proposal to deliver an NDIS outreach service to community.

Enhanced Service Offer Grants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

The Enhanced Service Offer Grants reached people across disability types and community population groups. Comparative data against disability service access confirmed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were very well represented through this process.

In the ACT, 198 of the 4,593 disability service users (4.3 per cent) identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Over 2,800 Canberrans applied for an Enhanced Service Offer grant. This included:

- 180 (six per cent) identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- 40 (one per cent) identified that they lived with a mature carer age 50 and older, who is Aboriginal;
- 1,311* (46 per cent) of the 2,820 applicants were offered a grant; and
- 137 of 180 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders applicants (91 per cent) were successful recipients of the grants.

Of the Enhanced Service Offer grants, there were:

- 16 aids, equipment, minor modifications grants funded at a total of \$76,441;
- 32 quality of life grants recipients funded at a total of \$53,810; and
- 64 flexible supports and services grants at a total of \$212,324.

Note: * As funds have become available, the number of grants offers have continued to increase since the closure of the second round. Further demographic analysis will not occur until all final offers have been accepted.

Early intervention and therapy services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Therapy ACT provides consultative services to children in Koori Preschools and Jervis Bay School and individual therapy on referral to children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. There are currently 17 clients receiving primarily speech pathology services at Jervis Bay and 84 enrolments in total at the Koori Preschools.

A speech pathologist and occupational therapist from Therapy ACT visit Jervis Bay School to provide therapy services. Services include programmes addressing speech and language development, fine motor skills, and sensory processing difficulties impacting on the students' ability to engage in the curriculum. Therapists collaborate with teaching staff to implement adjustments to the curriculum to meet the students learning outcomes and address the identified concerns.

In 2014, the school in Jervis Bay had a focus on improving literacy outcomes for Indigenous students. Using an existing Language Through Books literacy programme, the speech pathologist and occupational therapist developed a programme to incorporate literacy and written expression (fine motor) tasks specifically for the Indigenous population using culturally appropriate materials. This programme is being implemented by the school with good preliminary outcomes for Indigenous students.

In Koori Preschools, speech pathologists and occupational therapists collaborate with teaching staff to implement adjustments to the curriculum to meet the students learning outcomes and address identified concerns. Children with issues requiring individual therapy are prioritised for individual services through Therapy ACT.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander client numbers in Therapy ACT

The data in Table B-23 indicates the number of people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who have accessed Therapy ACT services in 2013-14.

Table B-23 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander client numbers in Therapy ACT

	Adult (over 18 years)	Child (under 18 years)
Aboriginal only	3	68
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	–	5
Torres Strait Islander only	–	2

Therapy ACT provides consultative services to children in Koori Preschools and Jervis Bay School and individual therapy on referral to children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

Jervis Bay

There are currently 17 clients receiving primarily speech pathology services.

Koori Preschools

There are currently 84 enrolments in total at the Koori Preschools with the breakdown being:

- Wanniasa 19 students;
- Richardson 16 students;

- Narrabundah 24 students;
- Ngunnawal 11 students; and
- Kingsford Smith 14 students.

Speech pathology and occupational therapy services are provided which includes consultation to teachers, input to classroom programmes as well as individual input as negotiated with families.

Preschool and early childhood education

The ACT February 2014 School Census reported 244 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in preschool – an increase of 56 children on 2013 enrolments.

Seventy-two of these children were enrolled in a Koori Preschool programme across the five sites of Ngunnawal Primary School, Kingsford Smith School, Narrabundah Early Childhood School, Wanniasa School and Richardson Primary School.

Koori Preschools promote and support the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with community and government programmes and services such as those provided through Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, Therapy ACT and the ACT Child and Family Centres. Services provided include speech therapy, occupational therapy, hearing checks, and family support.

The Early Years Learning Framework – Connection, Collaboration, Careers, Leadership: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Action Plan 2014–2017 (the framework), is implemented across all ACT public preschools and within the five Koori Preschool sites. The framework incorporates principles, practices, and learning outcomes that assist educators to provide young children with opportunities to maximise their potential and develop a strong foundation for future success in learning. The framework provides strategies for teachers to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and identity, and promotes greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being.

Koori preschool

Koori preschool teachers and assistants participated in professional learning sessions to assist with planning and programming for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The Koori preschool sites regularly collaborate to ensure a sharing of quality practice, cultural competence, and alignment of cultural awareness and understanding across each site. This contributes to the continuous building of teacher skills in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Preschool children with developmental delays benefit from early identification and participation in programmes to meet their needs. Staff from the Koori Preschool Program, Therapy ACT and the Child and Family Centres participated in an integrated workshop, reflecting on the current strategies for 4 and 5 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the ACT. As a result, teachers will be better prepared to meet the needs of children entering school.

In May 2014, 116 participants (school leaders, teachers and assistants) attended Mirrors and Windows: Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives within our Preschool professional learning delivered across all school networks to share their approaches.

Action Inquiry Program

There were 14 schools participating in the 2014 Action Inquiry Program. The 2014 Action Inquiry Program was accredited for teacher registration through the ACT Teacher Quality Institute. This year, the inquiries are focused on family and community engagement, improving outcomes in literacy and numeracy through personalised learning plans, targeted curriculum and pedagogy and out of class programmes.

2013 Stronger Smarter Leadership Program

Two principals, two teachers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Officer participated in the 2013 Stronger Smarter Leadership Program in Queensland.

School leaders from the schools participating in the Focus School initiatives met each term in 2013 to engage in professional learning, share resources and discuss progress and challenges. Highlights included a curriculum workshop, presentations by Aboriginal leaders and by Wreck Bay Elder, Ms Julie Freeman in August 2013, and a two day study tour to Jervis Bay and Wreck Bay in November 2013.

The Accepting the Challenge Leadership Day in 2013 provided opportunities for leaders and aspiring leaders to build their capacity and leadership skills.

Curriculum and cultural competency

In 2014, more staff participated in professional learning relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cross Curriculum Priority and National Professional Standards for Teachers.

The majority of this professional learning is based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education – An introduction for the teaching profession written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics and educators and edited by Dr Kaye Price.

School leaders from the Focus School Network participated in two curriculum specific workshops in semester two, 2013. Two principals facilitated a curriculum planning workshop in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and Wreck Bay Elder, Ms Julie Freeman provided participants with many new insights into culture and technology. The workshop conducted by Ms Freeman was the springboard for a cultural awareness study tour of 18 leaders and aspiring leaders to Jervis Bay where they participated in further learning with Ms Freeman and the local community. Three schools built on these experiences and have engaged Ms Freeman to conduct workshops with both their students and teachers.

Housing

During 2013–14, the ACT Government managed a number of initiatives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients in housing or homelessness services, including the Indigenous Supported Accommodation Service and the Indigenous Boarding House Network provided crisis, transitional and temporary accommodation options for up to 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at any one time.

The Community Services Directorate received \$75,000 funding in the 2013–14 Budget for the design of older person's accommodation in the ACT for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Community Services Directorate commenced a site selection process with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in late 2012, and a site in Kambah was agreed in December 2014.

In 2013–14, there were 83 new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public housing tenancies created; 71 applicants were allocated from the priority housing list, involving 158 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, 10 were allocated from the high needs housing list, involving 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and two from the standard housing list, involving two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

At 30 June 2014 there were 780 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public housing tenancies, housing a total of 1,643 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

Report from the Australian Local Government Association

This report has been provided by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

The ALGA submission was developed in consultation with state and territory local government associations.

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme to local government for 2013–14, including identification of any changes to the methodology for distributing local government financial assistance grants for 2013–14 from that used in 2012–13

ALGA has highlighted in its Budget submissions and most recently in discussions around the Financial Assistance Grant programme, a number of issues in relation to the fundamental components of the grants, namely their insufficient quantum and the non-reflective indexation. However, issues relating specifically to the distribution methodology are unique to each jurisdiction and the state and territory local government associations will provide input on these methodologies.

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

Local government is confronted by a significant asset management task. Its infrastructure renewals backlog was estimated in a 2006 PriceWaterhouseCoopers report commissioned by ALGA to be \$14.5 billion nationally, and this is a number that will have grown over the last eight years.

To address this infrastructure renewals backlog, ALGA identified a two-pronged approach. This involved advocating a better funding model for the Financial Assistance Grant programme from the Australian Government to local 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. This includes the establishment of the two-year Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Programme, the open dialogue conducted on constitutional reform to recognise the place of local government in the Federation and the establishment of a Local Government Reform Fund aimed at improving asset and financial management.

ALGA has always welcomed the Government's confidence in local government and its ability to deliver infrastructure projects in order to support local communities. While this was most clearly seen through the provision of funding to deliver thousands of large and small 'shovel ready' projects in local and regional communities under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Programme, it continues through other avenues today. These projects have been delivered on time and efficiently, and will help drive productive capacity in the Australian economy and improve social cohesion by fostering improved outcomes at the local level.

The Australian Government's Roads to Recovery programme, which is funded to 2019, is highly valued by local and regional communities. They benefit directly from the increased utility provided by better roads and improved road safety. It is a popular programme that has the

support of all political parties, under which local government has produced value for money outcomes nationally.

The Roads to Recovery programme is currently funded to 2019 at a rate of \$350 million a year. ALGA considers that the programme should be made permanent to provide funding certainty to local government which, given the ongoing nature of the road asset management task, is crucial and the funding should be indexed annually to ensure the value of the investment is maintained.

ALGA has undertaken a detailed analysis of the current state of local roads networks. That analysis shows that there is a considerable backlog of infrastructure spending. The research shows that in order to restore and maintain the current network, additional funding of approximately \$1.2 billion a year is required.

ALGA is seeking additional funding from the Australian Government to bridge the gap. This additional funding should comprise increased Roads to Recovery programme funding, funding of a Strategic Regional Roads programme, a dedicated programme of funding for bridge maintenance and additional identified roads grants which are part of the Financial Assistance Grant programme funding.

Considering the importance of roads as local government's single largest asset, the need to ensure security of infrastructure funding does hinder the capacity for truly meaningful use of long-term asset management plans.

Finally, it should be noted that while councils are largely embracing long-term financial management planning, and significant progress has been made on asset management planning, work on asset management has only just begun to accelerate, as shown through the State of the Local Roads Assets Report, published by ALGA in association with Jeff Roorda and Associates. The outcomes of those processes will become more clear over the coming years.

Actions to develop and implement 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; these are usually currently determined by individual state and territory governments and apply on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis. ALGA therefore expects that individual jurisdiction' input, as well as direct input from ALGA's member associations, would address this issue.

As a general observation, ALGA appreciates that accurate, timely and consistent data is critical to enable credible comparative analysis of performance and outcomes. Numerous government and parliamentary reports over recent years have highlighted that 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. ALGA has outlined the case for Australian Government funding to assist in the measurement of improved local government service delivery in the Australian Government Budget submission in 2011–12. In particular, it cited the Productivity Commission's finding in the 2008 Assessing Local Government Revenue Raising Capacity research report 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'.

Reforms undertaken during 2013–14 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local government's key objective is to serve its communities. Therefore, continued improvements in service delivery are a primary goal.

As previously discussed, a significant obstruction to improvements is the lack of financial security, combined with the increased overall financial pressures placed on local governments.

When the funding model for local government was devised in the early 1980s, local councils responsibilities were generally restricted to the three 'r's' (roads, rates and rubbish). However, since that time, for many reasons, the balance of local government resources directed towards social services continues to increase, as does the cost to provide those services.

Local government, in order to maintain service provision, often, in the face of withdrawals of state or Australian Government funds, 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 IGA). The IGA 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 IGA was due for review by April 2011 and while a limited review was undertaken, there is a need to consider a strengthened agreement going forward. Until the burden of cost shifting is lessened the overall efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery will not reach its potential.

Initiatives undertaken in relation to local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

ALGA supports the Closing the Gap initiatives and notes the important work of local councils in improving local government service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

ALGA welcomes the renewed focus of the Australian Government on service delivery for remote communities, along with the increased funding made available for it.

However, an audit by the Western Australian Government in 2008 provided an 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.

C

Comparison of local government grants commission 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 2013–14 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* (Cwlth) (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 below.

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, 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; or
- direct assessment – based on the approach of assessing the level of disadvantage for a council in each area of expenditure and revenue.

Table C-1 shows the type of distribution model used by each commission.

Table C-1 Distribution models used for general purpose grants for 2013–14 allocations

State	Model used
NSW	Direct assessment model
Vic	Balanced budget model after assistance for natural disaster relief is removed
Qld	Balanced budget model
WA	Balanced budget model
SA	Direct assessment model after allocations for the Outback Areas Community Development Trust and five Indigenous local governing bodies are determined separately
Tas	Balanced budget model
NT	Balanced budget model

Source: Information provided by local government grants commissions in each state and territory.

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 making an assessment of 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 C-2 shows the differences in the scope of equalisation of the commissions.

Table C-2 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	No	No
Sewerage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Electricity	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Capital	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Depreciation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Debt servicing	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Entrepreneurial activity	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	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	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garbage charges	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water charges	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sewerage charges	No	No	No	No	No	No	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

Note: Functions for which a 'Yes' is provided above are not necessarily separately assessed by the relevant 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. In addition, Queensland uses two expenditure categories that are not included in the above table. These are environment, and business and industry development. Potentially, business and industry development could fall under entrepreneurial activity.
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 council's 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 relative economic strength of local areas.

Victoria applies an average state-wide rate in the dollar to capital improved values, averaged every three years. The relative revenue raising capacity of each council is determined by multiplying this average rate by each council's valuation base on a capital improved value basis.

The rate revenue raising capacity is calculated separately for each of the three major property classes – that is, residential, commercial / industrial / other, and farm. For each of the nine areas of expenditure assessed, a separate assessment is made of the relative capacity of each council to generate revenue from government recurrent grants. This is incorporated on the expenditure side of the method and treated as negative expenditure.

An assessment is made of the capacity of each council to generate own-source revenue from user fees and charges for each of the nine functional areas. For some functions, this is then modified by a series of 'revenue adjustors' to take account of differences between councils in their capacity to generate fees and charges due to their characteristics.

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. Note that both valuation figures above are an average of 10 years, to avoid fluctuations. This is then adjusted to allow for the capacity of a council to raise rates, using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas.

In **Western Australia** calculation of assessed revenue capacity is based on a standardised mathematical formulae updated annually and 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.

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. Individual council shares of the state total assessed annual value are used to distribute the total assessed revenue between councils.

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.

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* (Cwlth), 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 regional council rates, domestic waste and interest.

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 C-3 provides details on the grants included by commissions in allocating the general purpose component in 2013-14.

Table C-3 Grants treated by inclusion in general purpose grant allocations for 2013-14 by jurisdiction

State	Grants treated by inclusion
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. This includes each council's local road grant and 77 per cent of Roads to Recovery programme grant.
Qld	Allocation of minimum grant component of previous year's general purpose grant, 50 per cent of previous years local road grant, 20 per cent of the state Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils' State Government Financial Aid grant.
WA	93 per cent of the local road grant, 63 per cent of the Roads to Recovery programme grant.
SA	85 per cent of the local road grant, library grants, and the Roxby Downs unique extraordinary grant.
Tas	Local road grant, Roads to Recovery programme grant, state motor taxes collected on the registration of heavy vehicles and distributions received from council owned water and sewerage entities.
NT	Local road grant, library grant, and 50 per cent of the Roads to Recovery programme grant.

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 assesses 21 expenditure categories, including three classes of road maintenance and continues to use the direct assessment method. The New South Wales assessment includes an additional allowance for councils outside of the Sydney statistical division to recognise 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.

Victoria continues to use the balanced budget method and assesses nine expenditure categories.

With the exception of local roads and bridges, standardised expenditure in each category is calculated by multiplying the relevant unit of need, such as, population, by the average council expenditure on that category. A composite cost adjuster is also applied, which takes into account factors that make service provision costs more or less for individual councils.

Queensland assesses against nine categories of expenditure and uses the balanced budget method. Queensland considers which of the suite of cost adjusters (location, demography – Indigenous, demography – age, demography – Indigenous/age or scale) are applied to which service categories.

Western Australia uses the balanced budget method and applies a range of disabilities to six expenditure standards. Assessed expenditure need for Western Australia is based on a standardised mathematical formulae updated annually and involves the assessment of each local government's operating expenditures in the provision of core services and facilities under the 'standard' categories.

South Australia uses the direct assessment model and uses 12 expenditure categories in addition to the local road categories. South Australia continues to exclude the libraries expenditure category due to consistency issues with data.

Tasmania assesses seven expenditure categories, as well as assessing local road needs, using the balanced budget model. A range of cost adjusters are applied that take into account factors that influence the cost of service provision for individual councils.

The Northern Territory uses the balanced budget approach and assesses 10 expenditure categories, as well as one for local roads. Three cost adjusters are used to reflect a local governments cost of service delivery and include location, dispersion and Aboriginality.

Assessing local road expenditure needs under the general purpose grants

As part of the expenditure needs assessment for determining the general purpose allocation, commissions also assess each council's local road needs. The main features of the models commissions use for assessing local road needs for determining the general purpose allocations in 2013-14 are discussed below.

The **New South Wales** method of allocating the local road component is based on a simple 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.

Expenditure allowances are allocated for urban local roads, sealed rural local roads, and unsealed rural local roads. Calculating these expenditure allowances involves the application of disability factors for topography, climate, soils, materials, drainage, heavy traffic, travel and development. It also assesses needs with reference to the length of each type of road per urban or rural property, as applicable, and with provision for bridge and culvert needs per kilometre of local roads.

The **Victorian** formula for allocating local roads grants is based on the road length of each council (for all surface types) and traffic volumes, using average annual preservation costs for given traffic volume ranges. The method includes five 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 road network, including bridges and hydraulics. Allowances are given for heavy vehicles, which increase the road usage, increasing road expenditure for councils. Cost adjustors applied to expenditure categories include location, scale and demography.

Western Australia calculates the local road component using the asset preservation model, which has been in place since 1992. This model assesses the average annual costs of maintaining each local government's road network and aims to equalise road standards through the application of minimum standards.

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.

Northern Territory determines the local road grant by applying a weighting to each council for road length, surface type and 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**, all 152 councils are required to prepare plans under the integrated planning and reporting framework to respond flexibly to local need. The integrated planning and reporting guidelines include the requirement for a community strategic plan to be developed in consultation with groups within the local community and based on principles of social justice. These requirements include consideration to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within each local community.

Victoria includes a cost adjustor that reflects the Indigenous population when calculating the 2013–14 general purpose grants. Further, the Municipal Association of Victoria led the Local Government Aboriginal Employment Project that supports local government engagement and links with Indigenous communities, encourages partnerships between the Victorian Government and local governments and improves outcomes for Indigenous people and local government.

Queensland applies a cost adjustor to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous councils 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.

Queensland provides funding to Indigenous local governments to support the provision of local government services to their communities. In 2013–14, \$31.6 million was the funding pool for the State Government Financial Aid programme for Queensland's 16 Indigenous councils.

Western Australia applies Indigenous as a disability for 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.

Western Australia also allocates one-third of seven per cent of the local road component to road servicing for remote Indigenous communities. This provided \$2,492,601 in funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme which was matched by \$1,246,300 in funding from Main Roads Western Australia.

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, South Australian used a consultancy service, which 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 pool of funding for South Australia since the initial study.

Tasmania makes no special allowance for Indigenous people as there are very few separately identifiable Indigenous communities in the state. Further, there are no targeted services provided by councils for 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 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 (National Principle A6).

In addition to complying with the other National Principles for the general purpose grant, grants 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.

During 2013-14, the number of local governing bodies in Queensland increased from 73 to 77. This change was implemented on 1 January 2014 and was a result of de-amalgamations. These included:

- Noosa Shire Council from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council;
- Livingstone Shire Council from the Rockhampton Regional Council;
- Mareeba Shire Council from the Tablelands Regional Council and
- Douglas Shire Council from the Cairns Regional Council.

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;
- has not ensured that the total assessed revenue and expenditure across all councils in the jurisdiction equals the total actual revenue and expenditure for all councils in the jurisdiction; or
- has not 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 principle. This Principle 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 (National Principle A3).

Grants to councils with raw grant allocations below the minimum grant (including negative grants) are increased to comply with the minimum grant 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. The:

- 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; and
- 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 grants

The National Principles require the local road grant to be allocated so that, as far as practicable, the grant is allocated to councils:

... 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 (National Principle B1).

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; and
- 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 and 15 per cent respectively for funding priority local road projects. Expert committees advise on the projects to be funded.

Table C-4 summarises the main features of the models used by the commissions for allocating local road grants in 2013–14.

Table C-4 *Features of local government grants commission models for allocating local road grants, 2013-14*

State	Features of the distribution model
NSW	<p>Based on a model developed by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, councils in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong metropolitan areas receive 27.54 per cent of the grant pool with 38 per cent of this portion allocated on the basis of population, 57 per cent on the basis of road length and five per cent on the basis of bridge length.</p> <p>The remaining 72.46 per cent is allocated to councils outside the above metropolitan areas, with 19 per cent of the remaining portion allocated on the basis of population, 74 per cent on the basis of road length and seven per cent on the basis of bridge length.</p>
Vic	Allocation is based on an asset preservation model.
Qld	Allocation is based on an asset preservation model that assesses road expenditure, estimating the cost to maintain a road network, including bridges and hydraulics.
WA	<p>Allocation of 93 per cent of the road grant pool is based on an asset preservation model.</p> <p>The remaining seven per cent is set aside for special projects, with two-thirds of this portion for bridges and one-third for access roads serving remote Indigenous communities.</p>
SA	<p>Allocation of 85 per cent of the road grant pool is split between metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils based on population and road length. Allocations for metropolitan councils are based on an equal weighting of population and road length while allocations for non-metropolitan councils are based on an equal weighting of population, road length and council area.</p> <p>The remaining 15 per cent of the pool is set aside for special projects.</p>
Tas	Allocation of the road grant is based on an asset preservation model which uses the estimated cost of preservation of both roads and bridges a year.
NT	Allocation is based on weights applied to road length and surface type.

Source: Information provided by local government grants commissions.

D

Distribution to local governing bodies in 2013–14



Table D-1 shows the distribution of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme and some basic information, such as population, area in square kilometres and road length in kilometres for each local governing body in Australia.

For the Financial Assistance Grant programme, the table shows the actual total grant entitlement for 2013–14 and the estimated total grant entitlement for 2014–15. For each of these years, the components of the Financial Assistance Grant programme, including the general purpose grant and the local road grant, are also given.

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 at Appendix F.

To facilitate comparison, the general purpose grant per capita and the local road grant per kilometre are provided for 2013–14. Additional comparative information on grants received is provided in Chapter 2 as follows:

Table 2-7 provides the average general purpose grant per capita for councils, grouped by state and by ACLG.

Table 2-8 provides the average local road grant per kilometre for councils, grouped by state and by ACLG.

Councils receiving the minimum per capita grant in 2013–14 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 D-1 Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$		
New South Wales												
Albury	URM	49,645	306	505	5,092,794	1,259,174	6,351,968	102.58	2,493.41	4,934,737	1,262,588	6,197,325
Armidale Dumaresq	URS	25,379	4,231	937	2,736,076	1,324,333	4,060,409	107.81	1,413.38	2,658,546	1,395,116	4,053,662
Ashfield	UDM	43,786	8	91	984,185	298,027	1,282,212	22.48	3,275.02	934,976	295,833	1,230,809
Auburn	UDL	80,892	33	196	2,947,964	590,960	3,538,924	36.44	3,015.10	2,893,804	597,486	3,491,290
Ballina	URM	40,993	485	602	2,358,805	1,256,394	3,615,199	57.54	2,087.03	2,437,983	1,259,443	3,697,426
Bairnsdale	RAM	2,350	21,693	1,327	1,867,316	1,227,472	3,094,788	794.60	925.00	2,064,220	1,229,250	3,293,470
Bankstown	UDV	193,085	77	541	5,677,952	1,527,329	7,205,281	29.41	2,823.16	5,394,054	1,510,541	6,904,595
Bathurst Regional	URM	40,209	3,817	1,186	4,520,581	1,841,695	6,362,276	112.43	1,552.86	4,420,677	1,857,421	6,278,098
Bega Valley	URM	33,112	6,279	1,170	4,974,977	1,824,611	6,799,588	150.25	1,559.50	4,910,269	1,823,268	6,733,537
Bellingen	RAV	12,775	1,600	531	2,501,316	851,332	3,352,648	195.80	1,603.26	2,490,599	851,522	3,342,121
Berrigan	RAL	8,318	2,066	1,260	3,032,196	1,275,080	4,307,276	364.53	1,011.97	3,022,233	1,276,343	4,298,576
Blacktown	UDV	317,575	240	1,208	16,324,821	3,042,935	19,367,756	51.40	2,518.99	15,508,580	3,054,442	18,563,022
Bland	RAL	6,049	8,558	2,925	3,544,723	2,744,840	6,289,563	586.00	938.41	3,832,141	2,745,287	6,577,428
Blayney	RAL	7,241	1,525	681	1,609,188	786,669	2,395,857	222.23	1,155.17	1,607,629	787,147	2,394,776
Blue Mountains	UFL	78,489	1,431	723	6,974,797	1,340,379	8,315,176	88.86	1,853.91	6,858,998	1,327,065	8,186,063
Bogan	RAM	3,036	14,601	1,352	1,861,361	1,315,601	3,176,962	613.10	973.08	2,009,882	1,315,943	3,325,825
Bombala	RAM	2,397	3,947	629	1,132,096	668,763	1,800,859	472.30	1,063.22	1,159,548	668,722	1,828,270
Boorowa	RAM	2,514	2,578	639	892,076	637,013	1,529,089	354.84	996.89	923,769	608,748	1,532,517
Botany Bay	UDM	42,467	22	90	888,878	288,282	1,177,160	20.93	3,203.13	889,659	287,997	1,177,656
Bourke	RAM	3,058	41,605	1,883	2,654,882	1,772,987	4,427,869	868.18	941.58	2,979,965	1,772,772	4,752,737
Brewarrina	RAS	1,893	19,165	1,272	1,723,458	1,213,143	2,936,601	910.44	953.73	1,947,404	1,214,326	3,161,730
Broken Hill	URS	19,067	170	211	4,204,090	486,570	4,690,660	220.49	2,306.02	4,031,205	483,788	4,514,993
Burwood	UDM	34,781	7	82	728,002	249,252	977,254	20.93	3,039.66	725,381	248,298	973,679
Byron	URM	31,059	566	546	1,361,241	1,132,830	2,494,071	43.83	2,074.78	1,455,837	1,141,372	2,597,209
Cabonne	RAV	13,451	6,024	1,832	2,479,628	1,971,301	4,450,929	184.35	1,076.04	2,486,071	1,974,053	4,460,124
Camden	UFM	60,451	201	454	2,001,506	994,689	2,996,195	33.11	2,190.94	2,070,644	1,017,947	3,088,591
Campbelltown	UFV	152,584	312	646	8,793,966	1,619,351	10,413,317	57.63	2,506.74	8,588,854	1,621,702	10,210,556
Canada Bay	UDL	81,997	20	189	1,716,281	590,085	2,306,366	20.93	3,122.14	1,744,834	593,905	2,338,739
Canterbury	UDV	146,314	34	313	4,485,302	1,013,951	5,499,253	30.66	3,239.46	4,261,037	1,011,031	5,272,068

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement				2014–15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Carrathool	RAM	2,686	18,933	2,300	2,469,128	2,139,773	4,608,901	919.26		930.34	2,760,345	2,142,457	4,902,802
Central Darling	RTM	2,133	53,494	1,602	2,645,837	1,478,181	4,124,018	1,240.43		922.71	2,944,280	1,480,917	4,425,197
Cessnock	URM	53,270	1,965	904	5,480,367	1,612,981	7,093,348	102.88		1,784.27	5,383,791	1,601,747	6,985,538
Clarence Valley	URM	51,285	10,429	2,058	7,219,447	3,078,324	10,297,771	140.77		1,495.78	7,132,478	3,064,997	10,197,475
Cobar	RTL	4,946	45,571	1,693	2,995,894	1,604,397	4,600,291	605.72		947.67	3,238,440	1,606,011	4,844,451
Coffs Harbour	URL	70,916	1,174	760	5,100,785	1,941,488	7,042,273	71.93		2,554.59	4,981,863	1,965,778	6,947,641
Conargo	RAS	1,576	8,738	1,229	1,422,428	1,149,314	2,571,742	902.56		935.16	1,481,173	1,149,350	2,630,523
Coolamon	RAM	4,264	2,431	1,275	1,881,649	1,212,169	3,093,818	441.29		950.72	1,961,999	1,212,608	3,174,607
Cooma-Monaro	RAV	10,114	5,185	934	2,513,269	1,060,212	3,573,481	248.49		1,135.13	2,517,489	1,058,627	3,576,116
Coonamble	RAM	4,281	9,916	1,393	2,045,013	1,375,845	3,420,858	477.70		987.68	2,134,350	1,375,984	3,510,334
Cootamundra	RAL	7,571	1,524	571	2,018,766	689,587	2,708,353	266.64		1,207.68	2,005,550	687,951	2,693,501
Corowa	RAV	11,355	2,329	1,286	3,077,745	1,366,817	4,444,562	271.05		1,062.84	3,119,340	1,363,947	4,482,687
Cowra	RAV	12,619	2,809	1,203	2,890,262	1,357,336	4,247,598	229.04		1,128.29	2,872,531	1,355,125	4,227,656
Deniliquin	URS	7,338	143	152	2,102,512	260,096	2,362,608	286.52		1,711.16	2,055,705	259,732	2,315,437
Dubbo	URM	40,822	3,426	1,187	5,158,902	1,745,879	6,904,781	126.38		1,470.83	5,028,630	1,728,901	6,757,531
Dungog	RAL	8,683	2,250	593	1,420,732	840,185	2,260,917	163.62		1,416.84	1,421,273	846,436	2,267,709
Eurobodalla	URM	36,940	3,428	955	4,989,839	1,559,920	6,549,759	135.08		1,633.42	4,974,819	1,563,354	6,538,173
Fairfield	UDV	198,381	102	608	9,164,696	1,657,101	10,821,797	46.20		2,725.50	8,706,461	1,649,475	10,355,936
Forbes	RAL	9,523	4,718	1,744	2,963,902	1,796,019	4,759,921	311.24		1,029.83	3,009,209	1,798,677	4,807,886
Gilgandra	RAM	4,494	4,832	1,276	1,756,454	1,278,542	3,034,996	390.84		1,001.99	1,916,674	1,299,237	3,215,911
Glen Innes Severn	RAL	8,931	5,480	1,085	2,313,728	1,281,744	3,595,472	259.07		1,181.33	2,328,778	1,279,812	3,608,590
Gloucester	RAL	4,996	2,950	641	1,329,092	848,770	2,177,862	266.03		1,324.13	1,354,770	852,226	2,206,996
Gosford	UFV	168,807	940	969	8,052,505	2,097,161	10,149,666	47.70		2,164.25	8,187,368	2,079,135	10,266,503
Goulburn Mulwaree	URS	28,628	3,220	1,148	3,274,592	1,598,692	4,873,284	114.38		1,392.59	3,225,564	1,604,343	4,829,907
Great Lakes	URM	35,777	3,373	962	5,209,150	1,581,849	6,790,999	145.60		1,644.33	5,129,373	1,586,186	6,715,559
Greater Hume	RAV	10,099	5,749	1,775	3,017,347	1,897,307	4,914,654	298.78		1,068.91	2,938,617	1,897,850	4,836,467
Greater Taree	URM	48,188	3,729	1,611	4,895,659	2,494,785	7,390,444	101.59		1,548.59	4,909,866	2,499,946	7,409,812
Griffith	URS	25,372	1,640	1,244	3,247,411	1,512,202	4,759,613	127.99		1,215.60	3,301,576	1,510,336	4,811,912
Gundagai	RAM	3,752	2,457	694	1,190,479	771,623	1,962,102	317.29		1,111.85	1,217,086	771,232	1,988,318
Gunnedah	RAV	12,588	4,987	1,352	2,562,308	1,477,863	4,040,171	203.55		1,093.09	2,584,786	1,490,904	4,075,690

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Guyra	RAM	4,573	4,390	842	1,148,411	884,870	2,033,281	1,157,701	884,880	2,042,581
Gwydir	RAL	5,080	9,262	1,898	2,013,887	1,868,540	3,882,427	2,183,653	1,870,231	4,053,884
Harden	RAM	3,695	1,868	768	1,372,067	796,528	2,168,595	1,377,141	797,410	2,174,551
Hawkesbury	UFM	64,440	2,775	900	2,846,024	1,661,052	4,507,076	2,703,723	1,637,309	4,341,032
Hay	RAM	3,013	11,326	777	1,815,192	751,499	2,566,691	1,859,609	750,801	2,610,410
Hills	UFV	180,094	401	849	3,769,550	1,903,868	5,673,418	3,772,253	1,920,241	5,692,494
Holroyd	UDL	105,772	40	310	3,495,598	880,297	4,375,895	3,327,470	895,710	4,223,180
Hornsby	UFV	165,091	482	623	3,455,522	1,517,416	4,972,938	3,428,901	1,500,304	4,929,205
Hunters Hill	UDS	14,115	6	61	295,442	142,754	438,196	297,794	142,720	440,514
Hurstville	UDL	83,386	23	212	1,745,354	614,454	2,359,808	1,743,869	614,557	2,358,426
Inverell	RAV	16,682	8,595	1,745	3,345,017	1,919,444	5,264,461	3,423,747	1,918,724	5,342,471
Jerilderie	RAS	1,521	3,373	998	1,220,470	945,091	2,165,561	1,286,143	946,109	2,232,252
Junee	RAL	6,083	2,030	825	1,772,177	857,540	2,629,717	1,765,499	863,956	2,629,455
Kempsey	URS	29,244	3,376	1,060	3,919,088	1,726,757	5,645,845	3,867,240	1,723,985	5,591,225
Kiama	URS	20,843	258	261	930,607	510,383	1,440,990	964,760	447,665	1,412,425
Kogarah	UDM	59,774	16	153	1,251,131	441,876	1,693,007	1,241,458	439,370	1,680,828
Ku-ring-gai	UDL	116,569	85	444	2,439,908	1,079,695	3,519,603	2,446,027	1,078,002	3,524,029
Kyogle	RAL	9,520	3,584	1,080	2,311,128	1,545,272	3,856,400	2,327,029	1,547,856	3,874,885
Lachlan	RAL	6,789	14,965	3,460	4,257,403	3,255,410	7,512,813	4,622,104	3,147,504	7,769,608
Lake Macquarie	URV	197,338	648	1,269	13,518,405	2,662,334	16,180,739	13,211,860	2,639,336	15,851,196
Lane Cove	UDM	33,673	11	93	704,810	258,267	963,077	698,625	256,691	955,316
Leeton	RAV	11,492	1,167	876	2,878,932	966,778	3,845,710	2,851,965	988,894	3,840,859
Leichhardt	UDM	56,288	11	140	1,178,166	416,430	1,594,596	1,176,827	415,254	1,592,081
Lismore	URM	44,396	1,288	1,083	4,502,909	1,863,128	6,366,037	4,347,631	1,860,827	6,208,458
Lithgow	URS	20,938	4,512	875	3,454,119	1,174,303	4,628,422	3,417,380	1,178,149	4,595,529
Liverpool	UFV	191,142	306	792	7,716,673	1,989,106	9,705,779	7,330,598	2,013,549	9,344,147
Liverpool Plains	RAL	7,788	5,082	1,195	1,943,677	1,281,211	3,224,888	1,997,868	1,279,371	3,277,239
Lockhart	RAM	3,064	2,896	1,486	1,932,261	1,488,182	3,420,443	2,014,043	1,489,581	3,503,624
Lord Howe Island	RTX	375	16	-	182,902	-	182,902	190,601	-	190,601
Maitland	URL	71,547	392	627	5,370,339	1,235,731	6,606,070	5,283,401	1,249,876	6,533,277

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement			2014–15 estimated entitlement					
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$			
Manly	UDM	43,059	14	105	901,269	311,157	1,212,426	20.93	#	2,963.40	908,976	312,093	1,221,069
Marrickville	UDL	82,021	17	193	2,528,934	583,092	3,112,026	30.83	#	3,021.20	2,402,487	578,305	2,980,792
Mid-Western Regional	URS	23,461	8,753	1,907	3,767,415	2,223,247	5,990,662	160.58	#	1,165.83	3,731,689	2,226,691	5,958,380
Moree Plains	RAV	14,286	17,906	2,640	3,583,275	2,697,670	6,280,945	250.82	#	1,021.84	3,807,793	2,697,225	6,505,018
Mosman	UDS	29,716	9	86	621,987	233,307	855,294	20.93	#	2,712.87	616,157	231,831	847,988
Murray	RAL	7,284	4,345	1,333	2,449,782	1,410,091	3,859,873	336.32	#	1,057.83	2,517,168	1,408,866	3,926,034
Murrumbidgee	RAM	2,402	3,507	590	1,103,751	569,257	1,673,008	459.51	#	964.84	1,120,900	570,854	1,691,754
Muswellbrook	RAV	16,679	3,405	579	2,526,437	869,427	3,395,864	151.47	#	1,501.60	2,485,267	871,670	3,356,937
Nambucca	RAV	19,362	1,491	666	2,514,824	1,132,737	3,647,561	129.88	#	1,700.81	2,490,998	1,132,700	3,623,698
Narrabri	RAV	13,564	13,014	2,177	3,929,319	2,222,015	6,151,334	289.69	#	1,020.68	4,072,052	2,224,174	6,296,226
Narrandera	RAL	6,076	4,116	1,463	2,498,881	1,433,929	3,932,810	411.27	#	980.13	2,605,083	1,433,287	4,038,370
Narramine	RAL	6,945	5,260	1,337	2,526,418	1,319,783	3,846,201	363.78	#	987.12	2,568,824	1,318,568	3,877,392
Newcastle	URV	156,533	187	744	11,335,073	1,745,154	13,080,227	72.41	#	2,345.64	10,882,935	1,737,232	12,620,167
North Sydney	UDM	67,977	11	143	1,422,828	459,994	1,882,822	20.93	#	3,216.74	1,423,060	459,354	1,882,414
Oberon	RAL	5,209	3,627	859	1,443,346	881,602	2,324,948	277.09	#	1,026.31	1,470,587	873,339	2,343,926
Orange	URM	40,149	284	427	3,615,455	1,039,657	4,655,112	90.05	#	2,434.79	3,476,066	1,056,819	4,532,885
Palerang	RAV	15,053	5,147	1,063	1,634,932	1,304,957	2,939,889	108.61	#	1,227.62	1,644,987	1,309,097	2,954,084
Parkes	RAV	15,148	5,955	1,797	3,601,759	1,869,418	5,471,177	237.77	#	1,040.30	3,622,205	1,868,386	5,490,591
Parramatta	UDV	178,226	61	517	7,812,972	1,515,578	9,328,550	43.84	#	2,931.49	7,843,329	1,519,700	9,363,029
Penrith	UFV	186,937	405	981	9,431,847	2,180,141	11,611,988	50.45	#	2,222.37	8,961,972	2,219,588	11,181,560
Pittwater	UDM	60,974	90	235	1,276,248	581,506	1,857,754	20.93	#	2,474.49	1,275,551	605,351	1,880,902
Port Macquarie– Hastings	URL	75,693	3,683	1,231	6,277,862	2,615,912	8,893,774	82.94	#	2,125.03	6,211,347	2,630,590	8,841,937
Port Stephens	URM	67,746	859	632	4,761,207	1,162,310	5,923,517	70.28	#	1,839.10	4,951,933	1,167,447	6,119,380
Queanbeyan	URM	40,026	172	269	2,082,915	869,299	2,952,214	52.04	#	3,231.59	1,978,769	874,193	2,852,962
Randwick	UDV	139,260	36	277	2,914,853	923,432	3,838,285	20.93	#	3,333.69	2,924,497	923,748	3,848,245
Richmond Valley	URS	22,671	3,047	1,011	3,223,208	1,491,655	4,714,863	142.17	#	1,475.43	3,177,930	1,478,520	4,656,450
Rockdale	UDL	104,529	28	264	2,187,899	782,638	2,970,537	20.93	#	2,964.54	2,192,952	781,661	2,974,613
Ryde	UDL	110,390	41	308	2,310,575	874,325	3,184,900	20.93	#	2,838.72	2,312,821	872,242	3,185,063
Shellharbour	URM	66,597	147	369	3,957,815	833,156	4,790,971	59.43	#	2,257.88	3,909,721	826,891	4,736,612

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement				2014-15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	#	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Shoalhaven	URL	96,717	4,530	1,597	8,187,343	3,111,502	11,298,845	84.65		1,948.34	8,201,411	3,113,636	11,315,047
Silverton Village	RTX	57	-	-	29,895	-	29,895	524.47		-	30,096	-	30,096
Singleton	URS	23,705	4,893	731	2,208,188	1,162,636	3,370,824	93.15		1,590.47	2,192,997	1,165,461	3,358,458
Snowy River	RAL	7,894	6,030	759	2,327,352	857,331	3,184,683	294.83		1,129.55	2,321,760	861,335	3,183,095
Strathfield	UDM	37,547	14	86	785,898	269,172	1,055,070	20.93	#	3,129.91	788,265	268,953	1,057,218
Sutherland	UDV	220,534	334	784	4,616,000	1,960,261	6,576,261	20.93	#	2,500.33	4,586,636	1,956,794	6,543,430
Sydney	UCC	187,679	27	301	4,302,327	1,192,496	5,494,823	22.92		3,961.78	4,087,211	1,191,533	5,278,744
Tamworth Regional	URM	59,016	9,884	2,935	6,300,961	3,875,710	10,176,671	106.77		1,320.51	6,186,865	3,882,963	10,069,828
Temora	RAL	5,941	2,802	1,134	1,936,803	1,144,671	3,081,474	326.01		1,009.41	1,960,530	1,145,333	3,105,863
Tenterfield	RAL	7,027	7,322	1,460	2,544,739	1,557,793	4,102,532	362.14		1,066.98	2,606,812	1,560,607	4,167,419
Tibooburra	RTX	128	-	-	67,131	-	67,131	524.46		-	67,584	-	67,584
Tumbarumba	RAM	3,471	4,393	464	1,375,599	540,955	1,916,554	396.31		1,165.85	1,380,269	542,243	1,922,512
Turnut	RAV	11,284	4,567	580	2,537,395	777,134	3,314,529	224.87		1,339.89	2,506,683	776,452	3,283,135
Tweed	URL	88,848	1,308	1,084	6,662,452	2,623,914	9,286,366	74.99		2,420.58	6,718,770	2,637,959	9,356,729
Upper Hunter	RAV	14,502	8,096	1,578	2,499,629	1,820,242	4,319,871	172.36		1,153.51	2,569,225	1,823,143	4,392,368
Upper Lachlan	RAL	7,499	7,128	1,729	2,280,150	1,780,399	4,060,549	304.06		1,029.73	2,346,853	1,770,653	4,117,506
Uralla	RAL	6,297	3,227	818	1,340,168	906,013	2,246,181	212.83		1,107.60	1,368,891	906,128	2,275,019
Urana	RAS	1,174	3,356	767	1,065,840	731,085	1,796,925	907.87		953.17	1,082,012	731,104	1,813,116
Wagga Wagga	URM	61,441	4,826	2,111	7,177,909	3,022,718	10,200,627	116.83		1,431.89	7,023,004	3,028,650	10,051,654
Wakool	RAM	4,038	7,521	1,281	2,163,766	1,358,837	3,522,603	535.85		1,060.76	2,208,653	1,360,295	3,568,948
Walcha	RAM	3,090	6,261	807	904,177	858,739	1,762,916	292.61		1,064.11	983,582	858,558	1,842,140
Walgett	RAL	6,858	22,309	1,968	3,591,997	1,976,562	5,568,559	523.77		1,004.35	3,756,936	1,834,762	5,591,698
Warren	RAM	2,914	10,754	964	1,395,577	969,588	2,365,165	478.92		1,005.80	1,452,422	969,599	2,422,021
Warringham	UDV	149,378	149	460	3,126,633	1,241,108	4,367,741	20.93	#	2,698.06	3,136,698	1,239,475	4,376,173
Warrumbungle	RAV	9,857	12,371	2,276	3,830,085	2,291,898	6,121,983	388.56		1,006.99	3,944,295	2,291,349	6,235,644
Waverley	UDL	69,264	9	113	1,529,352	423,835	1,953,187	22.08		3,750.75	1,453,022	423,876	1,876,898
Weddin	RAM	3,703	3,409	968	1,492,760	943,900	2,436,660	403.12		975.10	1,482,849	944,107	2,426,956
Wellington	RAL	8,919	4,110	1,234	2,414,803	1,280,402	3,695,205	270.75		1,037.60	2,453,591	1,280,445	3,734,036
Wentworth	RAL	6,767	26,257	1,944	3,146,347	1,882,794	5,029,141	464.95		968.52	3,395,634	1,884,054	5,279,688
Willoughby	UDL	72,400	22	199	1,515,406	573,064	2,088,470	20.93	#	2,879.72	1,503,349	569,030	2,072,379

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement				2014–15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Wingecarribee	URM	46,308	2,688	1,034	2,747,421	1,703,059	4,450,480	59.33		1,647.06	2,780,328	1,717,783	4,498,111
Wollondilly	UFM	45,093	2,556	699	2,120,982	1,272,658	3,393,640	47.04		1,820.68	2,142,081	1,270,476	3,412,557
Wollongong	URV	202,062	684	940	15,062,790	2,324,896	17,387,686	74.55		2,473.29	15,064,939	2,328,274	17,393,213
Woollahra	UDM	56,962	12	140	1,192,273	424,814	1,617,087	20.93	#	3,034.39	1,185,274	422,323	1,607,597
Wyong	UFV	155,342	740	1,030	10,587,948	2,101,808	12,689,756	68.16		2,040.59	10,654,413	2,152,281	12,806,694
Yass Valley	RAV	15,873	3,998	1,045	1,660,507	1,240,772	2,901,279	104.61		1,187.34	1,631,085	1,251,728	2,882,813
Young	RAV	12,590	2,693	1,060	2,368,869	1,200,150	3,569,019	188.15		1,132.22	2,361,808	1,200,630	3,562,438
Victoria													
Alpine	RAV	12,473	4,788	790	2,447,177	1,096,233	3,543,410	196.20		1,387.64	2,430,316	1,078,982	3,509,298
Ararat	RAV	11,335	4,211	2,253	3,140,040	2,152,488	5,292,528	277.02		955.39	3,161,250	2,145,950	5,307,200
Ballarat	URL	96,935	739	1,365	9,755,281	2,091,629	11,846,910	100.64		1,532.33	9,923,391	2,142,253	12,065,644
Banyule	UDV	123,600	63	547	3,712,080	920,955	4,633,035	30.03		1,683.65	3,652,711	909,970	4,562,681
Bass Coast	UFM	30,616	865	927	4,220,647	1,353,712	5,574,359	137.86		1,460.31	4,190,323	1,353,760	5,544,083
Baw Baw	URM	44,441	4,031	1,934	5,831,885	2,593,845	8,425,730	131.23		1,341.18	5,696,365	2,559,138	8,255,503
Bayside	UDL	96,992	37	356	2,029,515	517,516	2,547,031	20.86	#	1,453.70	2,024,509	514,712	2,539,221
Benalla	RAV	13,731	2,353	1,350	2,361,143	1,362,849	3,723,992	171.96		1,009.52	2,433,385	1,396,130	3,829,515
Boroondara	UDV	168,458	60	562	3,523,017	816,404	4,339,421	20.86	#	1,452.68	3,510,147	811,981	4,322,128
Brimbank	UDV	193,334	123	890	12,047,987	1,601,861	13,649,848	62.32		1,799.84	11,880,513	1,621,074	13,501,587
Buloke	RAL	6,355	8,000	5,313	3,151,335	2,187,378	5,338,713	495.88		411.70	3,227,917	2,240,794	5,468,711
Campaspe	URM	36,967	4,519	4,061	7,115,166	4,234,762	11,349,928	192.47		1,042.79	7,115,425	4,169,285	11,284,710
Cardinia	UFL	80,188	1,282	1,467	7,176,190	2,447,451	9,623,641	89.49		1,668.34	7,340,392	2,384,748	9,725,140
Casey	UDV	267,640	409	1,467	15,223,151	2,139,382	17,362,533	56.88		1,458.34	15,291,409	2,159,635	17,451,044
Central Goldfields	RAV	12,581	1,533	1,296	2,431,871	1,099,507	3,531,378	193.30		848.39	2,482,935	1,105,076	3,588,011
Colac Otway	URS	20,767	3,438	1,623	3,425,137	2,514,636	5,939,773	164.93		1,549.38	3,447,840	2,537,244	5,985,084
Corangamite	RAV	16,387	4,408	2,370	3,709,806	3,180,866	6,890,672	226.39		1,342.14	3,760,405	3,257,543	7,017,948
Darebin	UDV	144,641	54	511	4,158,417	868,783	5,027,200	28.75		1,700.16	4,052,702	889,693	4,942,395
East Gippsland	URM	43,160	20,942	2,925	9,365,799	4,565,589	13,931,388	217.00		1,560.89	9,256,844	4,494,449	13,751,293
Frankston	UDV	131,754	130	686	7,657,049	1,076,142	8,733,191	58.12		1,568.72	7,588,665	1,048,508	8,637,173
Gannawarra	RAV	10,376	3,735	2,289	3,125,173	1,975,880	5,101,053	301.19		863.21	3,152,713	1,944,787	5,097,500
Glen Eira	UDV	139,242	39	432	2,918,947	589,877	3,508,824	20.86	#	1,365.46	2,912,599	586,681	3,499,280

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Glennelg	RAV	19,758	6,218	2,610	3,985,090	3,246,352	7,231,442	3,923,412	3,196,009	7,119,421
Golden Plains	RAV	19,470	2,703	1,830	3,207,711	1,960,119	5,167,830	1,071.10	1,935,412	5,184,622
Greater Bendigo	URL	103,605	3,000	3,062	11,715,308	3,224,386	14,939,694	113.08	3,233,145	14,953,383
Greater Dandenong	UDV	144,312	130	651	9,574,918	1,344,754	10,919,672	66.35	1,372,830	10,720,116
Greater Geelong	URV	218,125	1,248	2,057	16,290,002	3,011,240	19,301,242	74.68	3,078,097	19,335,163
Greater Shepparton	URM	62,379	2,422	2,510	8,280,443	2,976,103	11,256,546	132.74	8,456,557	3,012,848
Hepburn	RAV	14,728	1,473	1,421	2,820,412	1,424,509	4,244,921	191.50	1,423,819	4,254,849
Hindmarsh	RAL	5,781	7,524	3,177	2,521,993	1,549,078	4,071,071	436.26	1,546,815	4,066,635
Hobsons Bay	UDL	88,275	64	425	1,847,362	683,331	2,530,693	20.86	679,629	2,513,620
Horsham	RAV	19,631	4,267	2,919	3,634,521	2,038,877	5,673,398	185.14	2,027,547	5,661,369
Hume	UFV	178,034	504	1,101	10,854,493	1,949,988	12,804,481	60.97	1,997,607	12,823,051
Indigo	RAV	15,373	2,040	1,564	2,759,337	1,661,334	4,420,671	179.49	1,635,811	4,395,199
Kingston	UDV	150,014	91	598	3,135,894	1,225,415	4,361,309	20.86	1,193,948	4,315,794
Knox	UDV	154,583	114	716	6,698,462	1,055,515	7,753,977	43.33	1,036,167	7,594,274
Latrobe	URL	74,001	1,426	1,560	9,090,605	2,490,765	11,581,370	122.84	2,427,616	11,363,765
Loddon	RAL	7,506	6,696	4,728	4,239,471	3,332,890	7,572,361	564.81	3,414,279	7,720,924
Macedon Ranges	URM	43,517	1,748	1,593	4,679,656	1,993,676	6,673,332	107.54	1,999,073	6,602,073
Manningham	UDL	117,036	113	592	2,457,725	775,790	3,233,515	21.00	755,969	3,174,995
Mansfield	RAL	8,315	3,844	800	1,856,459	937,946	2,794,405	223.27	923,403	2,785,460
Maribymong	UDL	76,866	31	278	2,509,253	460,806	2,970,059	32.64	472,002	2,966,074
MaroonDAH	UDL	108,168	61	476	4,640,921	756,429	5,397,350	42.90	737,573	5,285,720
Melbourne	UCC	105,418	37	206	2,216,994	669,567	2,886,561	21.03	665,901	3,062,494
Melton	UFL	117,881	528	935	10,726,636	1,531,261	12,257,897	91.00	1,568,302	12,555,610
Mildura	URM	52,197	22,083	5,090	9,255,621	3,599,169	12,854,790	177.32	3,687,061	13,197,606
Mitchell	URM	36,143	2,862	1,414	4,623,947	1,684,820	6,308,767	127.93	1,675,838	6,386,721
Moira	URS	28,647	4,047	3,645	5,982,355	3,560,816	9,543,171	208.83	3,647,771	9,693,039
Monash	UDV	179,931	82	734	3,781,512	1,138,098	4,919,610	21.02	1,131,932	4,887,651
Moonee Valley	UDL	113,513	43	413	2,376,265	661,199	3,037,464	20.86	657,617	3,026,426
Moorabool	URS	29,347	2,111	1,459	3,886,769	1,818,057	5,704,826	132.44	1,789,447	5,728,502
Moreland	UDV	156,657	51	517	5,196,015	903,042	6,099,057	33.17	904,877	5,968,799

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classification	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement			2014–15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$		
Mornington Peninsula	UFV	150,830	724	1,703	4,294,931	2,376,866	6,671,797	28.48	1,395.69	4,185,746	2,335,781	6,521,527
Mount Alexander	RAV	17,896	1,530	1,303	2,859,210	1,463,408	4,322,618	159.77	1,123.11	2,845,875	1,499,144	4,345,019
Moyne	RAV	16,226	5,482	2,743	3,650,805	3,699,097	7,349,902	225.00	1,348.56	3,643,228	3,708,388	7,351,616
Murrindindi	RAV	13,423	3,879	1,223	2,725,285	1,653,953	4,379,238	203.03	1,352.37	2,683,625	1,627,925	4,311,550
Nilumbik	UFM	62,751	432	763	2,167,996	1,123,515	3,291,511	34.55	1,472.50	2,220,681	1,094,777	3,315,458
Northern Grampians	RAV	11,945	5,728	3,420	3,840,419	2,565,206	6,405,625	321.51	750.06	3,897,896	2,627,553	6,525,449
Port Phillip	UDL	100,394	21	214	2,106,612	398,506	2,505,118	20.86	1,862.18	2,109,571	396,347	2,505,918
Pyrenees	RAL	6,746	3,435	2,018	2,799,616	2,014,221	4,813,837	415.00	998.13	2,961,449	2,012,528	4,973,977
Queenscliffe	UFS	3,085	9	43	205,962	50,219	256,181	66.76	1,167.88	203,079	51,445	254,524
South Gippsland	URS	27,756	3,297	2,080	5,067,485	3,324,208	8,391,693	182.57	1,598.18	5,131,887	3,405,385	8,537,272
Southern Grampians	RAV	16,372	6,655	2,741	3,930,640	2,941,207	6,871,847	240.08	1,073.04	3,845,291	2,894,922	6,740,213
Stonnington	UDL	101,187	26	257	2,116,427	403,694	2,520,121	20.86	1,570.79	2,123,689	401,507	2,525,196
Strathbogie	RAL	9,666	3,303	2,234	2,805,816	2,101,048	4,906,864	290.28	940.49	2,878,195	2,092,258	4,970,453
Surf Coast	UFS	27,474	1,553	1,089	2,179,533	1,411,458	3,590,991	79.33	1,296.10	2,232,498	1,414,458	3,646,956
Swan Hill	URS	20,950	6,115	3,484	4,155,371	2,053,782	6,209,153	198.35	589.49	4,119,119	2,053,547	6,172,666
Towong	RAL	5,910	6,675	1,204	2,231,161	1,388,823	3,619,984	377.52	1,153.51	2,278,999	1,366,993	3,645,992
Wangaratta	URS	27,221	3,645	2,044	4,208,273	2,288,859	6,497,132	154.60	1,119.79	4,234,105	2,305,193	6,539,298
Warrnambool	URM	33,004	121	324	2,878,802	672,633	3,551,435	87.23	2,076.03	2,883,398	659,336	3,542,734
Wellington	URM	42,294	10,817	3,048	7,746,559	4,598,577	12,345,136	183.16	1,508.72	7,601,685	4,527,190	12,128,875
West Wimmera	RAM	4,195	9,108	2,812	2,729,509	2,258,303	4,987,812	650.66	803.09	2,727,066	2,222,765	4,949,831
Whitehorse	UDV	159,296	64	601	3,352,824	855,675	4,208,499	21.05	1,423.75	3,328,438	851,039	4,179,477
Whittlesea	UFV	169,955	490	1,136	10,409,685	1,816,854	12,226,539	61.25	1,599.34	10,662,655	1,861,029	12,523,684
Wodonga	URM	36,576	433	497	3,732,623	901,084	4,633,707	102.05	1,813.05	3,823,331	878,088	4,701,419
Wyndham	UFV	178,859	542	1,194	12,016,503	1,799,842	13,816,345	67.18	1,507.41	12,272,669	1,843,733	14,116,402
Yarra	UDL	80,987	20	216	1,692,287	391,433	2,083,720	20.86	1,812.19	1,720,426	389,214	2,109,640
Yarra Ranges	UFV	149,235	2,466	1,767	11,010,915	3,521,296	14,532,211	73.78	1,992.81	10,705,964	3,430,874	14,136,838
Yarriambiack	RAL	7,102	7,326	4,811	2,846,969	1,896,379	4,743,348	400.87	394.18	2,891,975	1,889,805	4,781,780
Queensland												
Aurukun*	RTM	1,445	7,383	184	2,117,403	115,257	2,232,660	1,465.33	626.40	1,827,157	60,474	1,887,631
Balonne	RAM	4,868	31,144	2,319	3,494,510	1,309,226	4,803,736	717.85	564.56	3,372,251	1,305,166	4,677,417

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement				2014-15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Banana	RAV	14,988	25,917	3,945	5,813,327	2,299,276	8,112,603	387.87		582.83	5,609,941	2,292,783	7,902,724
Barcardine	RTL	3,305	53,677	3,175	5,092,508	1,756,388	6,848,896	1,540.85		553.19	4,914,340	1,751,368	6,665,708
Barcoo	RTX	363	61,974	1,768	2,935,909	962,170	3,898,079	8,087.90		544.21	2,833,192	904,542	3,737,734
Blackall-Tambo	RTM	2,285	30,489	1,837	2,869,892	1,020,222	3,890,114	1,255.97		555.37	2,769,485	1,018,645	3,788,130
Boulia	RTS	494	61,093	1,329	2,232,680	725,637	2,958,317	4,519.60		546.00	2,154,567	723,734	2,878,301
Brisbane	UCC	1,109,664	1,327	5,657	23,306,312	14,990,294	38,296,606	21.00	#	2,649.87	23,260,866	14,966,571	38,227,437
Bulloo	RTS	420	73,805	1,992	4,511,568	1,084,355	5,595,923	10,741.83		544.35	4,623,027	1,073,145	5,696,172
Bundaberg	URL	93,082	6,451	2,997	5,152,006	2,624,632	7,776,638	55.35		875.75	4,971,756	2,609,197	7,580,953
Burdakin	RAV	17,913	5,053	1,142	2,524,363	811,461	3,335,824	140.92		710.56	2,436,045	806,187	3,242,232
Burke	RTS	567	41,990	713	2,524,613	392,545	2,917,158	4,452.58		550.55	2,436,286	391,329	2,827,615
Cairns / Douglas ^b	URV	165,859	4,306	1,678	3,488,260	2,692,066	6,180,326	21.00	#	1,552.31	3,230,797	2,362,782	5,593,579
Carpentaria	RTM	2,235	68,335	1,780	3,904,046	988,790	4,892,836	1,746.78		555.50	3,767,458	964,673	4,732,131
Cassowary Coast	URS	28,667	4,701	1,165	2,264,725	939,487	3,204,212	79.00		806.43	2,185,491	930,709	3,116,200
Central Highlands	URM	30,545	60,276	4,688	6,233,534	2,869,159	9,102,693	204.08		612.02	6,015,446	2,863,782	8,879,228
Charters Towers	RAV	12,451	68,388	4,209	4,475,425	2,415,055	6,890,480	359.44		573.78	4,318,846	2,308,069	6,626,915
Cherbourg [*]	RTM	1,262	31	70	486,485	51,502	537,987	385.49		735.74	498,504	51,377	549,881
Cloncurry	RTM	3,492	48,112	1,557	4,394,732	881,213	5,275,945	1,258.51		565.97	4,251,325	885,265	5,136,590
Cook	RTM	4,516	117,084	2,676	7,249,801	1,498,940	8,748,741	1,605.36		560.14	6,996,157	1,492,987	8,489,144
Croydon	RTX	320	29,581	1,088	2,638,808	593,142	3,231,950	8,246.28		545.17	2,704,000	591,608	3,295,608
Diamantina	RTX	292	94,832	1,039	2,263,490	566,283	2,829,773	7,751.68		545.03	2,239,485	623,731	2,863,216
Doomadgee [*]	RTM	1,404	1,510	113	1,159,657	76,334	1,235,991	825.97		675.52	1,125,101	75,635	1,200,736
Douglas ^b	RAV									-	1,010,368	322,478	1,332,846
Etheridge	RTS	909	39,309	1,781	3,441,778	975,083	4,416,861	3,786.33		547.49	3,526,809	957,948	4,484,757
Flinders	RTM	1,835	41,538	1,982	4,497,558	1,093,977	5,591,535	2,450.99		551.96	4,608,671	1,096,197	5,704,868
Fraser Coast	URL	98,629	7,101	3,790	4,468,694	3,113,914	7,582,608	45.31		821.61	4,312,351	3,073,084	7,385,435
Gladstone	URM	61,170	10,488	2,559	5,780,586	2,044,313	7,824,899	94.50		798.87	5,578,345	2,071,088	7,649,433
Gold Coast	URV	524,583	1,280	3,476	11,017,835	7,521,049	18,538,884	21.00	#	2,163.71	11,069,774	7,823,274	18,893,048
Goondiwindi	RAV	10,935	19,294	2,473	4,464,348	1,457,889	5,922,237	408.26		589.52	4,308,157	1,454,179	5,762,336
Gympie	URM	47,347	6,913	2,278	3,582,794	1,743,471	5,326,265	75.67		765.35	3,457,446	1,740,908	5,198,354
Hinchinbrook	RAV	11,798	2,811	694	1,569,178	502,932	2,072,110	133.00		724.69	1,514,279	497,782	2,012,061

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement			2014–15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Hope Vale *	RTM	1,087	1,100	115	857,904	74,012	931,916	879,099	643.58	952,638
Ipswich	URV	177,323	1,032	1,627	3,724,321	2,787,313	6,511,634	3,765,218	1,713.16	6,577,567
Isaac	URS	23,688	58,862	3,249	3,146,806	2,015,527	5,162,333	3,036,711	620.35	5,048,701
Kowanya *	RTM	1,150	2,520	352	1,345,480	203,394	1,548,874	1,298,407	577.82	1,500,695
Livingstone ^c	UFM							2,622,579	–	3,762,193
Lockhart River *	RTS	536	3,597	333	1,355,219	186,248	1,541,467	2,528.39	559.30	1,574,302
Lockyer Valley	URM	36,404	2,280	1,428	3,036,720	1,165,175	4,201,895	2,930,477	815.95	4,098,719
Logan	URV	293,353	1,722	2,258	6,161,303	4,376,147	10,537,450	6,182,665	1,938.06	10,570,537
Longreach	RTL	4,298	40,638	3,032	6,298,216	1,689,551	7,987,767	1,465.38	557.24	7,761,753
Mackay	URL	118,719	7,621	2,407	3,917,752	2,580,335	6,498,087	3,780,685	1,072.01	6,399,437
Mapoon Aboriginal Council *	RTX	290	1,840	35	1,011,738	22,087	1,033,825	976,341	631.06	998,294
Maranoa	RAV	13,546	58,829	5,864	12,339,219	3,323,894	15,663,113	12,644,062	566.83	15,962,312
Mareeba ^d	URS							4,814,066	–	6,284,047
McKinlay	RTM	1,086	40,885	1,978	4,164,394	1,083,760	5,248,154	3,834.62	547.91	5,348,086
Moreton Bay	URV	399,406	2,013	3,479	8,388,738	6,177,557	14,566,295	8,408,565	1,775.67	14,616,708
Mornington *	RTM	1,240	1,231	238	1,413,521	142,485	1,556,006	1,364,067	598.68	1,505,515
Mount Isa	URS	22,793	43,343	2,033	3,914,575	1,346,558	5,261,133	4,011,286	662.35	5,350,112
Murweh	RTL	4,784	40,740	2,781	5,202,671	1,558,969	6,761,640	5,020,649	560.58	6,561,897
Napranum *	RTS	936	6	171	927,272	102,894	1,030,166	950,180	601.72	1,052,525
Noosa ^e	URM							1,083,422	–	2,108,201
North Burnett	RAV	10,301	19,708	4,932	8,692,975	2,783,650	11,476,625	843.90	564.41	10,731,794
Northern Peninsula Area *	RTM	2,599	1,011	363	3,586,727	224,433	3,811,160	3,461,240	618.27	3,684,188
Palm Island *	RTM	2,684	71	39	1,038,254	49,817	1,088,071	1,063,905	1,277.36	1,111,715
Paroo	RTM	1,960	47,727	2,136	3,519,470	1,178,789	4,698,259	3,435,139	551.87	4,689,452
Porpuraaw *	RTS	740	4,360	570	1,169,789	316,896	1,486,685	1,198,689	555.96	1,512,424
Quilpie	RTM	1,012	67,613	2,041	3,722,308	1,117,112	4,839,420	3,592,079	547.34	4,705,875
Redland	URV	145,336	537	1,052	3,052,497	2,131,934	5,184,431	3,031,771	2,026.55	5,153,598
Richmond	RTS	847	26,602	1,306	3,150,122	716,969	3,867,091	3,227,947	548.98	3,914,805

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Rockhampton ^c	URL	115,399	18,361	3,403	5,409,114	3,084,826	8,493,940	4,975,026	1,946,467	6,921,493
Scenic Rim	UFM	37,781	3,604	1,782	1,727,825	1,371,843	3,099,668	1,667,375	1,373,978	3,041,353
Somerset	UFS	22,430	5,379	1,907	2,254,975	1,274,636	3,529,611	100.53	2,176,082	3,447,807
South Burnett	URM	32,227	8,429	3,277	5,129,831	2,122,461	7,252,292	159.18	4,950,357	7,065,519
Southern Downs	URM	34,972	7,120	3,038	5,165,117	2,022,419	7,187,536	147.69	4,984,409	7,009,172
Sunshine Coast ^e	URV	322,624	3,126	3,388	6,776,551	5,304,512	12,081,063	21.00	5,712,663	10,242,256
Tablelands ^d	URM	45,563	64,999	4,130	6,107,385	2,728,386	8,835,771	125.02	3,988,230	5,252,251
Toowoomba	URV	157,023	12,966	7,748	10,541,050	5,886,801	16,427,851	67.13	10,172,256	16,202,612
Torres	RTL	3,607	1,857	112	2,839,266	99,464	2,938,730	787.15	2,739,931	2,838,397
Torres Strait Island [*]	RTL	4,771	396	368	10,390,463	250,982	10,641,445	2,177.84	10,026,938	10,274,206
Townsville	URV	184,697	3,736	1,660	4,212,158	2,884,700	7,096,858	22.81	4,064,790	6,965,465
Western Downs	URM	32,872	40,699	7,533	14,160,704	4,436,176	18,596,880	430.78	13,665,274	18,081,739
Whitsunday	URM	33,295	23,856	1,854	3,424,326	1,362,661	4,786,987	102.85	3,304,521	4,664,817
Winton	RTM	1,380	53,935	2,502	4,186,171	1,370,931	5,557,102	3,033.46	4,039,712	5,406,943
Woorabinda [*]	RTS	985	388	80	441,371	53,891	495,262	448.09	452,275	505,953
Wujal Wujal [*]	RTX	296	11	22	404,577	15,105	419,682	1,366.81	414,572	429,465
Yarrabah [*]	RTM	2,733	156	50	762,316	56,468	818,784	278.93	781,149	836,393
Western Australia										
Albany	URM	35,065	4,324	1,560	2,140,566	3,272,593	5,413,159	61.05	2,129,306	3,851,211
Armadale	UFM	69,108	560	651	1,907,520	1,197,280	3,104,800	27.60	1,817,831	3,154,912
Ashburton	RTL	10,829	105,647	2,168	3,414,738	1,303,778	4,718,516	315.33	3,404,231	4,709,571
Augusta-Margaret River	RAV	12,587	2,138	897	266,194	966,210	1,232,404	21.15	271,952	1,352,759
Bassendean	UDS	15,442	11	95	326,572	217,466	544,038	21.15	328,849	544,550
Bayswater	UDM	66,973	33	345	1,416,368	737,215	2,153,583	21.15	1,435,203	2,155,902
Belmont	UDM	38,570	40	228	815,691	526,062	1,341,753	21.15	827,813	1,348,631
Beverley	RAS	1,599	2,310	697	812,156	545,220	1,357,376	507.91	814,114	1,327,833
Boddington	RAM	2,331	1,900	257	221,997	380,123	602,120	95.24	198,479	391,020
Boypup Brook	RAS	1,635	2,838	1,025	402,174	1,176,878	1,579,052	245.98	469,546	1,484,239
Bridgetown- Greenbushes	RAM	4,505	1,691	713	1,170,910	686,151	1,857,061	259.91	1,192,980	1,874,843

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement				2014–15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Brookton	RAS	978	1,626	527	577,549	615,209	1,192,758	590.54		1,167.38	594,358	325,802	920,160
Broome	RTL	16,524	56,000	563	2,302,530	927,010	3,229,540	139.34		1,646.55	2,058,602	926,603	2,985,205
Broomehill–Tambellup	RAS	1,182	2,810	971	1,112,220	840,810	1,953,030	940.96		865.92	1,141,737	917,863	2,059,600
Bruce Rock	RAS	969	2,772	1,175	1,429,366	753,409	2,182,775	1,475.09		641.20	1,481,318	951,318	2,432,636
Bunbury	URM	33,075	66	321	699,481	852,460	1,551,941	21.15	#	2,655.64	694,398	846,242	1,540,640
Bussetton	URM	32,518	1,454	1,089	687,701	1,714,154	2,401,855	21.15	#	1,574.06	708,173	1,401,638	2,109,811
Cambridge	UDS	27,277	22	173	576,863	379,082	955,945	21.15	#	2,191.23	578,207	376,006	954,213
Canning	UDL	93,498	65	575	1,977,327	1,293,890	3,271,217	21.15	#	2,250.24	1,989,990	1,372,929	3,362,919
Capel	RSG	15,383	554	493	1,014,012	552,520	1,566,532	65.92		1,120.73	1,019,671	548,780	1,568,451
Carnamah	RAS	551	2,835	642	840,827	386,810	1,227,637	1,526.00		602.51	846,827	386,110	1,232,937
Carnarvon	RAL	6,057	53,000	1,530	3,717,805	1,130,039	4,847,844	613.80		738.59	3,706,588	1,126,153	4,832,741
Chapman Valley	RAS	1,206	4,007	863	298,014	497,941	795,955	247.11		576.99	324,899	494,628	819,527
Chittering	RAM	4,676	1,220	434	648,354	440,276	1,088,630	138.66		1,014.46	699,173	436,728	1,135,901
Claremont	UDS	10,244	5	47	216,644	103,187	319,831	21.15	#	2,195.47	213,939	102,349	316,288
Cockburn	UDL	99,232	148	772	2,098,592	1,440,204	3,538,796	21.15	#	1,865.55	2,134,454	1,469,537	3,603,991
Collie	RAL	9,431	1,685	385	1,461,521	454,841	1,916,362	154.97		1,181.41	1,306,688	457,563	1,764,251
Coolgardie	RTL	4,244	30,400	847	522,621	497,577	1,020,198	123.14		587.46	529,134	498,821	1,027,955
Coorow	RAS	1,087	4,137	856	816,830	521,405	1,338,235	751.45		609.12	822,479	517,153	1,339,632
Corrigin	RAS	1,087	3,095	1,075	1,038,766	654,678	1,693,444	955.63		609.00	1,049,096	648,979	1,698,075
Cottesloe	UDS	8,337	4	47	176,314	102,517	278,831	21.15	#	2,181.21	177,033	101,648	278,681
Cranbrook	RAS	1,115	3,390	1,014	569,891	618,115	1,188,006	511.11		609.58	640,287	951,577	1,591,864
Cuballing	RAS	891	1,250	555	557,075	321,301	878,376	625.22		578.92	568,025	318,685	876,710
Cue	RTX	293	13,716	746	1,121,891	423,815	1,545,706	3,828.98		568.12	1,237,948	418,882	1,656,830
Cunderdin	RAS	1,341	1,872	783	875,090	497,213	1,372,303	652.57		635.01	876,995	493,177	1,370,172
Dalwallinu	RAS	1,309	7,187	1,918	1,309,402	1,114,276	2,423,678	1,000.31		580.96	1,398,279	1,106,936	2,505,215
Dandaragan	RAM	3,331	6,934	1,195	714,684	852,408	1,567,092	214.56		713.31	744,310	844,790	1,589,100
Dardanup	RAV	13,065	518	405	874,111	584,235	1,458,346	66.90		1,442.56	879,859	649,529	1,529,388
Denmark	RAL	5,582	1,842	617	616,490	440,443	1,056,933	110.44		713.85	600,901	436,953	1,037,854
Derby–West Kimberley	RTL	9,556	118,560	1,806	4,293,282	1,073,544	5,366,826	449.28		594.43	4,290,128	1,076,305	5,366,433

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement				2014-15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Donnybrook-Balingup	RAL	5,524	1,541	668	1,171,969	639,162	1,811,131	212.16		956.83	1,213,078	1,255,893	2,468,971
Dowerin	RAS	693	1,867	939	804,060	525,994	1,330,054	1,160.26		560.16	824,862	522,522	1,347,384
Dumbleyung	RAS	616	2,553	989	869,383	568,418	1,437,801	1,411.34		574.74	913,566	610,663	1,524,229
Dundas	RTM	1,189	92,725	627	1,178,733	375,723	1,554,456	991.37		599.24	1,148,554	373,385	1,521,939
East Fremantle	UDS	7,595	3	37	160,622	72,794	233,416	21.15	#	1,967.41	159,768	72,148	231,916
East Pilbara	RTL	12,814	371,696	3,048	3,203,323	2,254,563	5,457,886	249.99		739.69	3,076,692	2,264,120	5,340,812
Esperance	RAV	14,091	44,500	4,253	2,048,835	2,763,008	4,811,843	145.40		649.66	2,068,536	2,755,880	4,824,416
Exmouth	RTM	2,536	6,261	291	1,479,533	407,933	1,887,466	583.41		1,401.83	1,478,587	406,882	1,885,469
Fremantle	UDS	29,471	19	177	623,263	396,337	1,019,600	21.15		2,239.19	626,204	392,630	1,018,834
Gingin	RAM	4,970	3,325	872	870,388	845,725	1,716,113	175.13		969.87	875,294	838,806	1,714,100
Gnowangerup	RAS	1,296	5,000	1,011	585,863	610,350	1,196,213	452.05		603.71	642,190	606,231	1,248,421
Goomalling	RAS	1,007	1,845	583	358,996	350,821	709,817	356.50		601.75	358,723	348,433	707,156
Gosnells	UFL	116,292	127	719	2,459,382	1,550,646	4,010,028	21.15	#	2,156.67	2,504,154	1,558,296	4,062,450
Greater Geraldton	URM	39,510	12,483	2,088	3,794,859	1,962,659	5,757,518	96.05		939.97	3,824,940	1,937,962	5,762,902
Halls Creek	RTL	4,105	143,025	1,417	3,443,833	944,726	4,388,559	838.94		666.71	3,449,016	1,063,727	4,512,743
Harvey	URS	24,667	1,766	848	1,524,004	1,043,218	2,567,222	61.78		1,230.21	1,587,807	1,075,548	2,663,355
Irwin	RAM	3,675	2,223	445	319,000	328,575	647,575	86.80		738.37	285,206	325,901	611,107
Jerramungup	RAS	1,079	6,540	1,081	521,914	586,807	1,108,721	483.70		542.84	584,016	590,933	1,174,949
Joondalup	UDV	164,220	99	1,007	3,472,980	2,080,481	5,553,461	21.15	#	2,066.02	3,461,830	2,063,602	5,525,432
Kalamunda	UFM	58,095	349	608	1,228,613	1,087,021	2,315,634	21.15	#	1,787.86	1,233,283	1,089,899	2,323,182
Kalgoorlie/Boulder	URM	33,067	95,229	1,347	877,587	1,599,678	2,477,265	26.54		1,187.59	784,616	1,613,520	2,398,136
Katanning	RAM	4,317	1,523	693	1,470,529	587,916	2,058,445	340.64		848.36	1,471,853	483,964	1,955,817
Kellerberrin	RAS	1,223	1,852	940	1,249,686	550,922	1,800,608	1,021.82		586.09	1,289,583	1,233,234	2,522,817
Kent	RAS	525	6,552	1,324	440,337	681,931	1,122,268	838.74		515.05	536,142	687,340	1,223,482
Kojonup	RAM	2,049	2,937	1,135	666,182	665,186	1,331,368	325.13		586.07	728,259	659,828	1,388,087
Kondinin	RAS	1,057	7,340	1,336	762,743	727,900	1,490,643	721.61		544.84	889,779	721,965	1,611,744
Koorda	RAS	445	2,662	1,065	1,186,362	609,226	1,795,588	2,665.98		572.04	1,188,382	605,145	1,793,527
Kulin	RAS	846	4,790	1,436	711,230	809,091	1,520,321	840.70		563.43	834,112	802,516	1,636,628
Kwinana	UFM	32,667	118	365	690,853	667,187	1,358,040	21.15	#	1,827.91	710,714	674,124	1,384,838
Lake Grace	RAS	1,392	10,747	2,287	851,951	1,244,501	2,096,452	612.03		544.16	970,691	1,237,752	2,208,443

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classification	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement				2014–15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min #	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Laverton	RTM	1,369	183,198	4,200	1,556,418	791,087	2,347,505	1,136.90		188.35	1,551,577	907,067	2,458,644
Leonora	RTM	2,792	31,743	1,288	574,033	590,253	1,164,286	205.60		458.27	597,823	594,799	1,192,622
Mandurah	UFM	76,670	174	666	1,621,443	1,224,178	2,845,621	21.15	#	1,838.11	1,666,304	1,223,620	2,889,924
Manjimup	RAL	9,473	7,028	1,305	2,515,057	1,872,205	4,387,262	265.50		1,434.64	2,627,762	1,582,345	4,210,107
Meekatharra	RTM	1,495	100,733	2,491	2,336,184	1,075,400	3,411,584	1,562.66		431.71	2,379,157	1,103,981	3,483,138
Melville	UDL	103,711	53	524	2,193,315	1,067,346	3,260,661	21.15	#	2,036.92	2,196,081	1,058,592	3,254,673
Menzies	RTS	426	128,353	2,075	1,705,771	745,690	2,451,461	4,004.16		359.37	1,714,284	754,548	2,468,832
Merredin	RAM	3,318	3,372	1,288	1,468,947	812,878	2,281,825	442.72		631.12	1,478,645	817,213	2,295,858
Mingenew	RAS	487	1,927	456	270,986	303,183	574,169	556.44		664.88	270,662	306,243	576,905
Moora	RAM	2,562	3,788	940	693,374	861,675	1,555,049	270.64		916.68	764,458	674,174	1,438,632
Morawa	RAS	908	3,528	969	968,272	543,438	1,511,710	1,066.38		560.82	988,762	539,806	1,528,568
Mosman Park	UDS	9,465	4	43	200,169	83,070	283,239	21.15	#	1,931.86	196,364	82,396	278,760
Mount Magnet	RTS	698	13,877	620	1,306,279	308,338	1,614,617	1,871.46		497.32	1,321,318	306,156	1,627,474
Mount Marshall	RAS	484	10,134	1,716	1,349,135	839,809	2,188,944	2,787.47		489.40	1,376,207	833,012	2,209,219
Mukinbudin	RAS	505	3,414	908	1,056,921	514,859	1,571,780	2,092.91		567.03	1,099,404	511,388	1,610,792
Mundaring	UFM	39,196	644	659	2,029,299	1,041,506	3,070,805	51.77		1,580.43	1,814,316	1,034,202	2,848,518
Murchison	RTX	125	49,500	1,872	2,480,014	784,592	3,264,606	19,840.11		419.12	2,562,170	833,902	3,396,072
Murray	RAV	15,410	1,821	674	1,199,573	855,308	2,054,881	77.84		1,269.00	1,072,491	1,049,971	2,122,462
Nannup	RAS	1,314	2,953	486	831,081	859,316	1,690,397	632.48		1,768.14	833,908	861,720	1,695,628
Narembeen	RAS	817	3,821	1,413	1,136,551	776,043	1,912,594	1,391.13		549.22	1,159,747	770,887	1,930,634
Narrogin	RAS	906	1,618	723	574,408	409,642	984,050	634.00		566.59	577,652	412,966	990,618
Narrogin	URS	4,450	13	68	1,106,880	157,654	1,264,534	248.74		2,318.44	1,102,863	156,374	1,259,237
Nedlands	UDS	22,611	21	141	478,185	293,277	771,462	21.15	#	2,079.98	473,313	291,000	764,313
Ngaanyatjarraku *	RTM	1,601	159,948	1,323	3,234,821	1,206,026	4,440,847	2,020.50		911.58	3,236,857	1,194,292	4,431,149
Northam	RAV	11,137	1,443	753	2,514,330	773,296	3,287,626	225.76		1,026.95	2,548,391	768,946	3,317,337
Northampton	RAM	3,320	12,499	1,068	758,688	689,462	1,448,150	228.52		645.56	795,131	683,432	1,478,563
Nungarin	RAS	234	1,145	510	899,531	294,207	1,193,738	3,844.15		576.88	908,065	292,213	1,200,278
Peppermint Grove	UDS	1,705	2	9	36,058	20,391	56,449	21.15	#	2,265.67	34,717	20,105	54,822
Perenjori	RAS	922	8,214	1,439	962,057	822,554	1,784,611	1,043.45		571.62	1,016,278	815,858	1,832,136
Perth	UCC	19,043	9	94	402,728	418,682	821,410	21.15	#	4,454.06	418,935	415,292	834,227

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Pingelly	RAS	1,185	1,223	565	771,888	345,988	1,117,876	807,093	343,193	1,150,286
Plantagenet	RAM	5,022	4,792	1,310	614,183	839,271	1,453,454	692,911	832,461	1,525,372
Port Hedland	RTL	16,349	11,844	639	1,806,238	715,268	2,521,506	1,614,886	671,408	2,286,294
Quairading	RAS	1,065	2,040	863	1,048,371	547,785	1,596,156	1,097,995	543,339	1,641,334
Ravensthorpe	RAM	2,263	12,872	1,247	869,561	717,653	1,587,214	965,699	716,925	1,682,624
Rockingham	UDL	114,172	261	956	2,414,548	1,799,079	4,213,627	2,496,038	1,784,479	4,280,517
Roebourne	URS	24,916	15,196	598	2,237,239	844,302	3,081,541	2,000,228	1,293,515	3,293,743
Sandstone	RTX	114	28,218	968	1,493,950	429,172	1,923,122	1,492,249	425,450	1,917,699
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	RSG	19,958	905	661	1,614,562	817,841	2,432,403	1,583,483	805,270	2,388,753
Shark Bay	RTS	915	25,000	572	1,405,858	423,343	1,829,201	1,437,935	419,907	1,857,842
South Perth	UDM	45,281	20	192	957,618	401,663	1,359,281	952,348	398,268	1,350,616
Stirling	UDV	215,533	109	1,028	4,558,165	2,148,507	6,706,672	4,612,049	2,144,719	6,756,768
Subiaco	UDS	19,196	7	88	405,963	210,477	616,440	406,709	211,255	617,964
Swan	UFL	119,252	1,043	1,312	2,521,981	2,270,309	4,792,290	2,577,057	2,631,136	5,208,193
Tammin	RAS	415	1,087	495	756,187	284,699	1,040,886	756,527	282,388	1,038,915
Three Springs	RAS	633	2,629	707	468,841	418,415	887,256	496,684	431,525	928,209
Toodyay	RAM	4,612	1,683	626	935,779	537,776	1,473,555	937,328	534,684	1,472,012
Trayning	RAS	352	1,632	751	965,031	448,064	1,413,095	1,012,227	444,449	1,456,676
Upper Gascoyne	RTX	258	44,602	1,860	2,565,740	918,645	3,484,385	2,647,003	842,018	3,489,021
Victoria Park	UDM	35,779	18	160	756,666	345,560	1,102,226	778,227	342,605	1,120,832
Victoria Plains	RAS	931	2,563	809	333,635	519,694	853,329	411,665	515,484	927,149
Vincent	UDM	35,091	11	144	742,116	367,239	1,109,355	757,781	364,105	1,121,886
Wagin	RAS	1,913	1,950	783	899,308	473,803	1,373,111	898,894	470,533	1,369,427
Wandering	RAS	447	1,955	356	231,967	219,378	451,345	253,094	257,907	511,001
Wanneroo	UFV	169,201	686	1,285	3,578,320	2,485,119	6,063,439	3,685,187	2,466,423	6,151,610
Waroona	RAM	3,688	835	343	913,419	385,397	1,298,816	912,365	382,266	1,294,631
West Arthur	RAS	900	2,850	859	377,847	493,881	871,728	405,907	490,586	896,493
Westonia	RAS	280	3,268	883	673,578	493,319	1,166,897	703,703	489,997	1,193,700
Wickepin	RAS	760	1,989	874	900,280	499,164	1,399,444	949,666	495,646	1,445,312
Williams	RAS	943	2,295	476	96,365	338,118	434,483	115,435	351,535	466,970

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classification	Population ^a No.	Council Area		Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement			2014–15 estimated entitlement			
			sq km	km		General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$ per capita	Min	Local Road \$ per km	General Purpose \$
Wiluna	RTM	1,256	184,000	1,922	1,459,504	820,577	2,280,081	1,162.03	426.94	1,606,158	823,840	2,429,998
Wongah-Ballidu	RAS	1,499	3,368	1,322	1,102,060	774,431	1,876,491	735.20	585.80	1,136,909	769,233	1,906,142
Woodanilling	RAS	429	1,126	524	499,912	298,137	798,049	1,165.30	568.96	511,589	296,095	807,684
Wyalkatchem	RAS	535	1,743	724	937,523	430,285	1,367,808	1,752.38	594.32	981,015	427,372	1,408,387
Wyndham-East Kimberley	RTL	8,665	121,189	1,123	2,778,427	1,375,101	4,153,528	320.65	1,224.49	2,779,660	1,285,909	4,065,569
Yalgoo	RTS	437	33,258	1,180	1,651,164	593,014	2,244,178	3,778.41	502.55	1,707,089	556,845	2,263,934
Yilgarn	RAS	1,660	30,720	2,714	613,883	1,149,163	1,763,046	369.81	423.42	715,323	1,139,654	1,854,977
York	RAM	3,477	2,010	667	833,960	710,760	1,544,720	239.85	1,065.61	840,061	594,960	1,435,021
South Australia												
Adelaide	UCC	21,618	15	123	450,909	236,972	687,881	20.86	1,926.60	454,656	238,231	692,887
Adelaide Hills	UFM	39,903	792	1,087	832,298	902,262	1,734,560	20.86	830.05	823,975	696,905	1,520,880
Alexandrina	UFS	24,529	1,826	1,340	645,673	557,425	1,203,098	26.32	415.99	648,901	558,528	1,207,429
APY *	RTM	2,840	-	3,088	1,131,943	145,445	1,277,388	398.57	47.10	1,131,943	145,298	1,277,241
Barossa	UFS	22,611	891	970	536,158	447,226	983,384	23.71	461.06	538,839	447,335	986,174
Barunga West	RAM	2,476	1,581	931	356,365	188,759	545,124	143.93	202.75	362,801	187,790	540,591
Berri Barmera	RAV	10,781	507	428	2,460,846	212,507	2,673,353	228.26	496.51	2,436,238	209,241	2,645,479
Burnside	UDM	44,207	27	234	922,071	467,872	1,389,943	20.86	1,999.45	911,360	466,395	1,377,755
Campbelltown	UDM	50,250	24	254	1,048,116	521,167	1,569,283	20.86	2,051.84	1,042,289	521,456	1,563,745
Ceduna	RAM	3,692	5,433	1,715	2,096,373	433,076	2,529,449	567.82	252.52	2,075,410	431,278	2,506,688
Charles Sturt	UDL	109,721	56	572	2,288,564	1,152,882	3,441,446	20.86	2,015.53	2,278,113	1,154,244	3,432,357
Clare and Gilbert Valleys	RAL	8,929	1,886	1,826	548,834	378,191	927,025	61.47	207.11	551,579	377,511	929,090
Cleve	RAS	1,736	4,488	1,395	957,260	867,532	1,824,792	551.42	621.89	962,046	903,563	1,865,609
Cooper Pedy	URS	1,784	78	421	825,798	44,947	870,745	462.89	106.76	817,540	44,738	862,278
Coorong	RAL	5,661	8,863	1,893	2,466,967	649,064	3,116,031	435.78	342.88	2,442,297	1,065,788	3,508,085
Copper Coast	RAV	13,314	776	948	1,513,263	304,669	1,817,932	113.66	321.38	1,482,998	308,183	1,791,181
Elliston	RAS	1,051	6,679	1,148	748,105	399,954	1,148,059	711.80	348.39	740,623	398,939	1,139,562
Flinders Ranges	RAS	1,709	4,106	1,262	1,232,295	1,360,358	2,592,653	721.06	1,077.94	1,219,972	1,351,559	2,571,531
Franklin Harbour	RAS	1,284	3,278	935	1,059,455	250,148	1,309,603	825.12	267.54	1,048,860	232,563	1,281,423
Gawler	UFS	21,220	41	183	1,175,526	618,076	1,793,602	55.40	3,377.46	1,171,852	894,634	2,066,486

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement				
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$		
Gerard*	RTX	241	-	-	44,176	19,378	63,554	183.30	-	44,176	19,359	63,535
Goyder	RAM	4,193	6,688	3,247	2,722,460	660,048	3,382,508	649.29	203.28	2,695,235	658,558	3,353,793
Grant	RAL	7,988	1,917	1,578	965,034	456,230	1,421,264	120.81	289.12	969,859	524,667	1,494,526
Holdfast Bay	UDM	36,421	14	171	759,670	365,795	1,125,465	20.86	#	752,906	365,180	1,118,086
Kangaroo Island	RAM	4,522	4,434	1,362	1,420,410	387,404	1,807,814	314.11	284.44	1,427,513	386,430	1,813,943
Karoonda-East Murray	RAS	1,042	4,409	1,299	1,234,412	331,523	1,565,935	1,184.66	255.21	1,222,068	1,130,128	2,352,196
Kimba	RAS	1,093	3,966	1,716	1,027,438	295,585	1,323,023	940.02	172.25	1,017,164	294,752	1,311,916
Kingston	RAM	2,350	3,351	743	558,338	244,939	803,277	237.59	329.66	547,171	244,862	792,033
Light	RAV	14,166	1,273	1,459	295,475	399,936	695,411	20.86	#	296,120	401,947	698,067
Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	5,072	4,755	1,341	477,618	402,625	880,243	94.17	300.24	472,841	400,353	873,194
Loxton Waikerie	RAV	11,445	7,964	2,316	3,674,170	716,169	4,390,339	321.03	309.23	3,637,428	712,208	4,349,636
Mallala	RAL	8,544	932	957	1,046,515	245,427	1,291,942	122.49	256.45	1,036,050	245,136	1,281,186
Maralinga *	RTX	80	-	-	92,303	52,036	144,339	1,153.79	-	92,303	51,984	144,287
Marion	UDL	86,396	56	472	1,802,050	927,686	2,729,736	20.86	#	1,793,516	927,962	2,721,478
Mid Murray	RAL	8,230	6,252	3,386	3,150,412	631,369	3,781,781	382.80	186.46	3,134,486	629,642	3,764,128
Mitcham	UDM	65,385	75	399	1,363,802	1,229,526	2,593,328	20.86	#	1,345,946	737,128	2,083,074
Mount Barker	URM	31,011	593	771	677,328	534,511	1,211,839	21.84	693.27	670,555	1,535,537	2,206,092
Mount Gambier	URS	25,911	34	218	2,216,456	639,222	2,855,678	85.54	2,932.21	2,196,610	384,067	2,580,677
Mount Remarkable	RAM	2,907	3,412	2,066	1,694,017	357,265	2,051,282	582.74	172.93	1,677,076	354,493	2,031,569
Murray Bridge	URS	20,420	1,824	974	3,176,345	461,350	3,637,695	155.55	473.67	3,144,581	461,025	3,605,606
Naracoorte Lucindale	RAL	8,333	4,531	1,614	2,221,989	787,439	3,009,428	266.65	487.88	2,233,099	472,079	2,705,178
Nippanha *	RTX	117	-	-	28,338	19,295	47,633	242.21	-	28,338	19,275	47,613
Northern Areas	RAM	4,548	2,974	2,198	1,431,053	393,081	1,824,134	314.66	178.84	1,416,742	391,172	1,807,914
NPSF	UDM	36,706	15	160	765,615	356,592	1,122,207	20.86	#	765,057	355,051	1,110,108
Onkaparinga	UFV	164,977	519	1,458	5,703,907	2,522,612	8,226,519	34.57	1,730.19	5,532,790	2,277,895	7,810,685
Orroroo/Carrieton	RAS	889	3,306	1,628	991,333	249,411	1,240,744	1,115.11	153.20	981,420	248,199	1,229,619
OCA	RTL	3,927	-	-	1,444,591	-	1,444,591	367.86	-	1,437,109	-	1,437,109
Peterborough	RAS	1,752	3,006	1,230	1,358,294	239,683	1,597,977	775.28	194.86	1,344,711	239,331	1,584,042
Playford	UFL	83,067	344	810	8,745,787	1,213,289	9,959,076	105.29	1,497.89	8,658,329	1,223,334	9,881,663

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement			2014–15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Port Adelaide Enfield	UDL	118,295	94	671	2,467,400	1,299,496	3,760,896	2,466,345	1,303,059	3,769,404
Port Augusta	URS	14,539	1,189	408	2,722,359	284,895	3,007,254	2,695,136	284,108	2,979,244
Port Lincoln	URS	14,629	32	158	1,107,832	220,963	1,328,795	1,096,753	220,933	1,317,686
Port Pirie	RAV	17,635	1,783	1,175	4,022,255	421,991	4,444,246	3,982,032	419,589	4,401,621
Prospect	UDS	20,969	8	87	437,372	199,933	637,305	432,824	199,291	632,115
Renmark Paranga	RAL	9,400	900	496	2,593,044	215,497	2,808,541	2,567,113	212,959	2,780,072
Robe	RAS	1,422	1,098	435	29,941	284,957	314,898	29,642	105,082	134,724
Roxby Downs	URS	4,935	109	39	102,934	77,142	180,076	103,035	77,944	180,979
Salisbury	UDV	133,905	159	794	6,533,028	1,495,144	8,028,172	6,402,367	1,503,964	7,906,331
Southern Mallee	RAM	2,108	5,702	1,336	1,149,719	393,558	1,543,277	1,138,221	391,374	1,529,595
Streaky Bay	RAM	2,210	6,241	1,733	1,500,043	1,051,911	2,551,954	1,485,042	1,027,927	2,512,969
Tatiara	RAL	6,582	6,525	1,932	2,371,273	943,130	3,314,403	2,383,129	1,146,709	3,529,838
Tea Tree Gully	UDL	98,399	95	593	2,052,409	1,102,215	3,154,624	2,014,850	1,094,531	3,109,381
Tumby Bay	RAM	2,629	2,670	1,109	545,980	256,645	802,625	540,520	256,803	797,323
Unley	UDM	38,534	14	164	803,744	561,361	1,365,105	792,491	369,651	1,162,142
Victor Harbor	URS	14,291	386	384	298,082	255,253	553,335	299,807	258,517	558,324
Wakefield	RAL	6,771	3,482	2,683	1,785,247	516,650	2,301,897	1,794,173	516,341	2,310,514
Walkerville	UDS	7,345	4	35	153,202	74,254	227,456	150,897	73,894	224,791
Wattle Range	RAV	11,723	3,946	2,457	1,897,116	720,194	2,617,310	1,906,602	525,864	2,432,466
West Torrens	UDM	57,454	37	289	1,198,377	594,267	1,792,644	1,191,076	594,418	1,785,494
Whyalla	URS	22,734	1,072	281	3,946,572	389,623	4,336,195	3,907,106	384,647	4,291,753
Wudinna	RAS	1,262	5,369	1,705	1,255,429	385,537	1,640,966	1,242,875	385,216	1,628,091
Yalata *	RTX	304	-	64	159,007	41,896	200,903	159,008	41,853	200,861
Yankailia	RAM	4,478	757	543	124,862	806,731	931,593	125,486	147,136	272,622
Yorke Peninsula	RAV	11,176	5,928	3,889	1,429,148	793,421	2,222,569	1,436,294	790,536	2,226,830
Tasmania										
Break O' Day	RAL	6,421	3,521	547	1,202,518	1,491,563	2,694,081	1,168,123	1,442,079	2,610,202
Brighton	URS	15,802	171	175	1,081,436	517,575	1,599,011	1,089,269	521,178	1,610,447
Burnie	URS	20,191	610	346	1,518,546	1,163,430	2,681,976	1,358,703	1,145,828	2,504,531
Central Coast	URS	22,366	931	666	2,351,850	1,911,271	4,263,121	2,104,924	1,869,646	3,974,570

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013-14 and 2014-15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013-14 actual entitlement			2014-15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Central Highlands	RAM	2,360	7,976	752	913,596	1,303,338	2,216,934	961,303	1,299,674	2,260,977
Circular Head	RAL	8,309	4,891	769	1,052,317	1,735,618	2,787,935	1,203,605	1,770,688	2,974,293
Clarence	UFM	53,077	377	471	1,103,602	1,561,091	2,664,693	20.79	3,314.42	1,557,575
Denwent Valley	RAV	9,913	4,103	330	1,269,149	754,840	2,023,989	128.03	2,287.39	786,682
Devonport	URS	25,631	111	278	835,516	1,193,607	2,029,123	32.60	4,293.55	1,971,682
Dorset	RAL	7,100	3,223	739	1,674,045	1,696,001	3,370,046	235.78	2,294.99	1,737,494
Flinders	RAS	802	1,994	350	688,139	646,687	1,334,826	858.03	1,847.68	644,394
George Town	RAL	6,838	653	273	985,985	786,681	1,772,666	144.19	2,881.62	816,943
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	RAM	4,420	2,587	344	476,250	899,338	1,375,588	107.75	2,614.35	856,868
Glenorchy	UFM	45,449	121	312	944,997	1,370,867	2,315,864	20.79	4,393.80	1,414,854
Hobart	UCC	50,250	78	307	1,044,822	1,693,216	2,738,038	20.79	5,515.36	1,680,488
Huon Valley	RAV	15,955	5,497	705	1,549,632	1,403,449	2,953,081	97.13	1,990.71	1,772,082
Kentish	RAL	6,310	1,155	472	1,457,139	1,117,726	2,574,865	230.93	2,368.06	1,464,290
King Island	RAS	1,608	1,094	433	705,553	807,652	1,513,205	438.78	1,865.25	851,362
Kingborough	UFM	35,075	719	537	729,296	1,319,439	2,048,735	20.79	2,457.06	1,304,416
Latrobe	RAL	10,451	600	285	679,324	743,702	1,423,026	65.00	2,609.48	725,810
Launceston	URM	67,179	1,411	735	1,396,817	2,787,299	4,184,116	20.79	3,792.24	2,843,334
Meander Valley	RAV	19,647	3,320	852	2,069,320	2,146,175	4,215,495	105.32	2,518.98	2,127,396
Northern Midlands	RAV	12,699	5,126	972	1,577,156	2,277,360	3,854,516	124.20	2,342.96	2,192,083
Sorell	RAV	13,457	583	375	1,525,129	951,074	2,476,203	113.33	2,536.20	933,686
Southern Midlands	RAL	6,299	2,611	803	1,781,874	1,467,500	3,249,374	282.88	1,827.52	1,435,229
Tasman	RAM	2,454	659	196	502,471	468,583	971,054	204.76	2,390.73	449,880
Waratah-Wynyard	RAV	14,320	3,526	540	1,777,739	1,294,578	3,072,317	124.14	2,397.37	1,591,274
West Coast	RAL	4,810	9,574	195	1,194,351	633,953	1,828,304	248.31	3,251.04	630,803
West Tamar	UFS	22,826	690	460	1,398,563	1,133,598	2,532,161	61.27	2,464.34	1,598,563
Northern Territory										
Alice Springs	URS	28,774	327	244	740,800	946,422	1,687,222	25.75	3,878.78	958,090
Barkly *	RTL	8,055	322,693	621	1,636,553	441,599	2,078,152	203.17	711.11	1,726,053
Belyuen *	RTX	206	42	84	26,450	32,886	59,336	128.40	391.50	33,283

Distribution to councils by classification and population 2013–14 and 2014–15 (continued)

Council Name	Classi- fication	Population ^a No.	Council Area sq km	Road Length km	2013–14 actual entitlement			2014–15 estimated entitlement		
					General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$	General Purpose \$	Local Road \$	Total \$
Central Desert*	RTL	4,370	282,090	1,780	849,566	1,060,414	1,909,980	881,924	863,048	1,744,972
Coomalie	RTM	1,263	1,512	164	27,340	399,650	426,990	27,982	407,371	435,353
Darwin	UCC	80,395	142	511	1,740,315	1,812,283	3,552,598	21,65	1,836,430	3,581,299
East Arnhem*	RTL	10,807	33,302	1,070	3,357,915	1,160,304	4,518,219	310.72	1,174,351	4,572,003
Katherine	URS	10,709	7,421	185	360,531	625,295	985,826	33.67	632,865	1,003,513
Litchfield	RAV	20,608	3,072	765	446,102	2,536,156	2,982,258	21.65	2,544,389	3,001,158
MacDonnell*	RTL	6,890	268,784	1,732	1,804,802	1,014,840	2,819,642	261.95	994,707	2,827,598
Palmerston	UFS	30,786	56	223	666,426	754,125	1,420,551	21.65	792,079	1,477,625
Roper Gulf*	RTL	7,259	185,176	933	1,789,664	915,909	2,705,573	246.54	804,275	2,686,557
Tiwi Islands*	RTM	3,061	-	-	400,553	899,413	1,299,966	130.86	975,482	1,390,256
Trust Account	ZZZ	-	-	2,117	-	1,332,041	1,332,041	-	1,420,427	1,420,427
Victoria – Daly*	RTL	6,988	167,575	1,125	1,295,190	1,440,677	2,735,867	185.34	855,949	1,279,275
Wagait	RTX	419	6	17	9,070	55,066	64,136	21.65	9,264	64,977
West Arnhem*	RTL	7,373	49,698	1,179	1,297,815	1,050,833	2,348,648	176.02	1,184,598	2,542,793

Note: a Population estimates are as at 31 December 2012.

b Douglas de-amalgamated from Cairns on 1 January 2014. The 2013–14 actual entitlement for Cairns includes \$151,748 which was provided to Douglas under the Financial Assistance Grant programme for the period of 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014.

c Livingstone de-amalgamated from Rockhampton on 1 January 2014. The 2013–14 actual entitlement for Rockhampton includes \$536,750 which was provided to Livingstone under the Financial Assistance Grant programme for the period of 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014.

d Mareeba de-amalgamated from Tablelands on 1 January 2014. The 2013–14 actual entitlement for Tablelands includes \$760,155 which was provided to Mareeba under the Financial Assistance Grant programme for the period of 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014.

e Noosa de-amalgamated from Sunshine Coast on 1 January 2014. The 2013–14 actual entitlement for Sunshine Coast includes \$597,901 which was provided to Noosa under the Financial Assistance Grant programme for the period of 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014.

APY = Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara.

NPSP = Norwood Payneham and St Peters.

OCA = Outback Communities Authority.

= Minimum grant.

n/a = not applicable.

* = Indigenous local governing body.

E

Ranking of local governing bodies on a relative needs basis 2013–14



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, the allocation of grants for each council is divided by their length of local roads to obtain a relative expenditure needs measure. In tables E-1 to E-7, councils within a state are sorted by the value of the:

- general purpose grant per capita; and
- local road grants per kilometre.

For each council, the table gives the ranking obtained for both grants. The Australian Classification of Local Government (ACLG) 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 E-1 to E-7. 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 E-1 New South Wales councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14

<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	RTM	\$1,240.43	1	Sydney	UCC	\$3,961.78
2	Carrathool	RAM	\$919.26	2	Waverley	UDL	\$3,750.75
3	Brewarrina	RAS	\$910.44	3	Randwick	UDV	\$3,333.69
4	Urana	RAS	\$907.87	4	Ashfield	UDM	\$3,275.02
5	Conargo	RAS	\$902.56	5	Canterbury	UDV	\$3,239.46
6	Bourke	RAM	\$868.18	6	Queanbeyan	URM	\$3,231.59
7	Jerilderie	RAS	\$802.41	7	North Sydney	UDM	\$3,216.74
8	Balranald	RAM	\$794.60	8	Botany Bay	UDM	\$3,203.13
9	Lockhart	RAM	\$630.63	9	Strathfield	UDM	\$3,129.91
10	Lachlan	RAL	\$627.10	10	Canada Bay	UDL	\$3,122.14
11	Bogan	RAM	\$613.10	11	Burwood	UDM	\$3,039.66
12	Cobar	RTL	\$605.72	12	Woollahra	UDM	\$3,034.39
13	Hay	RAM	\$602.45	13	Marrickville	UDL	\$3,021.20
14	Bland	RAL	\$586.00	14	Auburn	UDL	\$3,015.10
15	Wakool	RAM	\$535.85	15	Leichhardt	UDM	\$2,974.50
16	Silverton Village	RTX	\$524.47	16	Rockdale	UDL	\$2,964.54
17	Tibooburra	RTX	\$524.46	17	Manly	UDM	\$2,963.40
18	Walgett	RAL	\$523.77	18	Parramatta	UDV	\$2,931.49
19	Lord Howe Island	RTX	\$487.74	19	Hurstville	UDL	\$2,898.37
20	Warren	RAM	\$478.92	20	Kogarah	UDM	\$2,888.08
21	Coonamble	RAM	\$477.70	21	Willoughby	UDL	\$2,879.72
22	Bombala	RAM	\$472.30	22	Holroyd	UDL	\$2,839.67
23	Wentworth	RAL	\$464.95	23	Ryde	UDL	\$2,838.72
24	Murrumbidgee	RAM	\$459.51	24	Bankstown	UDV	\$2,823.16
25	Coolamon	RAM	\$441.29	25	Lane Cove	UDM	\$2,777.06
26	Narrandera	RAL	\$411.27	26	Fairfield	UDV	\$2,725.50
27	Weddin	RAM	\$403.12	27	Mosman	UDS	\$2,712.87
28	Gwydir	RAL	\$396.43	28	Warringah	UDV	\$2,698.06
29	Tumbarumba	RAM	\$396.31	29	Coffs Harbour	URL	\$2,554.59
30	Gilgandra	RAM	\$390.84	30	Blacktown	UDV	\$2,518.99
31	Warrumbungle	RAV	\$388.56	31	Liverpool	UFV	\$2,511.50
32	Harden	RAM	\$371.33	32	Campbelltown	UFV	\$2,506.74
33	Berrigan	RAL	\$364.53	33	Sutherland	UDV	\$2,500.33
34	Narromine	RAL	\$363.78	34	Albury	URM	\$2,493.41
35	Tenterfield	RAL	\$362.14	35	Pittwater	UDM	\$2,474.49
36	Boorowa	RAM	\$354.84	36	Wollongong	URV	\$2,473.29
37	Murray	RAL	\$336.32	37	Hornsby	UFV	\$2,435.66

New South Wales councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 (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>
38	Temora	RAL	\$326.01	38	Orange	URM	\$2,434.79
39	Gundagai	RAM	\$317.29	39	Ku-ring-gai	UDL	\$2,431.75
40	Forbes	RAL	\$311.24	40	Tweed	URL	\$2,420.58
41	Upper Lachlan	RAL	\$304.06	41	Newcastle	URV	\$2,345.64
42	Greater Hume	RAV	\$298.78	42	Hunters Hill	UDS	\$2,340.23
43	Snowy River	RAL	\$294.83	43	Broken Hill	URS	\$2,306.02
44	Walcha	RAM	\$292.61	44	Shellharbour	URM	\$2,257.88
45	Junee	RAL	\$291.33	45	Hills	UFV	\$2,242.48
46	Narrabri	RAV	\$289.69	46	Penrith	UFV	\$2,222.37
47	Deniliquin	URS	\$286.52	47	Camden	UFM	\$2,190.94
48	Oberon	RAL	\$277.09	48	Gosford	UFV	\$2,164.25
49	Corowa	RAV	\$271.05	49	Port Macquarie–Hastings	URL	\$2,125.03
50	Wellington	RAL	\$270.75	50	Lake Macquarie	URV	\$2,097.98
51	Cootamundra	RAL	\$266.64	51	Ballina	URM	\$2,087.03
52	Gloucester	RAL	\$266.03	52	Byron	URM	\$2,074.78
53	Glen Innes Severn	RAL	\$259.07	53	Wyong	UFV	\$2,040.59
54	Guyra	RAM	\$251.13	54	Maitland	URL	\$1,970.86
55	Moree Plains	RAV	\$250.82	55	Kiama	URS	\$1,955.49
56	Leeton	RAV	\$250.52	56	Shoalhaven	URL	\$1,948.34
57	Liverpool Plains	RAL	\$249.57	57	Blue Mountains	UFL	\$1,853.91
58	Cooma–Monaro	RAV	\$248.49	58	Hawkesbury	UFM	\$1,845.61
59	Kyogle	RAL	\$242.77	59	Port Stephens	URM	\$1,839.10
60	Parkes	RAV	\$237.77	60	Wollondilly	UFM	\$1,820.68
61	Cowra	RAV	\$229.04	61	Cessnock	URM	\$1,784.27
62	Tumut	RAV	\$224.87	62	Lismore	URM	\$1,720.34
63	Blayney	RAL	\$222.23	63	Deniliquin	URS	\$1,711.16
64	Broken Hill	URS	\$220.49	64	Nambucca	RAV	\$1,700.81
65	Uralla	RAL	\$212.83	65	Wingecarribee	URM	\$1,647.06
66	Gunnedah	RAV	\$203.55	66	Great Lakes	URM	\$1,644.33
67	Inverell	RAV	\$200.52	67	Eurobodalla	URM	\$1,633.42
68	Bellingen	RAV	\$195.80	68	Kempsey	URS	\$1,629.02
69	Young	RAV	\$188.15	69	Bellingen	RAV	\$1,603.26
70	Cabonne	RAV	\$184.35	70	Singleton	URS	\$1,590.47
71	Upper Hunter	RAV	\$172.36	71	Bega Valley	URM	\$1,559.50
72	Lithgow	URS	\$164.97	72	Bathurst Regional	URM	\$1,552.86
73	Dungog	RAL	\$163.62	73	Greater Taree	URM	\$1,548.59
74	Mid-Western Regional	URS	\$160.58	74	Muswellbrook	RAV	\$1,501.60

New South Wales councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14 (continued)

New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita				New South Wales councils ranked by funding per kilometre			
General purpose grant				Local road grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
75	Muswellbrook	RAV	\$151.47	75	Clarence Valley	URM	\$1,495.78
76	Bega Valley	URM	\$150.25	76	Richmond Valley	URS	\$1,475.43
77	Great Lakes	URM	\$145.60	77	Dubbo	URM	\$1,470.83
78	Richmond Valley	URS	\$142.17	78	Wagga Wagga	URM	\$1,431.89
79	Clarence Valley	URM	\$140.77	79	Kyogle	RAL	\$1,430.81
80	Eurobodalla	URM	\$135.08	80	Dungog	RAL	\$1,416.84
81	Kempsey	URS	\$134.01	81	Armidale Dumaresq	URS	\$1,413.38
82	Nambucca	RAV	\$129.88		State average		\$1,395.86
83	Griffith	URS	\$127.99	82	Goulburn Mulwaree	URS	\$1,392.59
84	Dubbo	URM	\$126.38	83	Lithgow	URS	\$1,342.06
85	Wagga Wagga	URM	\$116.83	84	Tumut	RAV	\$1,339.89
86	Goulburn Mulwaree	URS	\$114.38	85	Gloucester	RAL	\$1,324.13
87	Bathurst Regional	URM	\$112.43	86	Tamworth Regional	URM	\$1,320.51
88	Palerang	RAV	\$108.61	87	Palerang	RAV	\$1,227.62
89	Armidale Dumaresq	URS	\$107.81	88	Griffith	URS	\$1,215.60
90	Tamworth Regional	URM	\$106.77	89	Cootamundra	RAL	\$1,207.68
91	Yass Valley	RAV	\$104.61	90	Yass Valley	RAV	\$1,187.34
92	Cessnock	URM	\$102.88	91	Glen Innes Severn	RAL	\$1,181.33
93	Albury	URM	\$102.58	92	Tumbarumba	RAM	\$1,165.85
94	Greater Taree	URM	\$101.59	93	Mid-Western Regional	URS	\$1,165.83
95	Lismore	URM	\$101.43	94	Blayney	RAL	\$1,155.17
96	Singleton	URS	\$93.15	95	Upper Hunter	RAV	\$1,153.51
97	Orange	URM	\$90.05	96	Cooma-Monaro	RAV	\$1,135.13
98	Blue Mountains	UFL	\$88.86	97	Young	RAV	\$1,132.22
99	Shoalhaven	URL	\$84.65	98	Snowy River	RAL	\$1,129.55
100	Port Macquarie-Hastings	URL	\$82.94	99	Cowra	RAV	\$1,128.29
101	Maitland	URL	\$75.06	100	Gundagai	RAM	\$1,111.85
102	Tweed	URL	\$74.99	101	Uralla	RAL	\$1,107.60
103	Wollongong	URV	\$74.55	102	Leeton	RAV	\$1,103.63
104	Newcastle	URV	\$72.41	103	Inverell	RAV	\$1,099.97
105	Coffs Harbour	URL	\$71.93	104	Gunnedah	RAV	\$1,093.09
106	Port Stephens	URM	\$70.28	105	Cabonne	RAV	\$1,076.04
	State average		\$69.77	106	Liverpool Plains	RAL	\$1,072.14
107	Lake Macquarie	URV	\$68.50	107	Greater Hume	RAV	\$1,068.91

New South Wales councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 (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>
108	Wyong	UFV	\$68.16	108	Tenterfield	RAL	\$1,066.98
109	Shellharbour	URM	\$59.43	109	Walcha	RAM	\$1,064.11
110	Wingecarribee	URM	\$59.33	110	Bombala	RAM	\$1,063.22
111	Campbelltown	UFV	\$57.63	111	Corowa	RAV	\$1,062.84
112	Ballina	URM	\$57.54	112	Wakool	RAM	\$1,060.76
113	Queanbeyan	URM	\$52.04	113	Murray	RAL	\$1,057.83
114	Blacktown	UDV	\$51.40	114	Guyra	RAM	\$1,050.91
115	Penrith	UFV	\$50.45	115	Parkes	RAV	\$1,040.30
116	Gosford	UFV	\$47.70	116	Junee	RAL	\$1,039.44
117	Wollondilly	UFM	\$47.04	117	Wellington	RAL	\$1,037.60
118	Fairfield	UDV	\$46.20	118	Harden	RAM	\$1,037.15
119	Kiama	URS	\$44.65	119	Forbes	RAL	\$1,029.83
120	Hawkesbury	UFM	\$44.17	120	Upper Lachlan	RAL	\$1,029.73
121	Parramatta	UDV	\$43.84	121	Oberon	RAL	\$1,026.31
122	Byron	URM	\$43.83	122	Moree Plains	RAV	\$1,021.84
123	Liverpool	UFV	\$40.37	123	Narrabri	RAV	\$1,020.68
124	Auburn	UDL	\$36.44	124	Berrigan	RAL	\$1,011.97
125	Camden	UFM	\$33.11	125	Temora	RAL	\$1,009.41
126	Holroyd	UDL	\$33.05	126	Warrumbungle	RAV	\$1,006.99
127	Marrickville	UDL	\$30.83	127	Warren	RAM	\$1,005.80
128	Canterbury	UDV	\$30.66	128	Walgett	RAL	\$1,004.35
129	Bankstown	UDV	\$29.41	129	Gilgandra	RAM	\$1,001.99
130	Sydney	UCC	\$22.92	130	Lockhart	RAM	\$1,001.47
131	Ashfield	UDM	\$22.48	131	Boorowa	RAM	\$996.89
132	Waverley	UDL	\$22.08	132	Coonamble	RAM	\$987.68
133	Hunters Hill	UDS	\$20.93	133	Narromine	RAL	\$987.12
134	Mosman	UDS	\$20.93	134	Gwydir	RAL	\$984.48
135	Strathfield	UDM	\$20.93	135	Narrandera	RAL	\$980.13
136	Leichhardt	UDM	\$20.93	136	Weddin	RAM	\$975.10
137	Botany Bay	UDM	\$20.93	137	Bogan	RAM	\$973.08
138	Burwood	UDM	\$20.93	138	Wentworth	RAL	\$968.52
139	Manly	UDM	\$20.93	139	Hay	RAM	\$967.18
140	Woollahra	UDM	\$20.93	140	Murrumbidgee	RAM	\$964.84
141	Rockdale	UDL	\$20.93	141	Brewarrina	RAS	\$953.73
142	Kogarah	UDM	\$20.93	142	Urana	RAS	\$953.17
143	Willoughby	UDL	\$20.93	143	Coolamon	RAM	\$950.72
144	Canada Bay	UDL	\$20.93	144	Cobar	RTL	\$947.67
145	North Sydney	UDM	\$20.93	145	Jerilderie	RAS	\$946.98

New South Wales councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14 (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	Pittwater	UDM	\$20.93	146	Bourke	RAM	\$941.58
147	Hurstville	UDL	\$20.93	147	Lachlan	RAL	\$940.87
148	Ku-ring-gai	UDL	\$20.93	148	Bland	RAL	\$938.41
149	Ryde	UDL	\$20.93	149	Conargo	RAS	\$935.16
150	Warringah	UDV	\$20.93	150	Carrathool	RAM	\$930.34
151	Randwick	UDV	\$20.93	151	Balranald	RAM	\$925.00
152	Hornsby	UFV	\$20.93	152	Central Darling	RTM	\$922.71
153	Hills	UFV	\$20.93	153	Silverton Village	RTX	
154	Lane Cove	UDM	\$20.93	154	Tibooburra	RTX	
155	Sutherland	UDV	\$20.93	155	Lord Howe Island	RTX	

Table E-2 Victorian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14

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
1	West Wimmera	RAM	\$650.66	1	Melbourne	UCC	\$3,250.33
2	Loddon	RAL	\$564.81	2	Warrnambool	URM	\$2,076.03
3	Buloke	RAL	\$495.88	3	Greater Dandenong	UDV	\$2,065.67
4	Hindmarsh	RAL	\$436.26	4	Kingston	UDV	\$2,049.19
5	Pyrenees	RAL	\$415.00	5	Yarra Ranges	UFV	\$1,992.81
6	Yarriambiack	RAL	\$400.87	6	Port Phillip	UDL	\$1,862.18
7	Towong	RAL	\$377.52	7	Wodonga	URM	\$1,813.05
8	Northern Grampians	RAV	\$321.51	8	Yarra	UDL	\$1,812.19
9	Gannawarra	RAV	\$301.19	9	Brimbank	UDV	\$1,799.84
10	Strathbogie	RAL	\$290.28	10	Hume	UFV	\$1,771.11
11	Ararat	RAV	\$277.02	11	Moreland	UDV	\$1,746.70
12	Southern Grampians	RAV	\$240.08	12	Darebin	UDV	\$1,700.16
13	Corangamite	RAV	\$226.39	13	Banyule	UDV	\$1,683.65
14	Moyne	RAV	\$225.00	14	Cardinia	UFL	\$1,668.34
15	Mansfield	RAL	\$223.27	15	Maribyrnong	UDL	\$1,657.58
16	East Gippsland	URM	\$217.00	16	Melton	UFL	\$1,637.71
17	Moira	URS	\$208.83	17	Hobsons Bay	UDL	\$1,607.84
18	Murrindindi	RAV	\$203.03	18	Moonee Valley	UDL	\$1,600.97
19	Glenelg	RAV	\$201.70	19	Whittlesea	UFV	\$1,599.34
20	Swan Hill	URS	\$198.35	20	South Gippsland	URS	\$1,598.18
21	Alpine	RAV	\$196.20	21	Latrobe	URL	\$1,596.64
22	Central Goldfields	RAV	\$193.30	22	Maroondah	UDL	\$1,589.14
23	Campaspe	URM	\$192.47	23	Stonnington	UDL	\$1,570.79
24	Hepburn	RAV	\$191.50	24	Frankston	UDV	\$1,568.72
25	Horsham	RAV	\$185.14	25	East Gippsland	URM	\$1,560.89
26	Wellington	URM	\$183.16	26	Monash	UDV	\$1,550.54
27	South Gippsland	URS	\$182.57	27	Colac Otway	URS	\$1,549.38
28	Indigo	RAV	\$179.49	28	Ballarat	URL	\$1,532.33
29	Mildura	URM	\$177.32	29	Wellington	URM	\$1,508.72
30	Benalla	RAV	\$171.96	30	Wyndham	UFV	\$1,507.41
31	Colac Otway	URS	\$164.93	31	Knox	UDV	\$1,474.18
32	Golden Plains	RAV	\$164.75	32	Nillumbik	UFM	\$1,472.50
33	Mount Alexander	RAV	\$159.77	33	Greater Geelong	URV	\$1,463.90
34	Wangaratta	URS	\$154.60	34	Bass Coast	UFM	\$1,460.31
35	Bass Coast	UFM	\$137.86	35	Casey	UDV	\$1,458.34
36	Greater Shepparton	URM	\$132.74	36	Bayside	UDL	\$1,453.70

Victorian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14 (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
37	Moorabool	URS	\$132.44	37	Boroondara	UDV	\$1,452.68
38	Baw Baw	URM	\$131.23	38	Whitehorse	UDV	\$1,423.75
39	Mitchell	URM	\$127.93	39	Mornington Peninsula	UFV	\$1,395.69
40	Latrobe	URL	\$122.84	40	Alpine	RAV	\$1,387.64
41	Greater Bendigo	URL	\$113.08	41	Glen Eira	UDV	\$1,365.46
42	Macedon Ranges	URM	\$107.54	42	Murrindindi	RAV	\$1,352.37
43	Wodonga	URM	\$102.05	43	Moyne	RAV	\$1,348.56
44	Ballarat	URL	\$100.64	44	Corangamite	RAV	\$1,342.14
45	Melton	UFL	\$91.00	45	Baw Baw	URM	\$1,341.18
46	Cardinia	UFL	\$89.49	46	Manningham	UDL	\$1,310.46
47	Warrnambool	URM	\$87.23	47	Surf Coast	UFS	\$1,296.10
48	Surf Coast	UFS	\$79.33	48	Macedon Ranges	URM	\$1,251.52
49	Greater Geelong	URV	\$74.68	49	Moorabool	URS	\$1,246.10
50	Yarra Ranges	UFV	\$73.78	50	Glenelg	RAV	\$1,243.81
	State average		\$69.80	51	Mitchell	URM	\$1,191.53
51	Wyndham	UFV	\$67.18	52	Greater Shepparton	URM	\$1,185.70
52	Queenscliffe	UFS	\$66.76	53	Mansfield	RAL	\$1,172.43
53	Greater Dandenong	UDV	\$66.35	54	Queenscliffe	UFS	\$1,167.88
54	Brimbank	UDV	\$62.32	55	Towong	RAL	\$1,153.51
55	Whittlesea	UFV	\$61.25	56	Mount Alexander	RAV	\$1,123.11
56	Hume	UFV	\$60.97		State average		\$1,120.18
57	Frankston	UDV	\$58.12	57	Wangaratta	URS	\$1,119.79
58	Casey	UDV	\$56.88	58	Southern Grampians	RAV	\$1,073.04
59	Knox	UDV	\$43.33	59	Golden Plains	RAV	\$1,071.10
60	Maroondah	UDL	\$42.90	60	Indigo	RAV	\$1,062.23
61	Nillumbik	UFM	\$34.55	61	Greater Bendigo	URL	\$1,053.03
62	Moreland	UDV	\$33.17	62	Campaspe	URM	\$1,042.79
63	Maribyrnong	UDL	\$32.64	63	Benalla	RAV	\$1,009.52
64	Banyule	UDV	\$30.03	64	Hepburn	RAV	\$1,002.47
65	Darebin	UDV	\$28.75	65	Pyrenees	RAL	\$998.13
66	Mornington Peninsula	UFV	\$28.48	66	Moira	URS	\$976.90
67	Whitehorse	UDV	\$20.86	67	Ararat	RAV	\$955.39
68	Melbourne	UCC	\$20.86	68	Strathbogie	RAL	\$940.49
69	Monash	UDV	\$20.86	69	Gannawarra	RAV	\$863.21
70	Manningham	UDL	\$20.86	70	Central Goldfields	RAV	\$848.39

Victorian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 (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>
71	Port Phillip	UDL	\$20.86	71	West Wimmera	RAM	\$803.09
72	Glen Eira	UDV	\$20.86	72	Northern Grampians	RAV	\$750.06
73	Moonee Valley	UDL	\$20.86	73	Mildura	URM	\$707.11
74	Hobsons Bay	UDL	\$20.86	74	Loddon	RAL	\$704.93
75	Bayside	UDL	\$20.86	75	Horsham	RAV	\$698.48
76	Stonnington	UDL	\$20.86	76	Swan Hill	URS	\$589.49
77	Boroondara	UDV	\$20.86	77	Hindmarsh	RAL	\$487.59
78	Kingston	UDV	\$20.86	78	Buloke	RAL	\$411.70
79	Yarra	UDL	\$20.86	79	Yarriambiack	RAL	\$394.18

Table E-3 Queensland councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14 *

Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita				Queensland councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
1	Bulloo	RTS	\$10,741.83	1	Brisbane	UCC	\$2,649.87
2	Croydon	RTX	\$8,246.28	2	Gold Coast	URV	\$2,163.71
3	Barcoo	RTX	\$8,087.90	3	Redland	URV	\$2,026.55
4	Diamantina	RTX	\$7,751.68	4	Logan	URV	\$1,938.06
5	Bouliá	RTS	\$4,519.60	5	Moreton Bay	URV	\$1,775.67
6	Burke	RTS	\$4,452.58	6	Townsville	URV	\$1,737.77
7	McKinlay	RTM	\$3,834.62	7	Ipswich	URV	\$1,713.16
8	Etheridge	RTS	\$3,786.33	8	Cairns	URV	\$1,552.31
9	Richmond	RTS	\$3,719.15	9	Sunshine Coast	URV	\$1,483.00
10	Quilpie	RTM	\$3,678.17	10	Palm Island	RTM	\$1,277.36
11	Mapoon Aboriginal Council	RTX	\$3,488.75	11	Yarrabah	RTM	\$1,129.36
12	Winton	RTM	\$3,033.46	12	Mackay	URL	\$1,072.01
13	Lockhart River	RTS	\$2,528.39	13	Torres	RTL	\$888.07
14	Flinders	RTM	\$2,450.99	14	Bundaberg	URL	\$875.75
15	Torres Strait Island	RTL	\$2,177.84		State average		\$862.40
16	Paroo	RTM	\$1,795.65	15	Rockhampton	URL	\$845.33
17	Carpentaria	RTM	\$1,746.78	16	Fraser Coast	URL	\$821.61
18	Cook	RTM	\$1,605.36	17	Lockyer Valley	URM	\$815.95
19	Pompuraaw	RTS	\$1,580.80	18	Cassowary Coast	URS	\$806.43
20	Barcardine	RTL	\$1,540.85	19	Gladstone	URM	\$798.87
21	Longreach	RTL	\$1,465.38	20	Scenic Rim	UFM	\$769.83
22	Aurukun	RTM	\$1,465.33	21	Gympie	URM	\$765.35
23	Northern Peninsula Area	RTM	\$1,380.04	22	Toowoomba	URV	\$759.78
24	Wujal Wujal	RTX	\$1,366.81	23	Cherbourg	RTM	\$735.74
25	Cloncurry	RTM	\$1,258.51	24	Whitsunday	URM	\$734.98
26	Blackall-Tambo	RTM	\$1,255.97	25	Hinchinbrook	RAV	\$724.69
27	Kowanyama	RTM	\$1,169.98	26	Burdekin	RAV	\$710.56
28	Mornington	RTM	\$1,139.94	27	Wujal Wujal	RTX	\$686.59
29	Murweh	RTL	\$1,087.51	28	Torres Strait Island	RTL	\$682.02
30	Napranum	RTS	\$990.68	29	Doomadgee	RTM	\$675.52
31	Maranoa	RAV	\$910.91	30	Woorabinda	RTS	\$673.64
32	North Burnett	RAV	\$843.90	31	Somerset	UFS	\$668.40
33	Doomadgee	RTM	\$825.97	32	Southern Downs	URM	\$665.71
34	Hope Vale	RTM	\$789.24	33	Mount Isa	URS	\$662.35
35	Torres	RTL	\$787.15	34	South Burnett	URM	\$647.68
36	Balonne	RAM	\$717.85	35	Hope Vale	RTM	\$643.58
37	Woorabinda	RTS	\$448.09	36	Mapoon Aboriginal Council	RTX	\$631.06

Queensland councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 * (continued)

Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita				Queensland councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
38	Western Downs	URM	\$430.78	37	Aurukun	RTM	\$626.40
39	Goondiwindi	RAV	\$408.26	38	Isaac	URS	\$620.35
40	Banana	RAV	\$387.87	39	Northern Peninsula Area	RTM	\$618.27
41	Palm Island	RTM	\$386.83	40	Central Highlands	URM	\$612.02
42	Cherbourg	RTM	\$385.49	41	Napranum	RTS	\$601.72
43	Charters Towers	RAV	\$359.44	42	Mornington	RTM	\$598.68
44	Yarrabah	RTM	\$278.93	43	Goondiwindi	RAV	\$589.52
45	Central Highlands	URM	\$204.08	44	Western Downs	URM	\$588.90
46	Mount Isa	URS	\$171.74	45	Banana	RAV	\$582.83
47	South Burnett	URM	\$159.18	46	Kowanyama	RTM	\$577.82
48	Southern Downs	URM	\$147.69	47	Tablelands	URM	\$576.16
49	Burdekin	RAV	\$140.92	48	Charters Towers	RAV	\$573.78
50	Hinchinbrook	RAV	\$133.00	49	Maranoa	RAV	\$566.83
51	Isaac	URS	\$132.84	50	Cloncurry	RTM	\$565.97
52	Tablelands	URM	\$125.02	51	Balonne	RAM	\$564.56
53	Whitsunday	URM	\$102.85	52	North Burnett	RAV	\$564.41
54	Somerset	UFS	\$100.53	53	Murweh	RTL	\$560.58
55	Gladstone	URM	\$94.50	54	Cook	RTM	\$560.14
56	Lockyer Valley	URM	\$83.42	55	Lockhart River	RTS	\$559.30
57	Cassowary Coast	URS	\$79.00	56	Longreach	RTL	\$557.24
58	Gympie	URM	\$75.67	57	Pormpuraaw	RTS	\$555.96
	State average		\$70.02	58	Carpentaria	RTM	\$555.50
59	Toowoomba	URV	\$67.13	59	Blackall–Tambo	RTM	\$555.37
60	Bundaberg	URL	\$55.35	60	Barcaldine	RTL	\$553.19
61	Scenic Rim	UFM	\$45.73	61	Flinders	RTM	\$551.96
62	Fraser Coast	URL	\$45.31	62	Paroo	RTM	\$551.87
63	Rockhampton	URL	\$44.03	63	Burke	RTS	\$550.55
64	Mackay	URL	\$33.00	64	Richmond	RTS	\$548.98
65	Townsville	URV	\$22.81	65	Winton	RTM	\$547.93
66	Brisbane	UCC	\$21.00	66	McKinlay	RTM	\$547.91
67	Gold Coast	URV	\$21.00	67	Etheridge	RTS	\$547.49
68	Moreton Bay	URV	\$21.00	68	Quilpie	RTM	\$547.34
69	Redland	URV	\$21.00	69	Boulia	RTS	\$546.00
70	Ipswich	URV	\$21.00	70	Croydon	RTX	\$545.17
71	Logan	URV	\$21.00	71	Diamantina	RTX	\$545.03
72	Cairns	URV	\$21.00	72	Bulloo	RTS	\$544.35
73	Sunshine Coast	URV	\$21.00	73	Barcoo	RTX	\$544.21

Note: The councils of Douglas, Livingstone, Mareeba and Noosa were de-amalgamated on 1 January 2014. As full year data on population is not available for these councils, they have been excluded from this analysis.

Table E-4 Western Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14

Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				Western Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
1	Murchison	RTX	\$19,840.11	1	Perth	UCC	\$4,454.06
2	Sandstone	RTX	\$13,104.82	2	Bunbury	URM	\$2,655.64
3	Upper Gascoyne	RTX	\$9,944.73	3	Vincent	UDM	\$2,550.27
4	Menzies	RTS	\$4,004.16	4	Subiaco	UDS	\$2,391.78
5	Nungarin	RAS	\$3,844.15	5	Narrogin	URS	\$2,318.44
6	Cue	RTX	\$3,828.98	6	Belmont	UDM	\$2,307.29
7	Yalgoo	RTS	\$3,778.41	7	Bassendean	UDS	\$2,289.12
8	Mount Marshall	RAS	\$2,787.47	8	Peppermint Grove	UDS	\$2,265.67
9	Trayning	RAS	\$2,741.57	9	Canning	UDL	\$2,250.24
10	Koorda	RAS	\$2,665.98	10	Fremantle	UDS	\$2,239.19
11	Westonia	RAS	\$2,405.64	11	Claremont	UDS	\$2,195.47
12	Mukinbudin	RAS	\$2,092.91	12	Cambridge	UDS	\$2,191.23
13	Ngaanyatjarraku	RTM	\$2,020.50	13	Cottesloe	UDS	\$2,181.21
14	Mount Magnet	RTS	\$1,871.46	14	Victoria Park	UDM	\$2,159.75
15	Tammin	RAS	\$1,822.14	15	Gosnells	UFL	\$2,156.67
16	Wyalkatchem	RAS	\$1,752.38	16	Bayswater	UDM	\$2,136.86
17	Meekatharra	RTM	\$1,562.66	17	Albany	URM	\$2,097.82
18	Shark Bay	RTS	\$1,536.46	18	South Perth	UDM	\$2,091.99
19	Carnamah	RAS	\$1,526.00	19	Stirling	UDV	\$2,089.99
20	Bruce Rock	RAS	\$1,475.09	20	Nedlands	UDS	\$2,079.98
21	Dumbleyung	RAS	\$1,411.34	21	Joondalup	UDV	\$2,066.02
22	Narembeen	RAS	\$1,391.13	22	Melville	UDL	\$2,036.92
23	Wickepin	RAS	\$1,184.58	23	East Fremantle	UDS	\$1,967.41
24	Woodanilling	RAS	\$1,165.30	24	Wanneroo	UFV	\$1,933.94
25	Wiluna	RTM	\$1,162.03	25	Mosman Park	UDS	\$1,931.86
26	Dowerin	RAS	\$1,160.26	26	Rockingham	UDL	\$1,881.88
27	Laverton	RTM	\$1,136.90	27	Cockburn	UDL	\$1,865.55
28	Morawa	RAS	\$1,066.38	28	Armadale	UFM	\$1,839.14
29	Perenjori	RAS	\$1,043.45	29	Mandurah	UFM	\$1,838.11
30	Kellerberrin	RAS	\$1,021.82	30	Kwinana	UFM	\$1,827.91
31	Dalwallinu	RAS	\$1,000.31	31	Kalamunda	UFM	\$1,787.86
32	Dundas	RTM	\$991.37	32	Nannup	RAS	\$1,768.14
33	Quairading	RAS	\$984.39	33	Swan	UFL	\$1,730.42
34	Corrigin	RAS	\$955.63	34	Broome	RTL	\$1,646.55
35	Broomehill-Tambellup	RAS	\$940.96	35	Mundaring	UFM	\$1,580.43
36	Kulin	RAS	\$840.70	36	Busselton	URM	\$1,574.06

Western Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 (continued)

Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				Western Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
37	Halls Creek	RTL	\$838.94	37	Boddington	RAM	\$1,479.08
38	Kent	RAS	\$838.74	38	Dardanup	RAV	\$1,442.56
39	Coorow	RAS	\$751.45	39	Manjimup	RAL	\$1,434.64
40	Three Springs	RAS	\$740.67	40	Roebourne	URS	\$1,411.88
41	Wongan–Ballidu	RAS	\$735.20	41	Exmouth	RTM	\$1,401.83
42	Kondinin	RAS	\$721.61	42	Murray	RAV	\$1,269.00
43	Cunderdin	RAS	\$652.57	43	Serpentine–Jarrahdale	RSG	\$1,237.28
44	Pingelly	RAS	\$651.38	44	Harvey	URS	\$1,230.21
45	Narrogin	RAS	\$634.00	45	Wyndham–East Kimberley	RTL	\$1,224.49
46	Nannup	RAS	\$632.48	46	Kalgoorlie/Boulder	URM	\$1,187.59
47	Cuballing	RAS	\$625.22	47	Collie	RAL	\$1,181.41
48	Carnarvon	RAL	\$613.80	48	Brookton	RAS	\$1,167.38
49	Lake Grace	RAS	\$612.03	49	Boyup Brook	RAS	\$1,148.17
50	Brookton	RAS	\$590.54	50	Waroona	RAM	\$1,123.61
51	Exmouth	RTM	\$583.41	51	Capel	RSG	\$1,120.73
52	Mingenew	RAS	\$556.44	52	Port Hedland	RTL	\$1,119.36
53	Wandering	RAS	\$518.94	53	Augusta–Margaret River	RAV	\$1,077.16
54	Cranbrook	RAS	\$511.11	54	York	RAM	\$1,065.61
55	Beverley	RAS	\$507.91	55	Northam	RAV	\$1,026.95
56	Jerramungup	RAS	\$483.70	56	Chittering	RAM	\$1,014.46
57	Wagin	RAS	\$470.10	57	Gingin	RAM	\$969.87
58	Gnowangerup	RAS	\$452.05	58	Bridgetown–Greenbushes	RAM	\$962.34
59	Derby–West Kimberley	RTL	\$449.28	59	Donnybrook–Balingup	RAL	\$956.83
60	Merredin	RAM	\$442.72	60	Greater Geraldton	URM	\$939.97
61	West Arthur	RAS	\$419.83	61	Moora	RAM	\$916.68
62	Ravensthorpe	RAM	\$384.25	62	Ngaanyatjarraku	RTM	\$911.58
63	Yilgarn	RAS	\$369.81	63	Broomehill–Tambellup	RAS	\$865.92
64	Victoria Plains	RAS	\$358.36	64	Toodyay	RAM	\$859.07
65	Goomalling	RAS	\$356.50	65	Katanning	RAM	\$848.36
66	Katanning	RAM	\$340.64		State average		\$840.27
67	Kojonup	RAM	\$325.13	66	Beverley	RAS	\$782.24
68	Wyndham–East Kimberley	RTL	\$320.65	67	Shark Bay	RTS	\$740.11
69	Ashburton	RTL	\$315.33	68	East Pilbara	RTL	\$739.69
70	Moora	RAM	\$270.64	69	Carnarvon	RAL	\$738.59

Western Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14 (continued)

Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				Western Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
71	Manjimup	RAL	\$265.50	70	Irwin	RAM	\$738.37
72	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	RAM	\$259.91	71	Denmark	RAL	\$713.85
73	East Pilbara	RTL	\$249.99	72	Dandaragan	RAM	\$713.31
74	Narrogin	URS	\$248.74	73	Williams	RAS	\$710.33
75	Waroona	RAM	\$247.67	74	Halls Creek	RTL	\$666.71
76	Chapman Valley	RAS	\$247.11	75	Mingenew	RAS	\$664.88
77	Boyup Brook	RAS	\$245.98	76	Esperance	RAV	\$649.66
78	York	RAM	\$239.85	77	Northampton	RAM	\$645.56
79	Northampton	RAM	\$228.52	78	Victoria Plains	RAS	\$642.39
80	Northam	RAV	\$225.76	79	Bruce Rock	RAS	\$641.20
81	Dandaragan	RAM	\$214.56	80	Plantagenet	RAM	\$640.66
82	Donnybrook-Balingup	RAL	\$212.16	81	Cunderdin	RAS	\$635.01
83	Leonora	RTM	\$205.60	82	Quairading	RAS	\$634.75
84	Toodyay	RAM	\$202.90	83	Merredin	RAM	\$631.12
85	Gingin	RAM	\$175.13	84	Wandering	RAS	\$616.23
86	Collie	RAL	\$154.97	85	Pingelly	RAS	\$612.37
87	Esperance	RAV	\$145.40	86	Cranbrook	RAS	\$609.58
88	Broome	RTL	\$139.34	87	Coorow	RAS	\$609.12
89	Chittering	RAM	\$138.66	88	Corrigin	RAS	\$609.00
90	Coolgardie	RTL	\$123.14	89	Wagin	RAS	\$605.11
91	Plantagenet	RAM	\$122.30	90	Gnowangerup	RAS	\$603.71
92	Port Hedland	RTL	\$110.48	91	Carnamah	RAS	\$602.51
93	Denmark	RAL	\$110.44	92	Goomalling	RAS	\$601.75
94	Williams	RAS	\$102.19	93	Ashburton	RTL	\$601.37
95	Greater Geraldton	URM	\$96.05	94	Dundas	RTM	\$599.24
96	Boddington	RAM	\$95.24	95	Trayning	RAS	\$596.62
97	Roebourne	URS	\$89.79	96	Derby-West Kimberley	RTL	\$594.43
98	Irwin	RAM	\$86.80	97	Wyalkatchem	RAS	\$594.32
99	Serpentine-Jarrahdale	RSG	\$80.90	98	Three Springs	RAS	\$591.82
100	Murray	RAV	\$77.84	99	Coolgardie	RTL	\$587.46
	State average		\$70.49	100	Kellerberrin	RAS	\$586.09
101	Dardanup	RAV	\$66.90	101	Kojonup	RAM	\$586.07
102	Capel	RSG	\$65.92	102	Wongan-Ballidu	RAS	\$585.80
103	Harvey	URS	\$61.78	103	Dalwallinu	RAS	\$580.96
104	Albany	URM	\$61.05	104	Cuballing	RAS	\$578.92

Western Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 (continued)

Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				Western Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
105	Mundaring	UFM	\$51.77	105	Chapman Valley	RAS	\$576.99
106	Armadale	UFM	\$27.60	106	Nungarin	RAS	\$576.88
107	Kalgoorlie/Boulder	URM	\$26.54	107	Ravensthorpe	RAM	\$575.50
108	East Fremantle	UDS	\$21.15	108	Tammin	RAS	\$575.15
109	Peppermint Grove	UDS	\$21.15	109	West Arthur	RAS	\$574.95
110	Claremont	UDS	\$21.15	110	Dumbleyung	RAS	\$574.74
111	Cottesloe	UDS	\$21.15	111	Koorda	RAS	\$572.04
112	Fremantle	UDS	\$21.15	112	Perenjori	RAS	\$571.62
113	Perth	UCC	\$21.15	113	Wickepin	RAS	\$571.13
114	Kwinana	UFM	\$21.15	114	Woodanilling	RAS	\$568.96
115	Bayswater	UDM	\$21.15	115	Cue	RTX	\$568.12
116	Kalamunda	UFM	\$21.15	116	Mukinbudin	RAS	\$567.03
117	South Perth	UDM	\$21.15	117	Narrogin	RAS	\$566.59
118	Cockburn	UDL	\$21.15	118	Kulin	RAS	\$563.43
119	Stirling	UDV	\$21.15	119	Morawa	RAS	\$560.82
120	Wanneroo	UFV	\$21.15	120	Dowerin	RAS	\$560.16
121	Joondalup	UDV	\$21.15	121	Westonia	RAS	\$558.69
122	Rockingham	UDL	\$21.15	122	Narembeen	RAS	\$549.22
123	Mandurah	UFM	\$21.15	123	Kondinin	RAS	\$544.84
124	Mosman Park	UDS	\$21.15	124	Lake Grace	RAS	\$544.16
125	Melville	UDL	\$21.15	125	Jerramungup	RAS	\$542.84
126	Nedlands	UDS	\$21.15	126	Kent	RAS	\$515.05
127	Canning	UDL	\$21.15	127	Yalgoo	RTS	\$502.55
128	Gosnells	UFL	\$21.15	128	Mount Magnet	RTS	\$497.32
129	Swan	UFL	\$21.15	129	Upper Gascoyne	RTX	\$493.90
130	Cambridge	UDS	\$21.15	130	Mount Marshall	RAS	\$489.40
131	Bunbury	URM	\$21.15	131	Leonora	RTM	\$458.27
132	Vincent	UDM	\$21.15	132	Sandstone	RTX	\$443.36
133	Belmont	UDM	\$21.15	133	Meekatharra	RTM	\$431.71
134	Augusta–Margaret River	RAV	\$21.15	134	Wiluna	RTM	\$426.94
135	Victoria Park	UDM	\$21.15	135	Yilgarn	RAS	\$423.42
136	Busselton	URM	\$21.15	136	Murchison	RTX	\$419.12
137	Subiaco	UDS	\$21.15	137	Menzies	RTS	\$359.37
138	Bassendean	UDS	\$21.15	138	Laverton	RTM	\$188.35

Table E-5 South Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14

South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				South Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
1	Karoonda-East Murray	RAS	\$1,184.66	1	Unley	UDM	\$3,422.93
2	Maralinga	RTX	\$1,153.79	2	Gawler	UFS	\$3,377.46
3	Orroroo/Carrieton	RAS	\$1,115.11	3	Mitcham	UDM	\$3,081.52
4	Wudinna	RAS	\$994.79	4	Mount Gambier	URS	\$2,932.21
5	Kimba	RAS	\$940.02	5	Prospect	UDS	\$2,298.08
6	Franklin Harbour	RAS	\$825.12	6	Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	\$2,228.70
7	Peterborough	RAS	\$775.28	7	Holdfast Bay	UDM	\$2,139.15
8	Flinders Ranges	RAS	\$721.06	8	Walkerville	UDS	\$2,121.54
9	Elliston	RAS	\$711.80	9	West Torrens	UDM	\$2,056.29
10	Streaky Bay	RAM	\$678.75	10	Campbelltown	UDM	\$2,051.84
11	Goyder	RAM	\$649.29	11	Charles Sturt	UDL	\$2,015.53
12	Mount Remarkable	RAM	\$582.74	12	Burnside	UDM	\$1,999.45
13	Ceduna	RAM	\$567.82	13	Roxby Downs	URS	\$1,978.00
14	Cleve	RAS	\$551.42	14	Marion	UDL	\$1,965.44
15	Southern Mallee	RAM	\$545.41	15	Port Adelaide Enfield	UDL	\$1,927.71
16	Yalata	RTX	\$523.05	16	Adelaide	UCC	\$1,926.60
17	Coober Pedy	URS	\$462.89	17	Salisbury	UDV	\$1,883.05
18	Coorong	RAL	\$435.78	18	Tea Tree Gully	UDL	\$1,858.71
19	Anangu Pitjantjatjara	RTM	\$398.57	19	Onkaparinga	UFV	\$1,730.19
20	Mid Murray	RAL	\$382.80	20	Playford	UFL	\$1,497.89
21	Outback Communities Authority	RTL	\$367.86	21	Yankalilla	RAM	\$1,485.69
22	Tatiara	RAL	\$360.27	22	Port Lincoln	URS	\$1,398.50
23	Loxton Waikerie	RAV	\$321.03	23	Whyalla	URS	\$1,386.56
24	Northern Areas	RAM	\$314.66	24	Flinders Ranges	RAS	\$1,077.94
25	Kangaroo Island	RAM	\$314.11	25	Adelaide Hills	UFM	\$830.05
26	Renmark Paringa	RAL	\$275.86	26	Port Augusta	URS	\$698.27
27	Naracoorte Lucindale	RAL	\$266.65	27	Mount Barker	URM	\$693.27
28	Wakefield	RAL	\$263.66	28	Victor Harbor	URS	\$664.72
29	Nipapanha	RTX	\$242.21	29	Robe	RAS	\$655.07
30	Kingston	RAM	\$237.59	30	Yalata	RTX	\$654.63
31	Berri Barmera	RAV	\$228.26	31	Cleve	RAS	\$621.89
32	Port Pirie	RAV	\$228.08	32	Streaky Bay	RAM	\$606.99

South Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14 (continued)

South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				South Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
33	Tumby Bay	RAM	\$207.68	State average			
34	Port Augusta	URS	\$187.25	33	Berri Barmera	RAV	\$496.51
35	Gerard	RTX	\$183.30	34	Tatiara	RAL	\$488.16
36	Whyalla	URS	\$173.60	35	Naracoorte Lucindale	RAL	\$487.88
37	Wattle Range	RAV	\$161.83	36	Murray Bridge	URS	\$473.67
38	Murray Bridge	URS	\$155.55	37	Barossa	UFS	\$461.06
39	Barunga West	RAM	\$143.93	38	Renmark Paringa	RAL	\$434.47
40	Yorke Peninsula	RAV	\$127.88	39	Alexandrina	UFS	\$415.99
41	Mallala	RAL	\$122.49	40	Port Pirie	RAV	\$359.14
42	Grant	RAL	\$120.81	41	Elliston	RAS	\$348.39
43	Copper Coast	RAV	\$113.66	42	Coorong	RAL	\$342.88
44	Playford	UFL	\$105.29	43	Kingston	RAM	\$329.66
45	Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	\$94.17	44	Copper Coast	RAV	\$321.38
46	Mount Gambier	URS	\$85.54	45	Loxton Waikerie	RAV	\$309.23
47	Port Lincoln	URS	\$75.73	46	Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	\$300.24
	State average		\$69.54	47	Southern Mallee	RAM	\$294.58
48	Clare and Gilbert Valleys	RAL	\$61.47	48	Wattle Range	RAV	\$293.12
49	Gawler	UFS	\$55.40	49	Grant	RAL	\$289.12
50	Salisbury	UDV	\$48.79	50	Kangaroo Island	RAM	\$284.44
51	Onkaparinga	UFV	\$34.57	51	Light	RAV	\$274.12
52	Yankalilla	RAM	\$27.88	52	Franklin Harbour	RAS	\$267.54
53	Alexandrina	UFS	\$26.32	53	Mallala	RAL	\$256.45
54	Barossa	UFS	\$23.71	54	Karoonda–East Murray	RAS	\$255.21
55	Mount Barker	URM	\$21.84	55	Ceduna	RAM	\$252.52
56	Robe	RAS	\$21.06	56	Tumby Bay	RAM	\$231.42
57	Unley	UDM	\$20.86	57	Wudinna	RAS	\$226.12
58	Light	RAV	\$20.86	58	Clare and Gilbert Valleys	RAL	\$207.11
59	Adelaide	UCC	\$20.86	59	Yorke Peninsula	RAV	\$204.02
60	Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	\$20.86	60	Goyder	RAM	\$203.28
61	Burnside	UDM	\$20.86	61	Barunga West	RAM	\$202.75
62	Charles Sturt	UDL	\$20.86	62	Peterborough	RAS	\$194.86
63	Adelaide Hills	UFM	\$20.86	63	Wakefield	RAL	\$192.56
64	Campbelltown	UDM	\$20.86	64	Mid Murray	RAL	\$186.46

South Australian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14 (continued)

South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita				South Australian councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
65	Prospect	UDS	\$20.86	65	Northern Areas	RAM	\$178.84
66	Tea Tree Gully	UDL	\$20.86	66	Mount Remarkable	RAM	\$172.93
67	Marion	UDL	\$20.86	67	Kimba	RAS	\$172.25
68	West Torrens	UDM	\$20.86	68	Orroroo/Carrieton	RAS	\$153.20
69	Mitcham	UDM	\$20.86	69	Coober Pedy	URS	\$106.76
70	Port Adelaide Enfield	UDL	\$20.86	70	Anangu Pitjantjatjara	RTM	\$47.10
71	Victor Harbor	URS	\$20.86	71	Maralinga	RTX	-
72	Holdfast Bay	UDM	\$20.86	72	Outback Communities Authority	RTL	-
73	Walkerville	UDS	\$20.86	73	Nipapanha	RTX	-
74	Roxby Downs	URS	\$20.86	74	Gerard	RTX	-

Table E-6 Tasmanian councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013–14

<i>Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per capita</i>				<i>Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per km</i>			
<i>General purpose grant</i>				<i>Local road grant</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council Name</i>	<i>Classi- fication</i>	<i>\$ per capita</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Council Name</i>	<i>Classi- fication</i>	<i>\$ per km</i>
1	Flinders	RAS	\$858.03	1	Hobart	UCC	\$5,515.36
2	King Island	RAS	\$438.78	2	Glenorchy	UFM	\$4,393.80
3	Central Highlands	RAM	\$387.12	3	Devonport	URS	\$4,293.55
4	Southern Midlands	RAL	\$282.88	4	Launceston	URM	\$3,792.24
5	West Coast	RAL	\$248.31	5	Burnie	URS	\$3,362.51
6	Dorset	RAL	\$235.78	6	Clarence	UFM	\$3,314.42
7	Kentish	RAL	\$230.93	7	West Coast	RAL	\$3,251.04
8	Tasman	RAM	\$204.76	8	Brighton	URS	\$2,957.57
9	Break O'Day	RAL	\$187.28	9	George Town	RAL	\$2,881.62
10	George Town	RAL	\$144.19	10	Central Coast	URS	\$2,869.78
11	Derwent Valley	RAV	\$128.03	11	Break O'Day	RAL	\$2,726.81
12	Circular Head	RAL	\$126.65		State average		\$2,621.65
13	Northern Midlands	RAV	\$124.20	12	Glamorgan–Spring Bay	RAM	\$2,614.35
14	Waratah–Wynyard	RAV	\$124.14	13	Latrobe	RAL	\$2,609.48
15	Sorell	RAV	\$113.33	14	Sorell	RAV	\$2,536.20
16	Glamorgan–Spring Bay	RAM	\$107.75	15	Meander Valley	RAV	\$2,518.98
17	Meander Valley	RAV	\$105.32	16	West Tamar	UFS	\$2,464.34
18	Central Coast	URS	\$105.15	17	Kingborough	UFM	\$2,457.06
19	Huon Valley	RAV	\$97.13	18	Waratah–Wynyard	RAV	\$2,397.37
20	Burnie	URS	\$75.21	19	Tasman	RAM	\$2,390.73
	State average		\$69.31	20	Kentish	RAL	\$2,368.06
21	Brighton	URS	\$68.44	21	Northern Midlands	RAV	\$2,342.96
22	Latrobe	RAL	\$65.00	22	Dorset	RAL	\$2,294.99
23	West Tamar	UFS	\$61.27	23	Derwent Valley	RAV	\$2,287.39
24	Devonport	URS	\$32.60	24	Circular Head	RAL	\$2,256.98
25	Hobart	UCC	\$20.79	25	Huon Valley	RAV	\$1,990.71
26	Kingborough	UFM	\$20.79	26	King Island	RAS	\$1,865.25
27	Clarence	UFM	\$20.79	27	Flinders	RAS	\$1,847.68
28	Glenorchy	UFM	\$20.79	28	Southern Midlands	RAL	\$1,827.52
29	Launceston	URM	\$20.79	29	Central Highlands	RAM	\$1,733.16

Table E-7 Northern Territory councils ranked by financial assistance grant funding 2013-14

Northern Territory councils ranked by funding per capita				Northern Territory councils ranked by funding per km			
General Purpose Grant				Local Road Grant			
Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per capita	Rank	Council Name	Classification	\$ per km
1	East Arnhem	RTL	\$310.72	1	Alice Springs	URS	\$3,878.78
2	MacDonnell	RTL	\$261.95	2	Darwin	UCC	\$3,546.54
3	Roper Gulf	RTL	\$246.54	3	Palmerston	UFS	\$3,381.73
4	Barkly	RTL	\$203.17	4	Katherine	URS	\$3,379.97
5	Central Desert	RTL	\$194.41	5	Litchfield	RAV	\$3,315.24
6	Victoria-Daly	RTL	\$185.34	6	Wagait	RTX	\$3,239.18
7	West Arnhem	RTL	\$176.02	7	Coomalie	RTM	\$2,436.89
8	Tiwi Islands	RTM	\$130.86		State average		\$1,292.39
9	Belyuen	RTX	\$128.40	8	Victoria-Daly	RTL	\$1,280.60
	State average		\$72.16	9	East Arnhem	RTL	\$1,084.40
10	Katherine	URS	\$33.67	10	Roper Gulf	RTL	\$981.68
11	Alice Springs	URS	\$25.75	11	West Arnhem	RTL	\$891.29
12	Darwin	UCC	\$21.65	12	Barkly	RTL	\$711.11
13	Palmerston	UFS	\$21.65	13	Trust Account	ZZZ	\$629.21
14	Litchfield	RAV	\$21.65	14	Central Desert	RTL	\$595.74
15	Coomalie	RTM	\$21.65	15	MacDonnell	RTL	\$585.94
16	Wagait	RTX	\$21.65	16	Belyuen	RTX	\$391.50
17	Trust Account	ZZZ	-	17	Tiwi Islands	RTM	-

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.

To ensure the ACLG is kept up to date, at the end of each financial year local government grant commissions advise of any changes in the classification of councils in their state.

The local governing bodies included in the classification system are those that receive funding under the Financial Assistance Grant programme 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. These include community councils. County councils, voluntary regional organisations of councils and the Australian Capital Territory are excluded.

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 F-1 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.

Table F-2 provides details of the number of local governing bodies at July 2013 by ACLG category and by state. There were no changes to the ACLG reported for local governing bodies in 2013–14.

Table F-1 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	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/ square kilometre	MEDIUM	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	up to 30,000	URS
OR	Part of an urban centre with population less than 1,000,000 and predominantly urban in nature	MEDIUM	30,001–70,000	URM
		LARGE (L)	70,001–120,000	URL
90 per cent or more of the local governing body population is urban		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120,000	URV
	FRINGE (F)	SMALL	up to 30,000	UFS
	A developing LGA on the margin of a developed or regional urban centre	MEDIUM	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 5,000 and not remote			
Population density less than 30 persons per square kilometre	AGRICULTURAL (A)	SMALL	up to 2,000	RAS
AND		MEDIUM	2,001–5,000	RAM
Less than 90 per cent of local governing body population is urban		LARGE (L)	5,001–10,000	RAL
		VERY LARGE (V)	10,001–20,000	RAV
	REMOTE	EXTRA SMALL (X)	up to 400	RTX
		SMALL	401–1,000	RTS
		MEDIUM	1,001–3,000	RTM
		LARGE (L)	3,001–20,000	RTL

Table F-2 Categories of local governments by state July 2013

State ACLG Categories	NSW	VIC	QLD^b	WA	SA	TAS	NT^a	Australia
Urban Capital City (UCC)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Urban Development Small (UDS)	2	0	0	10	2	0	0	14
Urban Development Medium (UDM)	11	0	0	5	7	0	0	23
Urban Development Large (UDL)	10	9	0	4	4	0	0	27
Urban Development Very Large (UDV)	8	13	0	2	1	0	0	24
Urban Regional Small (URS)	11	6	4	3	8	4	2	38
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	19	10	8	5	1	1	0	44
Urban Regional Large (URL)	5	3	4	0	0	0	0	12
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	3	1	9	0	0	0	0	13
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	0	2	1	0	3	1	1	8
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	3	2	1	5	1	3	0	15
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	6
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	7	5	0	1	1	0	0	14
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	4	0	0	49	10	2	0	65
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	20	1	1	16	11	3	0	52
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	25	8	0	5	10	8	0	56
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	20	16	7	5	7	6	1	62
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	3	0	5	4	4	0	2	18
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	0	0	9	4	0	0	0	13
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	1	0	18	7	1	0	2	29
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	1	0	5	8	1	0	7	22
Total	155	79	73	138	74	29	16	564

Note: a NT total excludes Road Trust Account.

b QLD total excludes four local governing bodies declared on 1 January 2014.

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