Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Local Government National Report

2023–24

2023–24 report on the operation of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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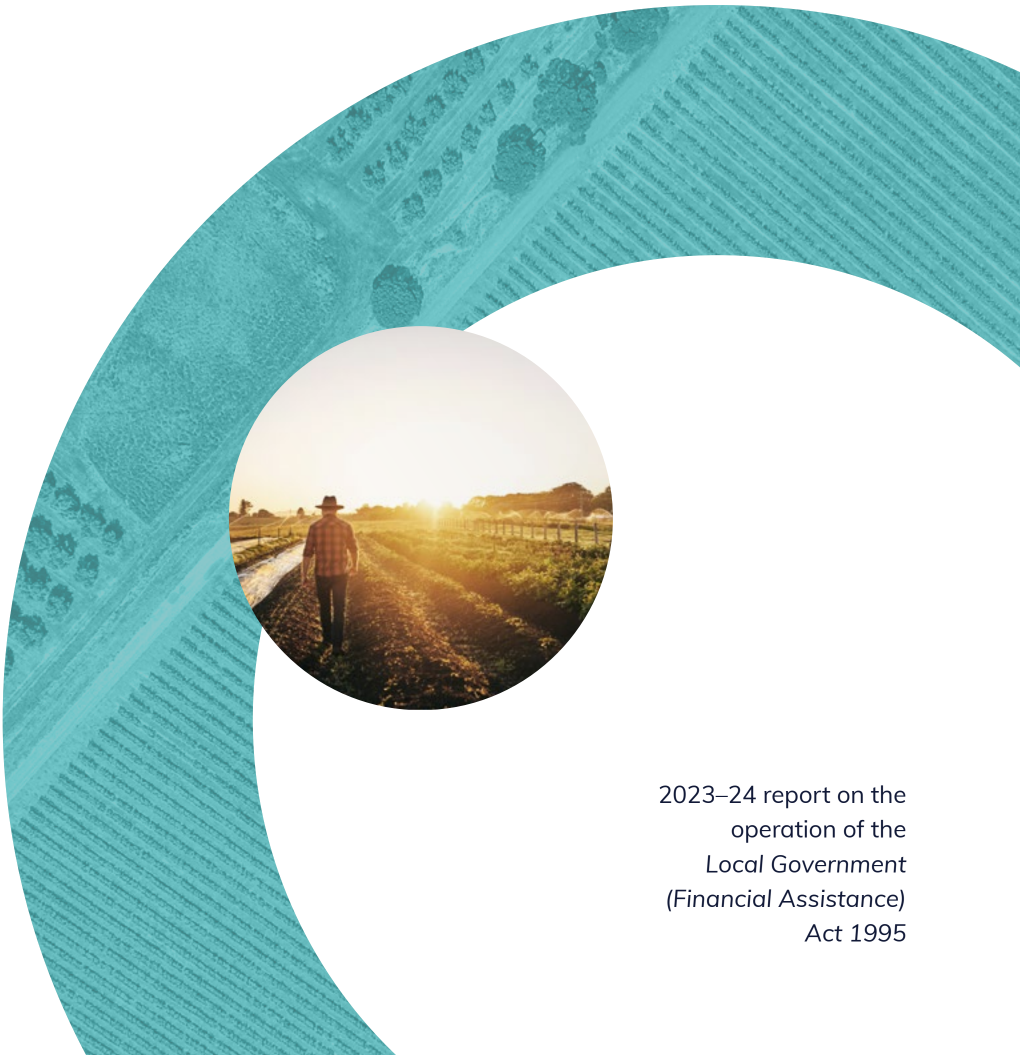

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ISSN: 2982-2661 (Print)

ISSN: 2982-267X (Online)

April 2026 / INFRASTRUCTURE 7080

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Foreword

I present to the Australian Parliament the Local Government National Report on the operations of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) for 2023–24.

The Australian Government recognises the critical role of local government in supporting communities across Australia. The Financial Assistance Grant program strengthens councils' capacity to provide the essential local services all Australians rely on and contributes to a robust and efficient local government sector.

The Financial Assistance Grant is distributed through states and territories to all local governments, with a greater share directed to those with higher needs. The report provides an account of how the states and the Northern Territory allocated the 2023–24 funding through their local government grants commissions. The Australian Capital Territory retains the funding it receives through the Financial Assistance Grant as it does not have a separate system of local government and delivers local government functions directly.

In 2023–24, the Government provided $2.8 billion in untied financial assistance to councils, including an 85 per cent bring-forward of funding from 2024–25 to support councils facing cash-flow pressures.

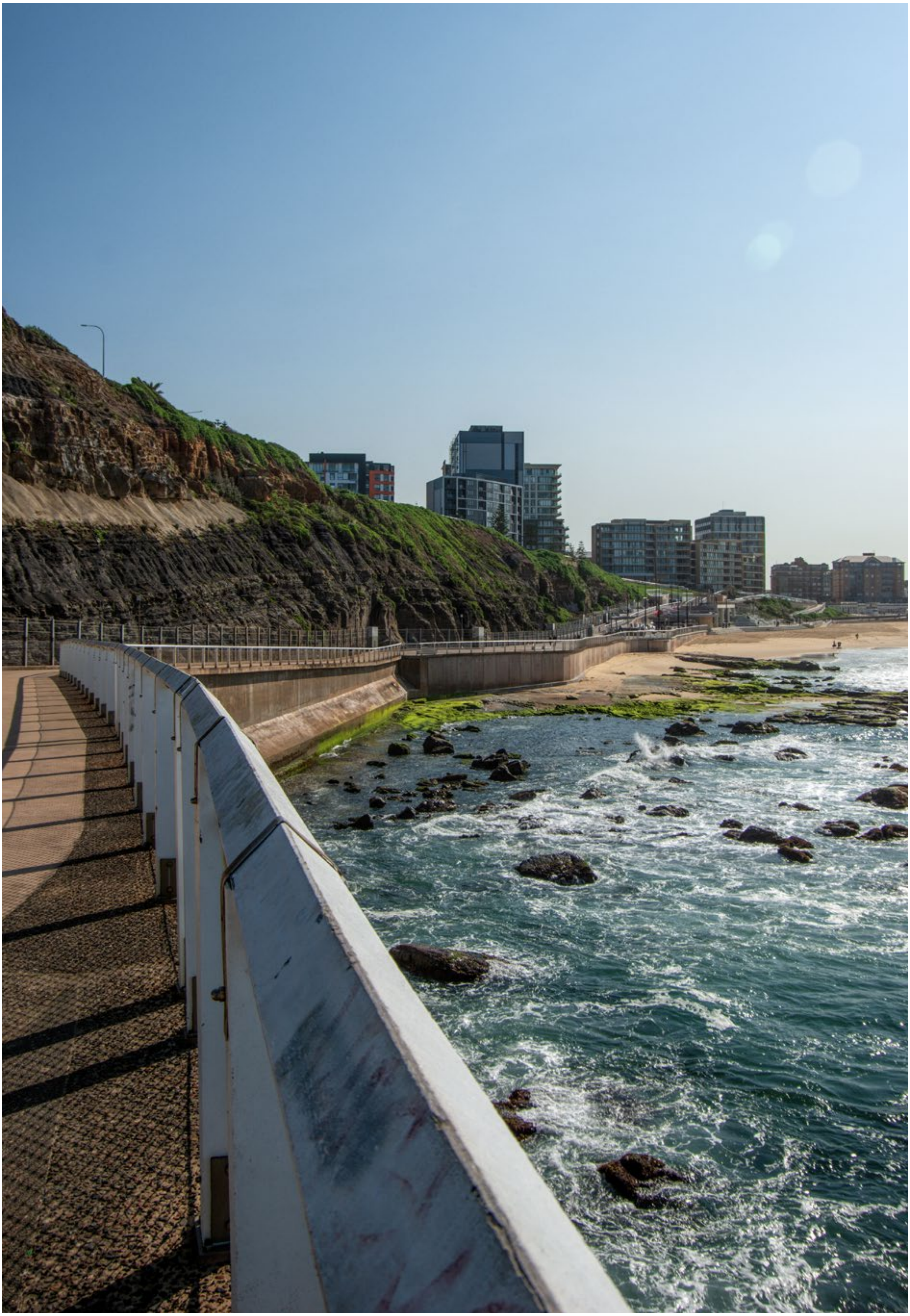
The report draws on comparable national data to assess progress toward horizontal fiscal equalisation and includes information on council efficiency and services delivered to First Nations communities.

The Government is further supporting local government by doubling Roads to Recovery funding with annual investment reaching $1 billion by 2027–28 and increasing the Black Spot Program to $150 million per year. These ongoing investments support long-term planning, safer roads and reduced pressure on ratepayers.

Local governments are central to community life, and the Government remains committed to working with councils across metropolitan, rural and remote Australia.

I thank state and territory governments and local government associations for their contributions to this report.

The Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories



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Local Government in Australia

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

During 2023–24, Australia had 546 local governing bodies eligible to receive funding under the Australian Government's Financial Assistance Grant program. The Act provides the legislative basis for this program. These 546 local governing bodies are:

- 535 local governments
- 10 declared local governing bodies, consisting of 5 Indigenous local governments and the Outback Areas Community Development Trust in South Australia; the Local Government Association of Northern Territory; the Silverton and Tibooburra villages; and Lord Howe Island in New South Wales
- the Australian Capital Territory, which receives funding through the Financial Assistance Grant program as it maintains both territorial and local government functions.

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

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

Local government functions

While the structure, powers and responsibilities of the Australian and state governments were established during federation, local government was not identified as a Commonwealth responsibility – it is a state and Northern Territory responsibility. The states and the Northern Territory established the legal and regulatory framework to create and operate local government. As such, there are significant differences between the systems 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 unique insights 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 2024 was 27,204,809, an increase of 552,000 persons or 2.1 per cent from 30 June 2023. All states and territories experienced positive growth for the year ending 30 June 2024. Western Australia recorded the highest growth rate (2.8 per cent) while Tasmania recorded the lowest (0.3 per cent).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes information on Australia's population through its series, the https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population.

Diversity

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

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils

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

National representation of local government

At the National Cabinet meeting of 17 June 2022, the Prime Minister confirmed that a representative of local government will be invited to National Cabinet and the Council on Federal Financial Relations once a year. In addition, the Albanese Government commenced re-establishing the Australian Council of Local Government.

The Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) brings Australian Government Ministers and local governments together to discuss key issues and workshop potential solutions, especially those where local governments play a leading role.

On 5 July 2024, the Albanese Government convened the sixth ACLG. The event was held in Canberra following the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly. A Gala Dinner prior to the ACLG was held on the evening of 4 July 2024 at Parliament House and incorporated the 2024 National Awards for Local Government (NALG) Awards Ceremony.

A total of 826 people attended the 2024 ACLG, representing 312 Councils, including 226 Mayors. The ACLG also had strong Ministerial participation, with 8 Ministers participating as speakers or panellists at the Forum, as well as 23 Ministers (including the Prime Minister) attending the Gala Dinner.

Australian Local Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association is a federation of state and Northern Territory local government associations. The Australian Local Government Association aims to add value, at the national level, to the work of state and territory associations and their member councils. Further information is available at https://alga.com.au.

Australian Government grant to local government

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

In 2023–24, the Australian Government provided $2.9 billion in untied funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies and the Australian Capital Territory Government. The Australian Government brought forward $2.8 billion of the budgeted allocation for 2024–25 and paid this funding to states and territories in June 2024. The means of distributing funding provided under the Financial Assistance Grant program is discussed in Chapter 2. Allocations to local governing bodies for 2023–24 are provided in Appendix D.

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, the Australian Government provided ongoing financial support to the states and territories for local government service delivery 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
- general revenue assistance, including GST payments.

The national SPPs are distributed among the states each year in accordance with the Australian Statistician's determination of state population shares. An equal per capita distribution of the SPPs 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 2023–24, total SPPs were estimated in the 2023–24 Budget to total $87.4 billion, an increase of $5.6 billion or 6.8 per cent compared with 2022–23 (*Australian Government, Budget measures: Budget paper Number 3, 2023–24*).

Local government finances

Share of taxation revenue by sphere of government

Local government taxation revenue increased $1,276 million (5.8 per cent) from $21,824 million in 2022–23. Local government taxation revenue in 2023–24 amounted to 2.9 per cent of all taxes raised across all spheres of government in Australia. Taxes on property were the sole source of taxation revenue for local governments in 2023–24 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2023–24, ABS catalogue number 5506.0*). Table 1 provides further information on the local government share of taxation revenue in 2023–24.

Table 1 Share of taxation revenue, by sphere of government and source, 2023–24

Revenue source	Federal (%)	State (%)	Local (%)	Total (%)
Taxes on income	62.4	0.0	0.0	62.4
Employers payroll taxes	0.2	4.8	0.0	4.9
Taxes on property	0.0	2.8	2.9	5.6
Taxes on provision of goods and services	17.0	6.4	0.0	23.4
Taxes on use of goods and performance activities	1.4	2.3	0.0	3.7
Total	**81.0**	**16.3**	**2.9**	**100.0**

Notes: Figures may not add to totals due to inclusion of external territories and rounding.
'-' represents nil or figure rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Taxation Revenue, Australia*, 2023–24, Total Taxation Revenue, ABS catalogue number 5506.0.

Local government revenue sources

In 2023–24, councils raised 82.6 per cent of their total revenue, with grants and subsidies making up the remaining 17.4 per cent (refer to Table 2). Individual councils have differing abilities to raise revenue. These differing abilities may not be apparent when national or even state averages are considered. The differences between urban, rural and remote councils – such as population size, rating base and their ability to levy user charges – affect the ability of a council to raise revenue.

Table 2 Local government revenue sources by jurisdiction in 2023–24

Revenue source in millions of dollars	***NSW***	***Vic***	***Qld***	***WA***	***SA***	***Tas***	***NT***	***Total***
Taxation	5,855 (25.9%)	6,335 (44.6%)	5,276 (32.0%)	2,948 (49.0%)	1,984 (60.0%)	530 (44.6%)	173 (30.2%)	23,100 (35.9%)
Sales of goods and services	6,290 (27.8%)	2,746 (19.3%)	5,247 (31.8%)	1,323 (22.0%)	553 (16.7%)	255 (21.4%)	116 (20.2%)	16,531 (25.7%)
Interest	769 (3.4%)	336 (2.4%)	378 (2.3%)	272 (4.5%)	38 (1.1%)	35 (2.9%)	18 (3.1%)	1,846 (2.9%)
Other*	4,805 (21.3%)	3,416 (24.1%)	2,346 (14.2%)	534 (8.9%)	343 (10.4%)	132 (11.1%)	133 (23.2%)	11,709 (18.2%)
Total own-source revenue	**17,719**	**12,833**	**13,247**	**5,077**	**2,918**	**952**	**440**	**53,186**
Grants and subsidies	4,887 (21.6%)	1,359 (9.6%)	3,247 (19.7%)	943 (15.7%)	392 (11.8%)	237 (19.9%)	133 (23.2%)	11,198 (17.4%)
Total grant revenue	**4,887**	**1,359**	**3,247**	**943**	**392**	**237**	**133**	**11,198**
Total revenue	**22,606 (100.0%)**	**14,192 (100.0%)**	**16,495 (100.0%)**	**6,020 (100.0%)**	**3,309 (100.0%)**	**1,189 (100.0%)**	**573 (100.0%)**	**64,384 (100.0%)**

Notes: 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, 2023–24*, ABS catalogue number 5512.0.

Local government revenue – taxes

One way local governments raise revenue is through rates on property. In 2023–24, 35.9 per cent of local government revenue nationally came from rates. The proportion of revenue from rates varied notably between jurisdictions – from a high of 60.0 per cent for South Australia to a low of 25.9 per cent in New South Wales – and 18.2 per cent of local government revenue was classified as 'other' (refer to Table 2).

Rates in each state and, in part, the Northern Territory are based on a land valuation. However, methods for assessing land value differ significantly between states.

Local government revenue – other non-grant revenue sources

Local government received 25.7 per cent of its revenue in 2023–24 from the sale of goods and services (refer to Table 2).

Councils in the Northern Territory relied more on government grants and subsidies than councils in other jurisdictions, as they raised from their own sources only 76.8 per cent of their total revenue. In the remaining states, the proportion of revenue raised from own sources ranged from 78.4 per cent for New South Wales councils to 90.4 per cent for Victorian councils (refer to Table 2).

Local government expenditure

Local government expenditure is primarily on general public services (24.6 per cent) followed by transport (21.1 per cent) and recreation, culture and religion (16.3 per cent) (refer to Table 3).

Table 3 Local government expenditure by purpose and jurisdiction in 2023–24

Expenditure in millions of dollars	*NSW*	*Vic*	*Qld*	*WA*	*SA*	*Tas*	*NT*	*Total*
General public services	4,385 (27.6%)	2,044 (17.6%)	4,394 (31.6%)	1,133 (20.8%)	158 (5.4%)	253 (25.4%)	239 (44.8%)	12,606 (24.6%)
Public order and safety	549 (3.5%)	353 (3.0%)	307 (2.2%)	201 (3.7%)	72 (2.5%)	17 (1.7%)	23 (4.3%)	1,521 (3.0%)
Economic affairs	815 (5.1%)	473 (4.1%)	479 (3.4%)	253 (4.6%)	205 (7.0%)	39 (3.9%)	22 (4.1%)	2,286 (4.5%)
Environmental protection	3,078 (19.4%)	1,845 (15.9%)	1,739 (12.5%)	374 (6.9%)	558 (19.1%)	149 (15.0%)	28 (5.2%)	7,771 (15.1%)
Housing and community amenities	1,472 (9.3%)	805 (6.9%)	1,622 (11.6%)	551 (10.1%)	280 (9.6%)	92 (9.2%)	74 (13.9%)	4,897 (9.5%)
Health	97 (0.6%)	227 (2.0%)	60 (0.4%)	93 (1.7%)	91 (3.1%)	13 (1.3%)	6 (1.1%)	587 (1.1%)
Recreation, culture and religion	2,263 (14.2%)	2,325 (20.0%)	1,592 (11.4%)	1,192 (21.9%)	755 (25.9%)	176 (17.7%)	71 (13.3%)	8,374 (16.3%)
Education	111 (0.7%)	249 (2.1%)	5 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.2%)	373 (0.7%)
Social protection	439 (2.8%)	1,140 (9.8%)	66 (0.5%)	239 (4.4%)	161 (5.5%)	26 (2.6%)	37 (6.9%)	2,108 (4.1%)
Transport	2,679 (16.9%)	2,159 (18.6%)	3,660 (26.3%)	1,410 (25.9%)	635 (21.8%)	230 (23.1%)	33 (6.2%)	10,805 (21.1%)
Total	**15,888 (100.0%)**	**11,620 (100.0%)**	**13,924 (100.0%)**	**5,451 (100.0%)**	**2,916 (100.0%)**	**996 (100.0%)**	**534 (100.0%)**	**51,327 (100.0%)**

Notes: Figures may not add due to rounding.
'-' represents nil or figure rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2023–24, ABS catalogue number 5512.0.

Assets and liabilities

In 2023–24, local government in Australia had a net worth of $662,608 million, with assets worth $690,245 million and liabilities worth $27,637 million (refer to Table 4 and Table 5).

On a state basis, only councils in South Australia had a negative net debt position as at 30 June 2023, while all the other states and the Northern Territory each had a net surplus (refer to Table 5).

Table 4 Local government assets in 2023–24

Assets in millions of dollars	*NSW*	*Vic*	*Qld*	*WA*	*SA*	*Tas*	*NT*	*Total*
Financial								
Currency and deposits	3,699	2,009	4,629	3,331	229	613	232	14,742
Advances	0	12	0	3	118	5	0	138
Other loans and placements	0	4,713	1,245	666	17	0	0	6,641
Equity including contributed capital	0	0	6,579	689	224	1,954	0	9,446
Other financial assets	18,386	2,101	2,781	519	353	78	141	24,359
Total financial assets	**22,086**	**8,834**	**15,234**	**5,208**	**942**	**2,650**	**373**	**55,327**
Non-financial								
Buildings and structures	161,629	79,653	141,292	45,434	23,857	9,823	2,438	464,126
Machinery and equipment	1,846	1,243	1,833	1,488	392	148	75	7,025
Other fixed produced assets	0	281	232	0	0	12	0	524
Other produced assets	1,446	1,277	1,162	73	17	344	171	4,490
Land	59,498	59,136	17,877	5,945	9,933	5,565	570	158,524
Other non-produced assets	230	0	0	0	0	0	0	230
Total non-financial assets	**224,648**	**141,590**	**162,395**	**52,940**	**34,199**	**15,891**	**3,254**	**634,918**
Total assets	**246,733**	**150,425**	**177,629**	**58,149**	**35,141**	**18,541**	**3,628**	**690,245**

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

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2023–24, ABS cat. Number 5512.0.

Table 5 Local government liabilities and net worth and debt in 2023–24

Liabilities in millions of dollars	***NSW***	***Vic***	***Qld***	***WA***	***SA***	***Tas***	***NT***	***Total***
Currency and deposits	61	568	42	65	409	20	0	1,165
Advances	0	80	0	1	24	8	5	118
Other loans and placements	3,467	1,407	6,718	649	22	175	64	12,503
Debt securities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisions for defined benefit superannuation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other liabilities	4,141	2,472	4,456	1,165	1,088	313	214	13,850
Total liabilities	**7,670**	**4,528**	**11,216**	**1,880**	**1,543**	**517**	**284**	**27,637**
Net financial worth†	**239,064**	**145,897**	**166,413**	**56,269**	**33,597**	**18,024**	**3,344**	**662,608**
Net debt*	**14,416**	**4,306**	**4,018**	**3,328**	**-601**	**2,133**	**90**	**27,690**

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

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

* Net debt comprises 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.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia*, 2023–24, ABS cat. Number 5512.0.

02
Financial Assistance Grant program

History of the arrangements

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

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

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986 (Cth)* was amended to reflect a new indexation formula which was derived from the Consumer Price Index and population growth. In addition, Local Government Grants Commissions were introduced to determine distributions to individual councils within their state or territory. These took into account a horizontal equalisation principle and a 30 per cent minimum grant principle, as defined in Appendix A.

From 1 July 1991, in addition to the already existing, untied general purpose component, the untied local road component was introduced to replace specific purpose funding for local roads provided under the *Australian Land Transport Development Act 1988 (Cth)*. The local road formula, agreed to by all Premiers, is intended to help local government with the cost of maintaining local roads. The changes to the Act introduced the untied local road component and formalised a set of National Principles covering both the general purpose and local road components. Each Local Government Grants Commission must consider the National Principles when determining allocations to local governing bodies. Further information on the National Principles is provided in Appendix A.

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

The yearly Financial Assistance Grant program funding is paid quarterly from the Commonwealth to the states and territories, which pass on the funding to local governments without delay. This funding is untied in the hands of local government, meaning local governments are not obliged to spend the funding in any particular way. Rather, local governments determine how they spend the funding to meet local priorities.

In May 2009, the Act was amended to allow early payment of funding, from the next financial year, to be made in the current financial year. Bring forward payments are reflected in the Treasurer's Determination in the year they are paid.

Quantum of Financial Assistance Grant allocations

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

Table 6 National Financial Assistance Grant allocations, 1974–75 to 2023–24

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	1,990,534,299
2010–11	1,446,854,689	642,012,005	2,088,866,694
2011–12	1,856,603,939	823,829,803	2,680,433,742

Year	General purpose ($)	Local road ($)	Total ($)
2012–13	1,525,571,456	676,940,950	2,202,512,406
2013–14	798,026,429	354,107,812	1,152,134,241
2014–15	2,377,879,350	1,055,135,046	3,433,014,396
2015–16	792,547,187	351,676,511	1,144,223,698
2016–17	2,405,539,222	1,067,408,546	3,472,947,768
2017–18	1,670,887,544	741,421,976	2,412,309,520
2018–19	1,721,014,169	763,664,637	2,484,678,806
2019–20	1,784,003,288	791,614,762	2,575,618,050
2020–21	1,804,876,126	800,876,655	2,605,752,781
2021–22	2,445,246,176	1,085,027,692	3,530,273,868
2022–23	2,732,073,552	1,212,301,441	3,944,374,993
2023–24	1,936,766,941	859,400,492	2,796,167,433
Total	**50,650,257,515**	**19,485,186,985**	**70,135,444,500**

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

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

Overview of current arrangements

The following actions were taken to distribute funding in 2023–24 to local government under the Financial Assistance Grant program and in accordance with the Act. They reflect the different roles and responsibilities that the Commonwealth and the states and territories have under the Act.

- Before the start of the financial year, the Australian Government estimated the quantum of general purpose and local road components that were to be allocated to local government across the nation. This is equal to the national grant final entitlement for the previous financial year multiplied by the estimated escalation factor resulting from changes in population and the Consumer Price Index
- The Australian Government Minister responsible for local government (the Federal Minister) advised the states and territories of their estimated quantum of general purpose and local road components, calculated in accordance with the Act
- Local Government Grants Commissions in each state and the Northern Territory recommended to their local government minister, the general purpose and local road component allocations to be made to local governing bodies in their jurisdiction. The recommendations were made in accordance with National Principles formulated under the Act for allocating grants. The Australian Capital Territory does not have a Local Government Grants Commission as the territory government provides local government services in lieu of having a system of local government

- State and Northern Territory local government ministers forwarded the recommendations of the Local Government Grants Commission in their jurisdiction to the Federal Minister
- When satisfied that the states and territories had adopted the recommendations of their Local Government Grants Commissions, the Federal Minister approved payment to the states and territories. The Australian Government paid the grant in quarterly instalments to the states and territories, which, without undue delay, passed them on to local governing bodies within their jurisdictions in accordance with the recommended allocations
- When updated Consumer Price Index and population information became available toward the end of the financial year, an actual escalation factor was calculated and the actual grant entitlement for 2023–24 was determined. As population estimates are applied to the general purpose component, jurisdictions experiencing a negative population change from one year to the next will receive a declining share of the general-purpose funding
- Any difference between the estimated and actual entitlements in the current year is combined with the estimated entitlement in the next year to determine the next year's cash payment. This is known as the 'adjustment' referred to in the Act.

Determining the quantum of the grant

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

The Act provides the Treasurer with discretion to increase or decrease the escalation factors in special circumstances. When applying this discretion, the Treasurer is required to have regard to the objects of the Act 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

Sub-section 3(2) of the Act states the objects as follows:

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

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

Determining entitlements for 2023–24 and 2024–25

The calculations of the 2023–24 actual entitlement and the 2024–25 estimated entitlement, using the final escalation factor (the final factor) and estimated escalation factor (the estimated factor), are set out in the Treasurer's Determination in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

The estimated entitlement for 2023–24 was $5.9 million (refer to Table 7), consisting of $4.1 million under the general purpose component (refer to Table 8) and $1.8 million under the identified local road component (refer to Table 9).

On 28 June 2024, the Prime Minister announced the Australian Government's decision to bring forward $2.8 billion, being 85 per cent of the 2024–25 estimate for payment in 2023–24. This funding consisted of a general purpose component of $1.9 billion and a local road component of $854.5 million.

The final entitlement for 2023–24 to local governments was $2.8 billion (refer to Table 10), broken out into the general purpose component of $1.9 billion (refer to Table 11) and the identified local road component of $859.4 million (refer to Table 12).

The positive adjustment of $9.9 million was applied to the estimated entitlement in the following year (2024–25). Refer to the section headed 'Variations in reported grants'.

In 2023–24, all jurisdictions experienced a population increase from 2022–23 and an increasing share of the general purpose component.

Figure 1 Determination by the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury of the final factor for 2023–24

Part 2 – Final factor for the year 2023–24

5 Determination of final factor for 2023–24

For the purposes of subsection 8(1) of the Act, the factor in relation to the 2023–24 year is 0.7089.

6 How the final factor was worked out

(1) Under subsection 8(1) of the Act, the factor in relation to the 2023–24 year is to be worked out by applying the formula set out in paragraph 8(1)(a) of the Act and then adjusting the result under whichever of paragraphs 8(1)(b) and (c) of the Act are applicable.

Paragraph 8(1)(a) formula

(2) The factor calculated under paragraph 8(1)(a) of the Act is as follows:

$$\left(\frac{26,310,635}{25,766,741}\right) \times \left(\frac{137.4}{132.6}\right) = 1.05807$$

Note 1: For the purposes of section 4A, the Statistician made the estimate of the population of Australia as at 31 December 2022 on 13 June 2024 (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Note 2: For the purposes of section 4A, the Statistician made the estimate of the population of Australia as at 31 December 2021 on 15 June 2023 (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Note 3: The formula uses the All Groups Consumer Price Index number, being the weighted average of the 8 capital cities, published on 24 April 2024 by the Statistician in respect of the 2024 March quarter (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Note 4: The formula uses the All Groups Consumer Price Index number, being the weighted average of the 8 capital cities, published on 26 April 2023 by the Statistician in respect of the 2023 March quarter (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Paragraph 8(1)(b) modification

(3) The result of subsection (2) was modified by increasing the factor by 0.0001 under paragraph 8(1)(b) of the Act as the fifth decimal place was greater than 4.

Paragraph 8(1)(c) modification

(4) The result of subsection (3) was modified under paragraph 8(1)(c) of the Act as a result of special circumstances, being the need to account for the Commonwealth's decision to bring forward all of the payments in the 2023–24 year into the 2022–23 year and 85 per cent of the payments in the 2024–25 year into the 2023–24 year. The modification was worked out by multiplying the result of subsection (3) by the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{\text{2023–24 amount} - \text{2022–23 amount} + \text{2024–25 amount}}{\text{2022–23 final entitlement}}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{\text{subsection (3) factor}}\right)$$

Where:

2022–23 amount *means all of the payments that were brought forward from the year 2023–24 to be paid in the year 2022–23.*

2022–23 amount *means the amount that would have been the base figure for the year 2022–23 if the Commonwealth had not decided to bring forward any quarterly payments.*

2023–24 amount *means the amount that would have been the base figure for the year 2024–25 if the Commonwealth had not decided to bring forward any payments.*

2024–25 amount *means 85 per cent of the payments that were brought forward from the year 2024–25 to be paid in the year 2023–24.*

2022–23 final *entitlement means the base figure for the year 2022–23.*

subsection (3) factor *means the result of subsection (3).*

Figure 2 Determination by the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury of the estimated factor for 2024–25

Part 3 – Estimated factor for the year 2024–25

7 Determination of estimated factor for 2024–25

For the purposes of paragraph 7(3)(b) of the Act, the estimated factor in relation to the 2024–25 year is 0.1777.

8 How the estimated factor has been worked out

(1) Under subsection 8(1) of the Act, the factor in relation to the 2024–25 year is to be worked out by applying the formula set out in paragraph 8(1)(a) of the Act and then adjusting the result under whichever of paragraphs 8(1)(b) and (c) of the Act are applicable.

(2) The factor calculated under paragraph 8(1)(a) of the Act is as follows:

$$\left(\frac{26{,}961{,}801}{26{,}310{,}635}\right) \times \left(\frac{140.7}{137.4}\right) = 1.04936$$

Note 1: For the purposes of section 4A, the Statistician made the estimate of the population of Australia as at 31 December 2023 on 13 June 2024 (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Note 2: For the purposes of section 4A, the Statistician made the estimate of the population of Australia as at 31 December 2022 on 13 June 2024 (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Note 3: The formula uses the 2024–25 Budget forecast of the Department of the Treasury of the All Groups Consumer Price Index number, being the weighted average of the 8 capital cities, in respect of the 2025 March quarter.

Note 4: The formula uses the All Groups Consumer Price Index number, being the weighted average of the 8 capital cities, published on 24 April 2024 by the Statistician in respect of the 2024 March quarter (published and available at https://www.abs.gov.au).

Paragraph 8(1)(c) modification

(4) The result of subsection (3) was modified under paragraph 8(1)(c) of the Act as a result of special circumstances, being the need to account for the Commonwealth's decision to bring forward 85 per cent of the payments in the 2024–25 year into the 2023–24 year. The modification was worked out by multiplying the result of subsection (3) by the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{\text{2024–25 amount} - \text{2023–24 amount}}{\text{2023–24 final entitlement}}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{\text{subsection (3) factor}}\right)$$

Where:

2023–24 amount *means 85 per cent of the payments that were brought forward from the year 2024–25 to be paid in the year 2023–24.*

2024–25 amount *means the amount that would have been the base figure for the year 2024–25 if the Commonwealth had not decided to bring forward any payments.*

2023–24 final entitlement *means the base figure for the year 2023–24.*

subsection (3) factor *means the result of subsection (3).*

Table 7 Estimated entitlements 2023–24

Totals	*2022–23 final entitlement (in $)*	*Multiplied by 2023–24 estimated factor*	*Equals 2023–24 estimated entitlement (in $)*	*Then add 2022–23 adjustment and bring forward (in $)*	*Equals 2023–24 cash payment (in $)*
General purpose	2,732,073,552	0.0015	4,098,110	2,018,839,784	2,022,937,894
Local road	1,212,301,441	0.0015	1,818,452	895,815,890	897,634,342
Total	**3,944,374,993**	**N/A**	**5,916,562**	**2,914,655,674**	**2,920,572,236**

Table 8 General purpose estimated entitlements in 2023–24

General purpose	*2022–23 final entitlement (in $)*	*31 December 2022 population**	*Equals 2023–24 estimated entitlement (in $)*	*Then add 2022–23 adjustment and bring forward (in $)*	*Equals 2023–24 cash payment (in $)*
NSW	858,940,241	8,238,801	1,285,572	633,926,217	635,211,789
VIC	696,258,984	6,704,281	1,046,128	516,396,972	517,443,100
QLD	557,904,952	5,378,277	839,220	412,048,492	412,887,712
WA	292,911,829	2,825,178	440,837	218,494,325	218,935,162
SA	191,465,389	1,834,275	286,218	140,242,298	140,528,516
TAS	60,301,956	571,596	89,191	43,473,283	43,562,474
NT	26,309,156	250,149	39,033	19,007,785	19,046,818
ACT	47,981,045	460,855	71,911	35,250,412	35,322,323
Total	**2,732,073,552**	**26,263,412**	**4,098,110**	**2,018,839,784**	**2,022,937,894**

Notes: * Based on statistics provided by the Australian Statistician on 15 June 2023.

Table 9 Local road estimated entitlements in 2023–24

Local road	*2022–23 final entitlement (in $)*	*Multiplied by 2023–24 estimated factor*	*Equals 2023–24 estimated entitlement (in $)*	*Then add 2022–23 adjustment and bring forward (in $)*	*Equals 2023–24 cash payment (in $)*
NSW	351,726,687	0.0015	527,590	259,905,176	260,432,766
VIC	249,932,711	0.0015	374,899	184,685,407	185,060,306
QLD	227,140,871	0.0015	340,711	167,843,609	168,184,320
WA	185,362,672	0.0015	278,044	136,972,019	137,250,063
SA	66,624,176	0.0015	99,936	49,231,239	49,331,175
TAS	64,243,406	0.0015	96,365	47,471,895	47,568,260
NT	28,397,945	0.0015	42,597	20,984,236	21,026,833
ACT	38,872,973	0.0015	58,310	28,722,309	28,780,619
Total	**1,212,301,441**	**N/A**	**1,818,452**	**895,815,890**	**897,634,342**

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

Table 10 Final entitlements in 2023–24

Totals	2022–23 final entitlement (in $)	Multiplied by 2023–24 final factor	Equals 2023–24 final entitlement (in $)	Then subtract 2023–24 estimated entitlement (in $)	Equals 2023–24 adjustment (in $)
General purpose	2,732,073,552	0.7089	1,936,766,941	4,098,110	1,932,668,831
Local road	1,212,301,441	0.7089	859,400,492	1,818,452	857,582,040
Total	**3,944,374,993**		**2,796,167,433**	**5,916,562**	**2,790,250,871**

Table 11 General purpose final entitlements in 2023–24

General purpose	2022–23 final entitlement (in $)	31 December 2022 population*	Equals 2023–24 final entitlement (in $)	Then subtract 2023–24 estimated entitlement (in $)	Equals 2023–24 adjustment (in $)
NSW	858,940,241	8,249,295	607,243,491	1,285,572	605,957,919
VIC	696,258,984	6,719,487	494,631,934	1,046,128	493,585,806
QLD	557,904,952	5,386,914	396,539,154	839,220	395,699,934
WA	292,911,829	2,834,117	208,623,779	440,837	208,182,942
SA	191,465,389	1,836,096	135,157,895	286,218	134,871,677
TAS	60,301,956	572,352	42,131,725	89,191	42,042,534
NT	26,309,156	251,248	18,494,758	39,033	18,455,725
ACT	47,981,045	461,126	33,944,205	71,911	33,872,294
Total	**2,732,073,552**	**26,310,635**	**1,936,766,941**	**4,098,110**	**1,932,668,831**

Notes: * Based on statistics provided by the Australian Statistician on 13 June 2024.

Table 12 Local road final entitlements in 2023–24

Local road	2022–23 final entitlement (in $)	Multiplied by 2023–24 final factor	Equals 2023–24 final entitlement (in $)	Then subtract 2023–24 estimated entitlement (in $)	Equals 2023–24 adjustment (in $)
NSW	351,726,687	0.7089	249,339,048	527,590	248,811,458
VIC	249,932,711	0.7089	177,177,299	374,899	176,802,400
QLD	227,140,871	0.7089	161,020,163	340,711	160,679,452
WA	185,362,672	0.7089	131,403,598	278,044	131,125,554
SA	66,624,176	0.7089	47,229,878	99,936	47,129,942
TAS	64,243,406	0.7089	45,542,151	96,365	45,445,786
NT	28,397,945	0.7089	20,131,303	42,597	20,088,706
ACT	38,872,973	0.7089	27,557,052	58,310	27,498,742
Total	**1,212,301,441**		**859,400,492**	**1,818,452**	**857,582,040**

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

Variations in reported grants

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

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

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

Figures provided in Appendix D and Appendix E reflect the requirement under the Act to provide a comparison of councils at the national level. To do this, final allocations are calculated on a per capita (general purpose) and per kilometre (local road) basis. This may differ from the comparison calculations used by Local Government Grants Commissions in each jurisdiction.

Consequently, there are numerous ways in which funding provided under the Financial Assistance Grant program can be reported.

Inter-jurisdictional distribution of grant

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

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

The 2023–24 allocations of general purpose and local road grants among jurisdictions are provided in Table 13 while Table 14 provides a comparison to the 2022–23 allocations.

The figures in Table 14 reflect a reduction in funding from 2022–23 to 2023–34. This is due to the impact of the 100 percent bring forward of $3.1 billion from 2023–24 and then an 85 percent bring forward from 2024–25. Aggregate grant comparisons without bring forwards show an increase in funding of $300 million with $2.8 billion allocated in 2022–23 and $3.1 billion allocated in 2023–24.

Table 13 2023–24 final entitlement allocations of general purpose (GP) and local road (LR) grants among jurisdictions

State	GP final entitlement $	GP bring forward paid in June 2024 $	Total GP final and bring forward $	% of total GP pool %	31 Dec 2022 population* (Number)	$ per capita $	LR final entitlement $	LR bring forward paid in June 2024 $	Total LR final and bring forward $	% of LR pool %	Kilometres km	% of LR length %	$ per km $	Total final entitlement $
NSW	4,752,121	602,491,370	607,243,491	31.35%	8,249,295	73.61	1,413,702	247,925,346	249,339,048	29.00%	148,403	22.35%	1,680.15	856,582,539
Vic	1,280,534	493,351,400	494,631,934	25.54%	6,719,487	73.61	1,004,613	176,172,686	177,177,299	20.60%	133,040	20.03%	1,331.76	671,809,233
Qld	1,545,949	394,993,205	396,539,154	20.47%	5,386,914	73.61	912,984	160,107,179	161,020,163	18.73%	150,070	22.60%	1,072.97	557,559,317
WA	-133,871	208,757,650	208,623,779	10.77%	2,834,117	73.61	745,041	130,658,557	131,403,598	15.28%	127,013	19.13%	1,034.57	340,027,377
SA	1,791,668	133,366,227	135,157,895	6.98%	1,836,096	73.61	267,861	46,962,017	47,229,878	5.49%	78,193	11.77%	604.02	182,387,773
Tas	1,083,783	41,047,942	42,131,725	2.18%	572,352	73.61	258,390	45,283,761	45,542,151	5.30%	14,212	2.14%	3,204.49	87,673,876
NT	392,984	18,101,774	18,494,758	0.95%	251,248	73.61	114,301	20,017,002	20,131,303	2.34%	13,164	1.98%	1,529.27	38,626,061
ACT	268,566	33,675,639	33,944,205	1.75%	461,126	73.61	158,757	27,398,295	27,557,052	3.26%	-	-	-	61,501,257
Total	**10,981,734**	**1,925,785,207**	**1,936,766,941**	**100.00%**	**26,310,635**	**73.61**	**4,875,649**	**854,524,843**	**859,400,492**	**100.00%**	**664,095**	**100.00%**	**1,294.09**	**2,796,167,433**

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

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

Table 14 2023–24 final entitlement and percentage change from 2022–23

State	2023–24 GP final entitlement $	2022–23 GP final entitlement $	% change from 2022–23 final entitlement %	2023–24 LR final entitlement $	2022–23 LR final entitlement $	% change from 2022–23 final entitlement %	Total 2023–24 final entitlement $	Total 2022–23 final entitlement $	% change from 2022–23 final entitlement %
NSW	607,243,491	858,940,241	-29.30%	249,339,048	351,726,687	-29.11%	856,582,539	1,210,666,928	-29.25%
Vic	494,631,934	696,258,984	-28.96%	177,177,299	249,932,711	-29.11%	671,809,233	946,191,695	-29.00%
Qld	396,539,154	557,904,952	-28.92%	161,020,163	227,140,871	-29.11%	557,559,317	785,045,823	-28.98%
WA	208,623,779	292,911,829	-28.78%	131,403,598	185,362,672	-29.11%	340,027,377	478,274,501	-28.91%
SA	135,157,895	191,465,389	-29.41%	47,229,878	66,624,176	-29.11%	182,387,773	258,089,565	-29.33%
Tas	42,131,725	60,301,956	-30.13%	45,542,151	64,243,406	-29.11%	87,673,876	124,545,362	-29.60%
NT	18,494,758	26,309,156	-29.70%	20,131,303	28,397,945	-29.11%	38,626,061	54,707,101	-29.39%
ACT	33,944,205	47,981,045	-29.25%	27,557,052	38,872,973	-29.11%	61,501,257	86,854,018	-29.19%
Total	**1,936,766,941**	**2,732,073,552**	**-29.11%**	**859,400,492**	**1,212,301,441**	**-29.11%**	**2,796,167,433**	**3,944,374,993**	**-29.11%**

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

National Principles for the allocation of grants under the Act

As outlined in section 6 of the Act, the Federal Minister is required to formulate National Principles in consultation with state and territory ministers for local government and a body or bodies representative of local government. The National Principles guide the states and the Northern Territory in allocating funding from the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies within their jurisdiction.

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

Determining the distribution of grants within jurisdictions

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

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

Once each Local Government Grants Commission has calculated the recommended allocations to local governing bodies in its jurisdiction under the Financial Assistance Grant program, the relevant state or Northern Territory minister recommends the allocations to the Federal Minister for approval. The Act requires that the Federal Minister be satisfied that the states and the Northern Territory have adopted the recommendations of their Local Government Grants Commission.

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

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

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

Figure 3 Local Government Grants Commissions

Section 5 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) (the Act) specifies the criteria a body must satisfy to be recognised as a Local Government Grants Commission. These criteria are:

- the body is established by a law of a state or the Northern Territory;
- the principal function of the body is to make recommendations to the state or territory government about provision of financial assistance to local governing bodies in the state or territory; and
- the Federal Minister is satisfied that the body includes at least 2 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 their 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 is:

New South Wales	*Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*
Victoria	*Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1976 (Vic)*
Queensland	*Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*
Western Australia	*Local Government Grants Act 1978 (WA)*
South Australia	*South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992 (SA)*
Tasmania	*State Grants Commission Act 1976 (Tas)*
Northern Territory	*Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986 (NT).*

Bodies eligible to receive funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program

All local governing bodies constituted under state or territory legislation are automatically local governing bodies. In addition, section 4(2) of the Act defines a local governing body to include:

> **a body declared by the [Federal] 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, 545 local governing bodies, including 10 declared local governing bodies made eligible under section 4(2), received funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program in 2023–24 (refer to Table 15).

Table 15 Distribution of local governing bodies, by type and jurisdiction

Type	NSW[c]	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[d]	Tas	NT[e]	Total
Local governments[a]	128	79	77	137	68	29	17	535
Declared local governing bodies[b]	3	–	–	–	6	–	1	10
Total	**131**	**79**	**77**	**137**	**74**	**29**	**18**	**545**

Notes:

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

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

c. Includes Lord Howe Island, Silverton and Tibooburra.

d. Includes the Outback Communities Authority.

e. Includes the Northern Territory Roads Trust Account.

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

Methodologies of Local Government Grants Commissions

Local Government Grants Commissions each have their own methodology for allocating funds to local government in their jurisdiction.

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

A detailed description of each Local Government Grants Commission's methods can be found in Appendices B and C and at the internet addresses in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Internet addresses for Local Government Grants Commissions

New South Wales
https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/commissions-and-tribunals/#lggc

Victoria
https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/lgv-funding-programs/victoria-grants-commission

Queensland
https://www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-councils/governance/queensland-local-government-grants-commission

Western Australia
https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/boards-and-commissions#grants

South Australia
https://dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/grants-commission

Tasmania
https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/state-grants-commission

Northern Territory
https://dhlgcd.nt.gov.au/funding-and-support/grants-commission

Allocations to local government in 2023–24

The Federal Minister agreed to the allocations of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies for 2023–24, as recommended by Local Government Grants Commissions through state and Northern Territory ministers. Appendix D contains the final entitlements for 2023–24.

Table 16 provides the average general purpose allocation per capita, provided to local governing bodies, by jurisdiction and by their classification within the Australian Classification of Local Governments. The average local road component per kilometre, provided to local governing bodies, by jurisdiction and by classification within the Australian Classification of Local Governments, is outlined in Table 17.

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

Table 16 Average general purpose component per capita to councils 2023–24 by jurisdiction

Classification	**NSW**	**Vic**	**Qld**	**WA**	**SA**	**Tas**	**NT**	**Average**
Urban Capital City (UCC)	26.60	24.94	24.96	26.51	25.06	25.30	26.10	25.24
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	28.27	-	-	25.22	25.06	-	-	25.70
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	26.35	26.10	-	24.89	25.06	-	-	26.23
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	25.30	30.43	-	24.84	31.34	-	-	29.24
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	49.04	35.83	24.96	24.83	-	-	-	37.70
Urban Regional Small (URS)	176.69	230.00	2,743.35	126.35	216.08	80.43	150.33	197.69
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	107.74	202.85	75.17	68.19	-	25.22	-	103.52
Urban Regional Large (URL)	95.30	140.12	28.35	-	-	-	-	54.42
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	76.94	130.88	24.96	-	-	-	-	61.21
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	-	159.70	53.24	25.11	81.43	111.45	26.10	71.96
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	40.29	78.14	29.64	29.89	79.55	-	-	54.79
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	111.71	52.82	24.96	24.95	-	-	-	40.05
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	40.24	70.86	24.96	25.00	38.82	-	-	48.39
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	-	89.77	271.82	60.58	-	-	-	74.19
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	605.48	-	-	1,679.60	911.76	476.62	-	1,064.98
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	1,199.20	-	861.27	298.14	331.37	256.60	-	463.55
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	565.90	673.75	100.72	472.03	322.40	215.38	-	353.48
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	342.29	289.66	267.39	297.92	166.70	120.08	26.10	228.26
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	1,094.15	-	19,102.15	14,307.43	634.67	-	93.81	7,052.00
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	-	-	13,413.07	2,116.34	-	-	246.14	2,043.73
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	3,343.05	-	4,958.98	1,833.94	591.22	976.41	249.55	1,603.00
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	1,358.09	-	2,091.25	456.08	824.04	-	-	773.62
Total $ per person	**83.27**	**83.14**	**83.19**	**82.78**	**83.56**	**84.37**	**87.00**	**83.24**

Notes: n/a = not applicable.
Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

Table 17 Average local road component per kilometre to councils 2023–24 by jurisdiction

Classification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Average
Urban Capital City (UCC)	5,450.36	3,687.95	2,222.63	4,350.97	2,770.61	6,477.48	4,277.32	2,775.57
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	3,671.96	-	-	2,772.46	2,992.76	-	-	2,993.60
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	3,912.86	2,298.97	-	2,736.65	2,748.42	-	-	3,024.63
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	3,768.72	2,064.94	-	2,741.99	2,803.52	-	-	2,669.52
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	3,342.23	2,159.60	1,590.63	2,616.12	-	-	-	4,273.78
Urban Regional Small (URS)	2,145.99	1,553.55	1,044.29	2,008.63	1,473.99	4,206.01	2,886.76	1,560.46
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	2,510.88	1,650.73	993.66	1,677.27	-	4,959.96	-	1,790.63
Urban Regional Large (URL)	2,673.65	1,818.65	745.91	-	-	-	1,058.76	1,038.15
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	2,885.42	1,706.34	1,774.61	-	-	-	-	2,036.22
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	-	1,869.18	1,640.87	2,263.60	2,368.08	3,586.79	3,790.82	2,240.94
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	2,571.86	2,075.38	1,171.36	2,461.26	2,226.92	-	-	2,176.32
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	2,285.46	1,961.91	1,173.95	2,647.39	-	-	-	1,892.51
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	2,986.22	2,189.78	1,066.95	2,681.82	2,581.18	-	-	2,357.71
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	-	1,803.09	2,095.86	1,947.88	-	-	-	1,900.26
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	1,359.72	-	-	857.64	408.89	3,976.91	-	754.94
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	1,341.94	-	1,291.54	1,138.72	491.20	3,131.21	-	1,050.18
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	1,451.62	1,012.08	1,534.93	1,338.47	436.03	3,345.23	-	1,167.99
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	1,591.60	1,508.58	1,574.63	1,144.77	555.22	3,281.03	4,437.23	1,345.40
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	-	-	931.47	745.15	223.16	-	2,235.17	801.13
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	-	-	1,029.72	811.73	-	-	1,586.35	996.21
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	1,248.11	-	1,083.75	901.35	62.29	2,700.56	1,677.97	916.19
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	1,272.60	-	1,152.17	1,348.78	-	-	-	1,150.27
Total $ per kilometre	**1,876.11**	**1,487.09**	**1,198.11**	**1,155.24**	**674.47**	**3,578.25**	**1,707.65**	**1,445.03**

Note: n/a = not applicable.

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

Local governing bodies on the minimum grant

Local governing bodies that receive the minimum grant entitlement generally fall within the capital city, urban developed or urban fringe classifications, as described in the Australian Classification of Local Government. Local governing bodies on the minimum grant are identified with a 'Yes' in Appendix D. Table 18 provides details on local governing bodies on the minimum grant by jurisdiction, from 2014–15 to 2023–24. The per capita grant to minimum grant councils in 2023–24 was between $24.94 and $26.10.

The proportion of the population covered by local governing bodies on the minimum grant varies between jurisdictions. In 2023–24, the proportion ranged from 23.7 per cent in New South Wales to 76.3 per cent in Western Australia. This generally reflects the degree of concentration of a jurisdiction's population in their capital city. Variations can also arise because of a local government's geographic structuring and differences in the methods used by Local Government Grants Commissions.

In 2023–24, the proportion of the general purpose grant that went to local governing bodies on the minimum grant was 13.9 per cent nationally. It varied from 7.1 per cent in New South Wales to 23.1 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 percentage of the population in minimum grant councils increased from 44.1 per cent in 2014–15 to 46.1 per cent in 2023–24. This results in an increase in the per capita grant to nonminimum grant local governments relative to that of minimum grant local governments. This trend is consistent with the National Principle for horizontal equalisation (refer to Appendix A).

Table 18 Councils on the minimum grant, by jurisdiction, 2014–15 to 2023–24

Jurisdiction	Minimum Grant Criteria	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
NSW	$ general purpose	508,237,232	506,290,484	496,242,780	524,987,494	540,182,065	560,313,297	574,864,141	597,919,978	649,355,484	679,115,426
NSW	$ to minimum grant councils	42,527,921	47,455,907	38,241,165	46,060,914	50,918,751	51,145,637	52,714,034	53,567,444	69,363,960	48,228,388
NSW	% to minimum grant councils	8.4	9.4	7.7	8.8	9.4	9.1	9.2	9.0	10.7	7.1
NSW	Population per jurisdiction	7,409,856	7,508,849	7,664,575	7,726,426	7,860,546	7,987,727	8,089,357	8,167,137	8,188,301	8,155,963
NSW	Population for minimum grant councils	2,066,788	2,343,212	1,915,270	2,259,648	2,469,834	2,430,406	2,472,596	2,438,973	2,915,570	1,930,690
NSW	% of population in minimum grant councils	27.9	31.2	25.0	29.0	31.4	30.4	30.6	29.9	35.6	23.7
NSW	Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	24/155	26/155	18/131	20/131	19/131	17/131	18/131	16/131	18/131	10/131
Vic	$ general purpose	393,289,960	394,880,592	405,256,954	415,741,109	434,192,830	453,351,692	469,590,926	487,686,273	524,910,843	550,398,862
Vic	$ to minimum grant councils	33,587,740	33,799,568	34,701,187	35,498,178	38,231,258	48,123,311	50,083,727	51,772,998	58,497,831	59,239,238
Vic	% to minimum grant councils	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.8	10.6	10.7	10.6	11.1	10.8
Vic	Population per jurisdiction	5,739,228	5,841,632	5,937,462	6,069,627	6,323,598	6,460,628	6,595,983	6,696,612	6,649,007	6,619,803
Vic	Population for minimum grant councils	1,633,808	1,664,977	1,694,716	1,727,523	1,856,004	2,285,987	2,344,959	2,369,718	2,469,959	2,374,833
Vic	% of population in minimum grant councils	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	29.4	35.4	35.6	35.4	37.1	35.9
Vic	Minimum grant councils /No. LGBs	13/79	13/79	13/79	13/79	13/79	16/79	16/79	16/79	17/79	17/79
QLD	$ general purpose	319,083,531	318,749,890	317,752,529	328,799,275	338,163,013	351,558,988	360,862,742	382,843,997	414,587,248	442,796,250
QLD	$ to minimum grant councils	65,766,311	65,795,193	69,679,193	72,398,267	75,235,151	78,568,609	80,939,055	86,128,844	93,365,135	99,435,165
QLD	% to minimum grant councils	20.6	20.6	21.9	22.0	22.2	22.3	22.4	22.5	22.5	22.5
QLD	Population per jurisdiction	4,653,008	4,718,591	4,774,888	4,839,261	4,924,324	5,006,976	5,090,177	5,171,741	5,216,677	5,322,406
QLD	Population for minimum grant councils	3,196,772	3,246,648	3,490,246	3,551,854	3,651,910	3,729,968	3,805,640	3,878,308	3,915,989	3,984,032
QLD	% of population in minimum grant councils	68.7	68.8	73.1	73.4	74.2	74.5	74.8	75.0	75.1	74.9
QLD	Minimum grant councils /No. LGBs	9/77	9/77	10/77	10/77	10/77	10/77	10/77	10/77	10/77	10/77
WA	$ general purpose	172,194,345	173,592,719	165,885,062	176,085,070	176,932,279	182,242,603	185,450,564	203,050,148	214,840,741	230,787,816
WA	$ to minimum grant councils	39,026,105	38,981,399	35,870,819	4,128,1872	42,043,137	41,528,520	43,235,533	46,029,933	48,688,291	53,390,342
WA	% to minimum grant councils	22.7	22.5	21.6	23.4	23.8	22.8	23.3	22.7	22.7	23.1
WA	Population per jurisdiction	2,519,321	2,577,840	2,590,259	2,617,074	2,580,354	2,595,192	2,621,509	2,663,561	2,682,257	2,787,883
WA	Population for minimum grant councils	1,903,262	1,920,784	1,871,379	2,047,990	2,043,836	1,971,264	2,036,750	2,012,697	2,026,222	2,126,079
WA	% of population in minimum grant councils	75.5	74.5	72.2	78.3	79.2	76.0	77.7	75.6	75.5	76.3
WA	Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	31/138	31/138	29/137	31/137	32/137	31/137	30/137	30/137	30/137	32/137

Jurisdiction	Minimum Grant Criteria	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
SA	$ general purpose	114,528,245	113,431,086	112,980,736	115,773,190	118,284,887	121,948,136	123,908,060	133,702,618	142,014,136	152,205,365
SA	$ to minimum grant councils	17,154,972	16,990,531	17,610,038	17,798,588	18,040,646	18,290,129	19,380,213	20,104,960	21,649,022	23,209,200
SA	% to minimum grant councils	15.0	15.0	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.0	15.6	15.0	15.2	15.2
SA	Population per jurisdiction	1,670,827	1,685,714	1,685,714	1,708,135	1,723,548	1,736,422	1,751,963	1,770,375	1,773,396	1,821,537
SA	Population for minimum grant councils	834,042	841,721	874,193	875,484	876,093	868,139	913,389	887,249	901,173	926,225
SA	% of population in minimum grant councils	49.9	49.9	51.9	51.3	50.8	50.0	52.1	50.1	50.8	50.8
SA	Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	17/74	17/74	17/74	17/74	17/74	16/74	17/74	16/74	17/74	17/74
Tas	$ general purpose	35,201,332	34,554,111	34,214,228	34,954,441	35,800,944	37,121,818	37,876,570	42,454,990	44,049,181	48,180,922
Tas	$ to minimum grant councils	5,182,417	5,091,852	5,049,338	5,168,245	5,327,655	5,554,515	5,671,142	5,214,903	6,537,546	7,147,151
Tas	% to minimum grant councils	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.0	12.3	14.8	14.8
Tas	Population per jurisdiction	513,159	514,762	516,586	519,063	520,877	528,201	534,457	540,536	567,909	571,051
Tas	Population for minimum grant councils	251,828	252,849	254,126	255,823	258,378	263,448	266,742	221,309	282,434	282,940
Tas	% of population in minimum grant councils	49.1	49.1	49.2	49.3	49.6	49.9	49.9	40.9	49.7	49.5
Tas	Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	5/29	5/29	5/29	5/29	5/29	5/29	5/29	4/29	5/29	5/29
NT	$ general purpose	16,573,314	15,930,250	16,170,566	16,560,517	16,925,686	17,283,550	17,343,582	18,483,871	19,662,577	21,079,244
NT	$ to minimum grant councils	2,938,751	2,939,595	2,918,549	3,005,630	3,142,263	3,229,753	3,241,234	2,530,799	2,688,599	3,911,864
NT	% to minimum grant councils	17.7	18.5	18.0	18.1	18.6	18.7	18.7	13.7	13.7	18.6
NT	Population per jurisdiction	233,399	231,833	237,252	238,271	239,151	238,475	237,385	238,455	241,891	242,287
NT	Population for minimum grant councils	137,953	140,441	142,735	144,149	147,995	148,545	147,878	108,018	109,575	149,870
NT	% of population in minimum grant councils	59.1	60.6	60.2	60.5	61.9	62.3	62.3	45.3	45.3	61.9
NT	Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	5/18	5/18	5/18	5/18	4/18	4/18	5/18	3/18	3/18	4/18
Australia	$ general purpose	1,559,107,959	1,557,429,132	1,548,502,855	1,612,901,096	1,688,712,055	1,723,820,084	1,769,896,585	1,866,141,875	2,009,420,210	2,124,563,885
Australia	$ to minimum grant councils	206,184,217	211,054,045	204,070,289	221,211,694	232,938,861	246,440,474	255,264,938	265,349,881	300,790,384	294,561,348
Australia	% to minimum grant councils	13.2	13.6	13.2	13.7	13.8	14.3	14.4	14.2	15.0	13.9
Australia	Population per jurisdiction	22,738,798	23,079,221	23,406,736	23,717,857	24,588,635	24,553,621	24,920,831	25,248,417	25,319,438	25,520,930
Australia	Population for minimum grant councils	10,024,453	10,410,632	10,242,665	10,862,471	11,304,050	11,697,757	11,987,954	11,916,272	12,620,922	11,774,669
Australia	% of population in minimum grant councils	44.1	45.1	43.8	45.8	46.0	47.6	48.1	47.2	49.8	46.1
Australia	Minimum grant councils/No. LGBs	104/570	106/570	97/545	97/545	100/545	99/545	101/545	95/545	100/545	95/545

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

LGBs = local governing bodies.

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

Comparing councils

Local Government Grants Commissions in each state and the Northern Territory use different methodologies to allocate funding to each local governing body in their jurisdiction to best meet their unique circumstances while adhering to the requirements of the National Principles and the Act.

Comparing a council's grant allocation, both within and across jurisdictions, with other councils of similar size is problematic due to the considerable divergence in methodologies used by each Local Government Grants Commission.

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

Councils are ranked from the greatest assessed relative need to the least assessed relative need. For each state and the Northern Territory, the positions and values of the average general purpose grant per capita and the average local road grant per kilometre are also shown at the top of the ranking of councils.

Impact of Local Government Grants Commission capping policies

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

Many Local Government Grants Commissions average the data of several years to reduce fluctuations. Nevertheless, policies to limit changes, by capping increases or decreases in grant, may be used to limit year-to-year variations.

The minimum grant principle does not operate to cap or limit increases in a council's general purpose allocation to an amount above the legislated minimum amount for the current year.

A Local Government Grants Commission can determine that a council receive an increase or a decrease in funding beyond the caps implemented to address exceptional circumstances.

Reviews of Local Government Grants Commission methodologies

While the 2001 Commonwealth Grants Commission review of the operations of the Act did not result in any changes to the Act, it did reinforce the need for regular review of the methodologies used by Local Government Grants Commissions to achieve consistency with the principles of relative need, other grant support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Commonwealth Grants Commission 2001).

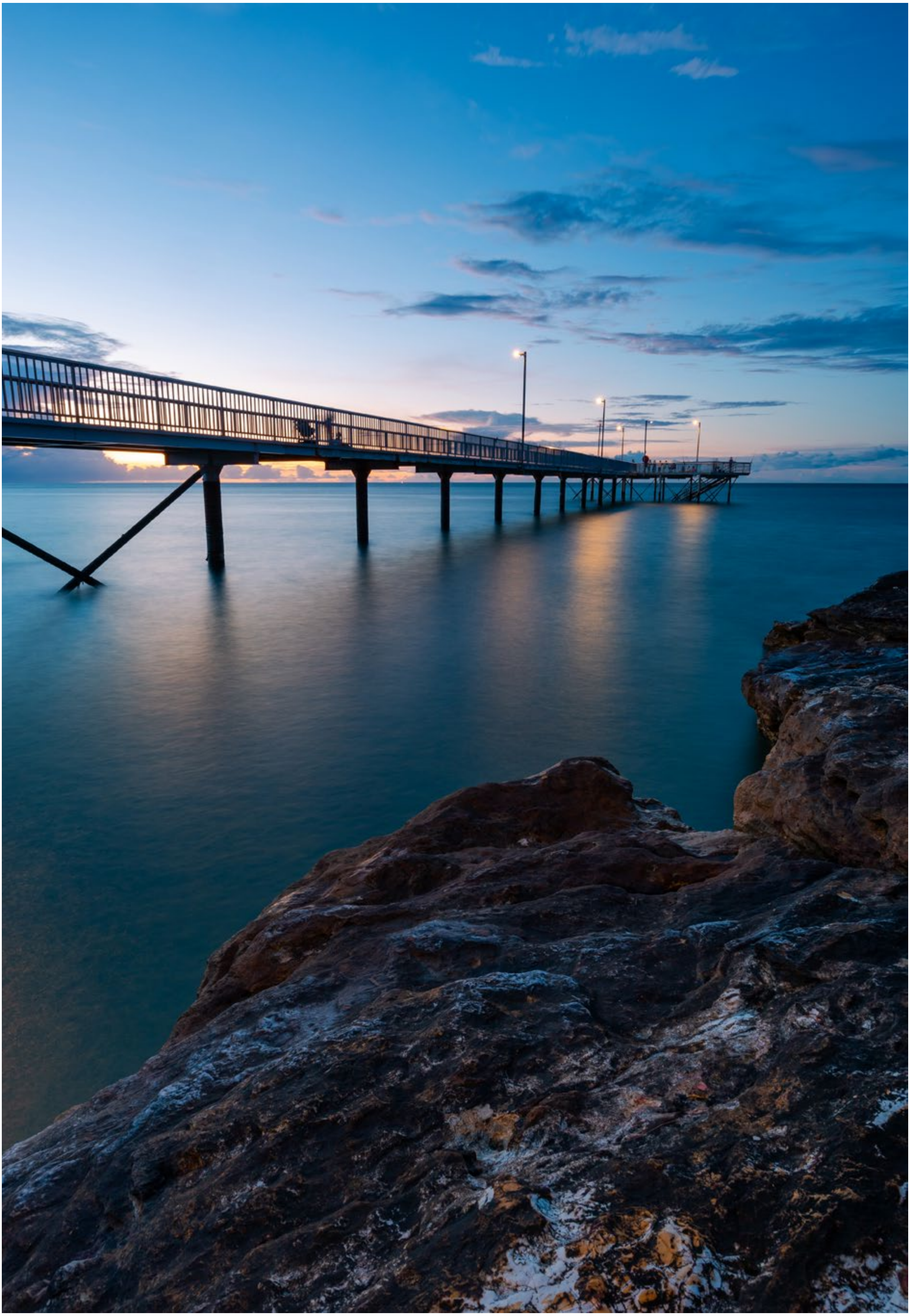
Local Government Grants Commissions monitor outcomes and refine aspects of their allocation methodologies to be in line with the National Principle requirements of the Act. From time to time Local Government Grants Commissions undertake reviews of their methodologies.

Since the Act commenced in July 1995, all Local Government Grants Commissions have undertaken major reviews of their methodologies (refer to Table 19).

Table 19 Status of most recent major methodology reviews by state, as at 30 June 2024

State	***General purpose grant***	***Local road grant***
NSW	Most recent major review conducted between 2014–2018. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.	No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.
Vic	Most recent major review conducted in 2016–17. No significant alterations to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.	Most recent major review was conducted in 2012–13. No significant alterations to the methodology were made in 2023–24.
Qld	Most recent major review was undertaken in 2021 with the new methodology implemented over a three-year transition period from 1 July 2022. The new methodology focuses on revenue raising capacity rather than a fiscal capacity approach. Refer to Appendix B for more detail.	Most recent major review was undertaken in 2021 with the new methodology implemented over a three-year transition period from 1 July 2022. Refer to Appendix B for more detail.
WA	Most recent major review was implemented in 2012–13. No major refinements to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.	Most recent major review was implemented in 2012–13. No major refinements to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.
SA	Most recent major review was completed in June 2013. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24. The Commission resolved to remove the allowance provided for non resident use.	Most recent major review was completed in June 2013. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.
Tas	Most recent major review commenced in 2021 and is ongoing. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24. For 2023–24, the Commission removed the population decline cost adjustor and changed their caps and collars range to be +7 to +17 per cent.	Most recent major review commenced in 2021 and is ongoing. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.
NT	Most recent major review was completed in 2012–13. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.	Most recent major review was conducted in 2012–13. No major changes to the methodology were implemented in 2023–24.

Source: Submissions provided by jurisdictions to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.



03
Local government efficiency and performance

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

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

Each year jurisdictions are asked to report on measures undertaken to improve local government efficiency and performance. Further details on the summary of measures provided can be found in Appendix B.

Developments in long-term financial and asset management plans

Jurisdictions were asked to report on developments in the use of long-term financial and asset management plans by local government during 2023–24. A summary of the progress for each jurisdiction follows.

Local councils in **New South Wales** continue to report under an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework that drives their strategic planning, including long-term financial and asset management planning. The main components of the IP&R framework are: a community strategic plan with a 10-year-plus timeframe; a resourcing strategy; a delivery program; an operational plan; and an annual report. Since 4 June 2022, NSW councils are required to have an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee to assist councils in managing finances and assets. In addition, the NSW Office of Local Government provides training materials that cover a range of topics including IP&R, strategic planning, financial reporting, financial management, professional development and risk management.

In **Victoria**, the *Local Government Act 2020* introduced legislative requirements for all Victorian councils to develop and adopt a 10-year Financial Plan and a 10-year Asset Plan. Both plans must be subject to community engagement, including deliberative engagement practices. All Victorian councils now have publicly available long-term plans for improving the alignment between managing their finances and their assets.

In 2023–24, the **Municipal Association of Victoria** (MAV) continued to support councils though Financial Health Assessments. MAV works with councils to analyses their long-term financial and asset plans to determine what they will need into the future. Yarra City Council adopted a Victorian-first Financial Sustainability Strategy which identified seven strategic levers for the council.

In **Queensland**, all local governments are required to have 10 year long-term financial forecasts and to prepare and adopt long-term asset management plans. In July 2023, the Auditor-General of Queensland tabled a report on improving asset management in local government. Individual local governments in Queensland continue to implement those recommendations where appropriate.

In 2023–24, the **Local Government Association of Queensland** (LGAQ) reported that the Auditor-General identified five primary themes for councils to aid improvement, including: governance and internal controls; asset management and valuations, financial reporting, information systems and procurement and contract management. The Auditor-General also reported that council's dependency on grant funding to support their operational needs such as asset maintenance, is increasing, especially in remote areas. The LGAQ reported that Queensland councils invest substantial funds in maintaining existing assets and developing new ones for their communities.

In **Western Australia**, the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (the Amendment Act) formalised the tiering of local governments in Western Australia to recognise the diversity of the local governments in the state. The Amendment Act will introduce a restructured service planning framework that will be centred around Council Plans. The Amendment Act is a part of the ongoing work to reform local government planning, budgeting and reporting, to create more transparency and reduce red tape for councils.

In 2023–24, the **Western Australian Local Government Association** (WALGA) produced its annual Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure. The report provides information on the lengths and types of roads, paths and bridges and highlights trends in the data over the preceding five years. The statistical analysis and comparisons provide insight into the adequacy of funding and the difference between road preservation needs and current expenditure on road preservation.

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

The Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) has a new role in providing independent advice to councils on a four-yearly rotational basis in relation to a council's long-term financial plan, infrastructure and asset management plan, and revenue sources as outlined in the council's funding plan.

The **Local Government Association of South Australia** (LGASA) continued to provide advice and assistance to the sector in 2023–24 through a range of resources, including 13 Asset Management Information Papers.

In **Tasmania**, the *Local Government Act 1993* requires all councils to prepare and maintain long-term financial management plans, financial management strategies, long-term strategic asset management plans, and asset management policies and strategies.

On 20 January 2022, the Future of Local Government Review (the Review) commenced and the final report was delivered on 31 October 2023. The Tasmanian Government has committed to work with councils to establish benchmark asset life ranges for major asset classes.

The **Local Government Association of Tasmania** (LGAT) continued to support councils in financial and asset management. On 6 March 2024, LGAT held a full day session on Finance and Asset Management for elected representatives.

During 2023–24, councils in the **Northern Territory** continued to follow the mandatory requirements issued under the *Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*. The requirements ensure councils review their annual plans at least every six months, keep electronic asset registers and use the prescribed templates for financial and asset reporting.

In 2023–24, the **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** government continued to support the Strategic Asset Management (SAM) program which provides financial assistance for agencies to establish SAM Plans for management of the Territory's assets. This program fosters better practice to increase the ACT's economic capacity, reduces future costs, and grows the city in a way that meets the changing needs of the ACT demographic and maintains current infrastructure.

During 2023–24, the **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** government continued to plan, manage and review the capital works projects under the Capital Framework. The Capital Framework seeks to improve business case development, service and asset planning, as well as project definition and scope.

In 2012, the **Australian Local Government Association** (ALGA) established its National State of the Assets Report to monitor and improve the performance and management of the infrastructure portfolio owned and operated by Australia's 537 councils. Successive National State of the Assets reports have highlighted the importance of continuous improvement in our systems to support our communities for the future – including helping councils invest in asset management training, technology and software enhancements, skills development, and information sharing. The latest National State of the Assets Report was published in 2024.

Performance measures between local governing bodies

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

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

For this Local Government National Report, state and territory governments and local government associations were asked to report on measures undertaken in 2023–24 to develop and implement comparative local government performance indicators. A summary of these reports for each jurisdiction follows.

In September 2019, the **New South Wales** Government launched the *Your Council* website which draws on data already collected by the Office of Local Government from NSW councils and other agencies and presents it in an easy to understand and user-friendly way. The website provides comprehensive statistics on the operations of NSW councils allowing benchmarking against the average for like councils and comparative performance measures across disciplines and years. In 2023–24, the Office of Local Government is continuing to work with the local government sector to improve financial reporting, including through the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and other guidance, training and support to councils in NSW.

In **Victoria**, the Know Your Council website (www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au), supported by Victoria's Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF), requires all Victorian councils to annually collect and report their data against 58 performance indicators across 11 different service areas. As well as comparing councils, users can view trend data in addition to reading commentary from council explaining the context of their performance results.

In 2023–24, the LGPRF was enhanced introducing targets for eight selected performance indicators. The inclusion of these targets marks a significant advancement in the framework's development, strengthening transparency allowing the public to see the council's goals in the annual budget and tracking the achievement of those goals in the Annual Report.

In 2023–24, the **Municipal Association of Victoria** (MAV) initiated the development of a Victorian local government Data Hub to enable Victorian councils to benchmark and compare service levels, funding and a range of other data sets. The MAV Data Hub platform and the underlying data behind it will also enable and inform Victorian councils to share data-driven storytelling. Over time, the MAV seeks to further develop this data platform to enable Victorian councils to measure their public value to the communities they serve and support.

The provision of information by the **Queensland** Government Comparative Information Report continued in 2023–24. This report is an effective tool to assist councils in developing new and more efficient ways to deliver services. On 1 July 2023, the Queensland Government implemented a new local government sustainability framework. Councils in Queensland will need to report on new sustainability performance indicators in their 2023–24 financial statements.

In 2023–24, the **Local Government Association of Queensland** (LGAQ) dedicated digital and data teams to support councils in gaining key insights to their operations through interactive dashboards and reporting, helping council staff make smarter, data-driven business decisions. Local Buy, a subsidiary of the LGAQ, provided visualised procurement reports to member councils enabling benchmarking of select data points against similar sized councils and segment types.

In **Western Australia**, the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* has created more transparency requirements including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Chief Executive Officers, new online registers and new requirements for ratepayer surveys for larger governments. The Western Australian Government's online portal, www.mycouncil.wa.gov.au, provides comparative data on how local governments are raising, spending and managing their money. The portal includes information about each local government's financial health using the Financial Health Indicator (FHI). In addition, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries published updated Model Financial Statement templates and associated Guidance Material for councils to use in 2023–24.

In 2023–24, the **Western Australian Local Government Association** (WALGA) continued their participation with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to develop new Financial Health Indicator (FHI) to help assess the financial performance of local government authorities (LGAs) in Western Australia. The Western Australia Minister for Local Government has endorsed WALGA's recommendation that FHI's should be based on four financial ratios rather than seven.

In **South Australia**, comparisons between councils on a wide range of data are facilitated by the annual publication by the Commission of annual database reports dating back to 1995–96, and are available at https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/grants-commission/publications#database.

Each year, the **Local Government Association of South Australia** (LGASA) assembles an update report providing the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector. The 2024 update report included data on the three financial indicators for the sector as a whole.

In **Tasmania**, the Tasmanian Government has committed to working with the local government sector to develop, resource and implement a best practice local government performance monitoring system, in as per recommendations from the Future of Local Government Review.

The Local Government Act will need to be amended to allow the necessary supporting architecture for implementing the future framework. This will form part of the proposed legislative amendments being progressed under the Priority Reform Program during 2025.

During 2023–24, local governments in the **Northern Territory** were required to follow regulations and guidelines supporting the *Local Government Act 2019* which enable the comparison of performance between councils. This includes a mandatory reporting format and prescribed content to be used by all councils for their monthly financial reports and a standardised format for council budgets and long-term plans.

The **Australian Capital Territory** (ACT) Government does not currently undertake comparative performance measures with other local governments. However, the ACT Government does participate in the *Productivity Commission's Annual Report on Government Services* which provides information on the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of government services in Australia.

The **Australian Local Government Association** (ALGA) supports the availability of accurate, timely and consistent data to enable evidence-based research, planning and outcomes for local government policy and funding and, where possible, advocates for this approach in line with recommendations from Parliamentary research reports over many years.

Efficiency and effectiveness reforms

As part of their reports, jurisdictions were asked to provide information on 2023–24 reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery. A summary for each jurisdiction follows.

Key reforms implemented by the **New South Wales** Government to strengthen and support the local government sector included:

- The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal consulted on its review of the local government rate peg method. 169 submission and 3,400 survey responses were received. The final report was released on 9 November 2023
- On 14 March 2024, the NSW Parliament Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development commenced an inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services
- Submissions closed on 26 April 2024 with 128 submissions received. Hearings commenced in May 2024, and it is expected that the Inquiry will report on its findings to the NSW Government in 2024–25
- In January 2024, the NSW Government asked the NSW Parliament Public Accounts Committee to undergo an *Inquiry into assets, premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service*. Submissions closed on 10 May 2024. 78 submissions were received and it is expected that the Public Accounts Committee will report on its findings to the NSW Government in 2024–25.

In **Victoria**, the following reforms occurred within the local government sector:

- The Rural Councils Transformation project continued, which aims to provides long-term sustainability for rural and regional councils in Victoria
- On 25 June 2024, *The Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* received Royal Assent. The Act implements the first stage of reforms identified in the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission's (IBAC) Operation Sandon Special Report. These include introducing mandatory professional development for councillors, a uniform code of conduct for councillors, and higher sanctions for findings of misconduct
- The Victorian Government continued to implement gender equality focused programs, including Women Leading Locally, where 59 women successfully graduated from the masterclass series in August 2023.

In 2023–24, the **Municipal Association of Victoria** (MAV), in partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong, commenced the Advancing AI Innovation in Local Government project. Funded by the Commonwealth Housing Support Program, this project will inform guidance and recommendations for local governments across Victoria to procure AI and automation tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of statutory planning in councils.

The **Queensland** Government progressed the following reforms in 2023–24:

- Continued enhancement of end-to-end grants management record system to streamline grant project reporting, acquittals and requests
- More than 1,800 people completed the online candidates for local government training, and more than 260 people attended one of the 71 in-person information or training sessions that were conducted prior to the quadrennial elections in March 2024
- The Advancing Asset Management Project which commenced in 2021–22, has completed the initial information gathering phase with analysis to inform the ongoing development of tools, support and training to lift asset management capacity and capability
- Progressing various legislative reforms, including the *Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* which commenced in November 2023 and the *Local Government Legislation (Councillor Conduct) Amendment Regulation 2024* which commenced in March 2024.

In 2023–24, the **Local Government Association of Queensland** (LGAQ):

- Investment in the development of a new Workforce Strategy for Queensland Local Government to address workforce challenges, assist councils in developing their own workforce plan and help support their five-year Corporate plans
- Investing $8 million in a procurement platform to streamline processes, transparency and economic outcomes
- Investing $3 million in the Rural and Remote Capacity Building Project which will provide targeted training to 24 councils that are disadvantaged when seeking to access essential training, due to their geographical location
- Participating with the Australian Institute of Company Directors to provide tailored governance training for council leaders.

On 18 May 2023, the *Western Australian Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (the Act) received Royal Assent. The Act introduces a number of key reforms for local governments in **Western Australia** related to elections, optional preferential voting, measures to increase transparency and accountability, and changes to the size and structure of councils.

In the 2023 local government elections, 53 councils made changes and a further 17 in the 2025 local elections.

Further 2024 reforms propose to overhaul the existing oversight of local governments through the creation of the new office of Local Government Inspector supported by local government monitors. This will further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government service delivery as the Inspector's focus on addressing dysfunction and integrity issues in local governments assists in raising the standard and expectations of local governments. The 2024 reforms also clarify the ability for local governments to share CEOs and senior employees which may assist in the attraction and retention of staff to deliver shared services.

RoadWise Councils is a fresh approach by the **Western Australian Local Government Association** (WALGA) to engage and motivate local government in working towards globally recognised best practice road safety. In 2023–24, 66 local governments committed to becoming a RoadWise Council, 71% passed a resolution of Council and 29% made a formal declaration signed by the CEO and Local Government Mayor or President.

In **South Australia**, the Local Government Research and Development Scheme continued as a primary source of funding for research in local government. The scheme was delivered through two competitive grants rounds – a regional capacity building program and strategic initiatives for the benefit of local government. This has attracted significant matching funds and in-kind support from other sources.

The *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* passed Parliament and received the Governor's assent on 17 June 2021. The reforms are commencing in stages and in 2023–24 the **Local Government Association of South Australia** (LGASA) supported councils with the implementation of these reforms. The LG Reform website provides LGA member councils with information relevant to provisions scheduled for commencement.

In **Tasmania**, the Tasmanian Government has committed to support interested councils to scope, develop, and refine detailed proposals for structural reform studies through the Priority Reform Program.

The **Local Government Association of Tasmania** (LGAT) continued to support councils improve their efficiency and effectiveness by providing specific support and resources to elected members including Work Health and Safety and Procurement best practices.

In the **Northern Territory**, mandatory professional development training is required by all members. Most elected members received training during 2022–23, however during 2023–24, the department facilitated foundation training in components of good governance face to face with each council.

To assist with the administration of the Northern Territory Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the department worked with councils to have pre-disaster asset condition evidence, such as reports and photographs, prior to the main disaster season, from November to April.

In 2023–24, the **Australian Capital Territory** (ACT) Government implemented a number of reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery, including the following:

- Access Canberra undertook numerous reforms to improve customer support; and Business and occupational licence support for Apprenticeships. In addition, the ACT introduced Automatic Mutual Recognition scheme in 2022 to increase labour mobility by removing barriers to occupational registration across jurisdictions. In 2023–24, Access Canberra processed 610 AMR notifications

- The ACT Government expanded the landfill gas to energy plant at the Mugga Lane landfill. The expansion project will include additional generators, battery storage and a 20-megawatt grid connection which will provide enough energy to power up to 10,800 homes in the ACT each year.

The **Australian Local Government Association** (ALGA) and its state and territory associations, strongly support collaboration and engagement between local governments and all levels of government to enable better service delivery outcomes for all communities including leading national dialogue and policy development on critical local issues and representing local government across Ministerial Councils and Forums.

04

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Reporting requirements

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

Section 16 of the Act requires an assessment, based on comparable national data, of the delivery of local government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

During 2023–24, all jurisdictions pursued initiatives to promote the delivery of local government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A summary of key initiatives is also provided later in this chapter with further details outlined in Appendix B.

Closing the Gap – a national picture

The Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report is compiled by the Productivity Commission. It provides a point-in-time snapshot of progress under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement) signed in July 2020.

On 31 July 2024, the Productivity Commission released its fourth Annual Data Compilation Report.

The Agreement identifies 17 socioeconomic outcomes important to the rights, wellbeing and quality of life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The fourth Annual Data Compilation Report shows only four of the 19 targets across the 17 socio-economic outcomes are on track to be met.

The report includes new data for nine targets since last year. Improvements in two targets means they are now on track: healthy birthweights and sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights. However, an increase in the rate of young people in detention means that this target is no longer on track to be met.

A further five targets show improvement but are not on track to be met, while progress towards four targets is worsening.

The 2024 Annual Data Compilation Report highlights gaps in the data that are preventing a full assessment of progress and comes shortly after the Commission's review of action towards the Agreement. Joint Council, including all Australian governments, has recently accepted the four headline recommendations of the Commission's review and agreed to 15 out of the 16 actions that governments need to implement those recommendations.

Further information on Closing the Gap is available at https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/annual-data-report/report.

State, territory and local government initiatives

In June 2024, the Office of Local Government (OLG) in **New South Wales** released resources to explain the role of a councillor and to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stand for election at the September 2024 local government general elections.

The OLG continued to work with First Nations councillors to identify short and long-term strategies to increase the number of First Nations councillors in the 2024 local government elections

As part of the IP&R framework, councils must develop a Community Engagement Strategy which includes how they will engage with hard-to-reach groups. The strategy should ensure that all groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, have an opportunity to be heard. In this way IP&R helps councils to work in partnership with the NSW Government and others to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW.

In 2023–24, the Victorian Government continued to support The Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021–2026 which provides councils in **Victoria** with a practical guide that will help embed the voices and priorities of Aboriginal communities at a local government level.

During the 2023–24 period, Local Government Victoria continued to support local government and Traditional Owner engagement strategies as part of the Recognition and Settlement Agreements (RSAs). Efforts have focused on supporting the most recently ratified RSA, with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. Local Government Victoria has also contributed to the monitoring and implementation of the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation RSA.

In 2023–24, the **Municipal Association of Victoria** (MAV), released its new Strategic Plan to guide the sector, which featured First Peoples local government relations as one of the organisation's 10 key priorities. Further work has begun to deepen dialogue with the First Peoples' Assembly to support local engagement with councils through the Victorian Treaty process.

In 2023–24, the **Queensland** Government completed a review of the funding arrangements for its Indigenous councils. The review resulted in establishing the new Indigenous Councils Funding Program (ICFP). The ICFP consolidates three former programs into one and simplifies the administrative arrangements, with a single funding allocation methodology, as well as making it quicker and easier for councils to receive and use funding. The Queensland Government provided an additional $25.8 million, bringing ICFP funding to $69.8 million.

In addition, $120 million was provided under the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program (ICCIP). The aim of ICCIP is to support Indigenous councils to deliver projects and infrastructure works relating to critical water, wastewater and solid waste assets, and provide a basis for the long-term strategic management of essential assets.

Councils continued to receive support through the Queensland Government's $200 million 2021–2024 Works for Queensland Program. Funding supports 65 regional councils of which $27.9 million has been allocated to 16 Indigenous councils. Thirteen priority infrastructure projects totaling $13.4 million were approved for ten Indigenous council areas under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies program. These projects are being delivered through 2023–24 and beyond.

The **Local Government Association of Queensland** (LGAQ) facilitates an an Indigenous Leaders Forum twice a year, bringing together First Nations leaders to discuss and debate emerging issues and set policy direction. It also continued to administer the Indigenous

Capacity Building Project, providing essential training for local government workers in remote communities. In addition, the LGAQ has helped place 392 trainees and apprentices into First Nation local governments over the last five years, with 203 so far successfully completing their qualifications.

The **Western Australian** Government continued to support an Aboriginal Policy and Business Advisor position, which was established in 2022, to lead and manage the development and implementation of the DLGSC's Reconciliation Action Plan, Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Western Australia 2021–2029 and Closing the Gap WA Implementation Plans. Work is also continuing on the Local Government Reconciliation Resource Project "Kolbang Yanginy". The Project is to develop a website to assist local governments to engage with local Aboriginal communities and meet legislative requirements with respect to Aboriginal heritage and native title.

The **Western Australian Local Government Association** (WALGA) held its annual Aboriginal Reconciliation and Engagement Forum on 20 March 2024, which over 180 delegates attended. The annual event supports councils to provide strong leadership and grow collaborative partnerships necessary for positive change for Aboriginal communities at the local level.

WALGA continued to facilitate the WA Local Government Reconciliation Network meetings held approximately 5 times per year to support local government officers increase their cultural knowledge.

The **South Australian** Government continues to fund the provision of municipal services to Aboriginal communities outside of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. During 2023–24, $3.2 million was provided to deliver services including waste management, dog control and environmental health, road maintenance and water provision.

In **Tasmania**, legislative amendments have been proposed as part of the Priority Reform Program to establish a new requirement for councils to make and adopt a community engagement plan. While the specific requirements in connection with the plan are still being refined in consultation with local government, fostering meaningful council engagement with Aboriginal Tasmanians is a key objective.

During 2023–24, a number of Tasmanian councils reviewed or remade their reconciliation plans. The reconciliation plans form part of the Council's Community Engagement Strategy and outlines a focused and agreed approach for the Council to engage with Aboriginal People in a culturally respectful and genuine manner.

In 2023–24, **Northern Territory** grant funding totaling $8.5 million was allocated to nine regional councils and one shire council under the Indigenous Jobs Development Fund to assist with subsidising 50 per cent of the cost of employing Aboriginal staff within their respective councils. A further $5.5 million was allocated to the nine regional councils to assist with funding locally identified priority projects.

In 2023–24, the **Australian Capital Territory** (ACT) Government established and implemented a number of initiatives in relation to service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities which included:

- Commenced construction on a purpose-built youth services facility for Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation. The Project will provide a fit for purpose, culturally designed facility to enable Gugan Gulwan to enhance delivery of services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and young people in ACT and beyond

- Continued the implementation of initiatives in response to recommendations made in the We Don't Shoot Our Wounded report. As at 30 June 2024, partial progress had been made against 10 of the 12 recommendations
- Continued investment in: Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation, Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation, Yhurwun Bullan, WhISPers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, and the Yeddung Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corporation
- The ACT Health Directorate reinvigorated its commitment to developing and implementing a Cultural Integrity Plan by December 2024 as part of its Phase Two Focus Area Action Plan for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028
- ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) released the Be the Change We Seek Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Framework in October 2023. The Framework builds on ACTCS' commitment to addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT criminal justice system.

The **Australian Local Government of Australia** (ALGA) as a signatory to the Closing the Gap agreement, advancing goals through a dedicated implementation plan by:

- promoting awareness and adoption of the agreement among local governments
- supporting collaboration between state, territory, and local governments
- strengthening local-level shared decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Appendix A
National Principles

Under section 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act), the Australian Government provides financial assistance for local government purposes by means of grants to the states and selfgoverning 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
- the provision, by local governing bodies, of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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

The main objective of having National Principles is to establish a nationally consistent basis for distributing financial assistance to local government under the Act. The Act includes a requirement (in 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 the establishment of new principles, must be tabled in both Houses of the Australian Parliament before they can come into effect. Members and senators then have 15 sitting days in which to lodge a disallowance motion. If such a motion is lodged, the respective House has 15 sitting days in which to put and defeat the disallowance motion. If the disallowance motion is defeated, the amendment stands. If the disallowance motion is passed, the amendment will be deemed to be disallowed.

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

A. General purpose

The National Principles relating to allocations of the general purpose grants payable under section 9 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)* (the Act) among local governing bodies are as follows:

1. Horizontal equalisation

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

2. Effort neutrality

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

4. Other grant support

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

5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

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

6. Council amalgamation

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

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

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) among local governing bodies is as follows:

1. Identified road component

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

Figure 7 What is horizontal equalisation?

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix B
Jurisdictional submissions

B1 Report from the New South Wales Government

New South Wales methodology for distributing Financial Assistance Grants for 2023–24

The NSW financial assistance grants are determined in accordance with the National Principles formulated under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*.

General Purpose Component (GPC)

The GPC attempts to equalise the financial capacity of councils, consistent with the Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation Principle. The NSW Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) uses the direct assessment method. This approach assesses individual council's relative cost disadvantage in the state in the provision of services and relative capacity to raise revenue.

Cost disadvantages in the provision of services (expenditure allowances)

Expenditure allowances are calculated for each council for 6 council services. The allowances attempt to compensate councils for expected above average costs resulting from issues that are beyond councils' control. To be consistent with the effort neutral principle, individual council policy decisions concerning the level of service provided, or if there is a service provided at all, are not considered.

The general formula for calculating the expenditure allowances is:

$$\text{No. of units} \times \text{standard cost} \times \text{disadvantage factor}$$

where:

- the number of units (population) is the measure of use for the service for the council
- the standard cost is the state average cost per unit for each of the selected services. The calculation is based on a state-wide average of councils' gross operational costs, using selected items from the net cost of services data reported by councils, averaged over 5 years
- the disadvantage factor is the measure of relative disadvantage for the council.

A disadvantage factor is the Commission's estimate of the additional cost of providing a standard service due to inherent characteristics; factors that are beyond a council's control. For example, if it estimated that it would cost a council 20 per cent more than the state standard to provide recreational services, the disadvantage factor would be 20 per cent.

Disadvantage factors applied have been tested for materiality. The Commission has identified variables that are the most significant in influencing a council's expenditure on that service. A council may have a disadvantage due to inherent factors such as smaller 'populations', higher 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations', area of 'environmental land', 'rainfall, topography and drainage' index score, and 'local road' length.

In addition to disadvantages identified by the Commission, 'other' disadvantages impacting individual councils, or a group of councils, may be determined. These may come to light where circumstances have been identified because of holding public hearings with councils or special submissions by councils. Currently, there are no individual cases of discretionary disadvantages except for councils eligible for the relative disadvantage allowance. However, the Commission does research issues raised by councils and tests the data, for example, the socio economic index of areas (SEIFA) and Australian Bureau of Statistics, before making a determination.

The general approach to calculating a disadvantage factor is to take each disadvantage relating to a service and to apply the following formula:

$$\text{Disadvantage Factor} = \left(\frac{\text{Council Measure}}{\text{Standard Measure}}\right)^{\text{Weighting}} - 1$$

where:

- the council measure is the individual council's measure for the disadvantage being assessed against the state average measure
- the standard measure is the state average measure for the disadvantage being assessed
- the weighting is calculated to reflect the significance of the measure in terms of the expected additional cost to that function.

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

Isolation Allowance

The Commission also calculates an allowance for councils outside the Sydney statistical division to recognise the additional cost of providing services due to isolation. The formula uses population, a council's distance from Sydney, distance from the nearest regional centre and a five-year rolling averaged additional expenditure.

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. An additional component of the isolation allowance is included which specifically recognises the additional industrial relations obligations of councils in western NSW.

Pensioner Rebate Allowance

A pensioner rebate allowance is calculated to recognise a council's share of additional costs for compulsory pensioner rebates. Councils with higher proportions of ratepayers that qualify for eligible pensioner rebates are more disadvantaged than those with a lower proportion.

Revenue Allowances

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, which are based on property values, are the principal source of councils' income. As part of the Commission's review, property values were tested and found to have a strong statistical relationship as a proxy for revenue raising capacity. Importantly, property values are also considered to be a useful indicator of the relative economic strength of local areas.

The Commission's methodology compares land values per property for the council to a state average value and multiplies the result by a state average rate-in-the-dollar. The Commission uses valuation data that has been calculated to a common base date for all councils by the NSW Valuer General. To reduce seasonal and market fluctuations in the property market, the valuations are averaged over 3 years.

The revenue allowance calculation assesses councils with low values per property 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 Commission's approach excludes the rating policies of individual councils (effort neutral principle).

Separate calculations are made for urban and non-urban properties. Non-rateable properties are excluded from the 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 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' (see 'Principle' below). As a result, both allowances are given equal weight.

The discounting helps reduce the distortion caused to the revenue calculations because of property values in the Sydney metropolitan area. The objective approach to discounting revenue allowances reduces the extreme positives and negatives calculated but retains the established relativities between councils.

The Commission does not specifically consider rate pegging, which applies in NSW. The property based calculations are essentially dealing with relativities between councils, and rate pegging affects all councils.

Movements in the GPC grant are generally caused by annual variations in property valuations, standard costs, disadvantage measures and population.

The GPC upper limit was capped at 5 per cent increase on the prior year's GPC and lower limit was capped at 0 per cent so no council received a reduced grant.

Factors excluded from the GPC calculations

Capital expenditure

The Commission does not consider councils' requirements for capital expenditure because of the practical and theoretical problems involved. To assess capital expenditure requirements, the Commission would have to undertake a survey of each council's infrastructure needs and then assess the individual projects for which capital assistance is sought. This would undermine council autonomy, because the 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 undertook sound asset management practices.

Water and sewerage services

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

The Associations and local government recommended to the Commission that water and sewerage services should not be included in the financial assistance grants distribution principles because:

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

The Commission agreed and accordingly, water and sewerage services are excluded from the distribution formula.

The Commission views individual council income and losses from council business activities as a policy decision and, therefore, does not consider these in the grant calculations (effort neutral principle) and these services should be provided on a cost recovery basis.

Council debt

Debt servicing is related to individual council policy and is therefore excluded from the Commission's calculations.

Council expenditure

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

Efficient councils

Efficient councils are rewarded by the effort neutrality approach to the calculations. To illustrate this, 2 councils with similar populations, road networks, property values, and disadvantage 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.

Council Australian Classification of Local Government

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

Formulae

The formulae used to calculate expenditure and revenue allowances of the general purpose component are as follows:

Expenditure Allowances

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

$$Ac = Nc \text{ multiplied by } Es \text{ multiplied by } Dc$$

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 = disadvantage for the council for the service in percentage terms.

Isolation Allowances

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.

Revenue Allowances

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 (that is, assessments)

lower case ts = standard tax rate (as a rate-in-the-dollar)

upper case Ts = standard value per property

upper case Tc = council's value per property.

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

upper case Ts = the sum of the rateable values for all councils divided by the sum of the number of properties for all councils.

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

lower case ts = the sum of the net rates levied for all councils divided by the sum of the rateable values for all councils.

Pensioner Rebate Allowances

The general formula for the allowance to recognise the differential impact of compulsory pensioner rates rebates is:

$$Ac = Rc \times Nc \times (Pc - Ps)$$

where: Ac = the allowance for the council

Rc = the standardised rebate per property for the council

Nc = the number of residential properties

Pc = the proportion of eligible pensioner assessments for the council

Ps = the proportion of eligible pensioner assessments for all councils.

The standardised rebate for the council (Rc) is:

Rc = 0.25 multiplied by upper case Tc multiplied by lower case ts

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

lower case ts = the standard tax rate (as a rate-in-the-dollar) for residential properties.

The maximum value for Rc is set at $125. Upper case Tc and lower case ts are calculated as for the revenue allowances except only residential properties are used.

Principles

General Purpose (equalisation) Component

These principles, consistent with the national principles of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*, are based on an extensive program of consultation with local government.

The agreed principles are:

1. General purpose grants to local governing bodies will be allocated as far as practicable on a full equalisation basis as defined in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*; 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 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. Each expenditure allowance is determined using recurrent cost; both positive and negative allowances relative to average standards may be calculated
6. Expenditure allowances are discounted to take account of specific purpose grants.

Local Roads Component

The method of allocating the local road component is based on a formula developed by the former NSW roads authority. The formula uses councils' proportion of the state's population, local road length and bridge length. Details of the formula are discussed below under 'Principles'.

Financial assistance, which is made available as an identified local road component of local government financial assistance, shall be allocated 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':

   a. the Sydney Statistical Division
   b. the Newcastle Statistical District
   c. the Wollongong Statistical District.

2. Rural [non-metropolitan] area

   'Rural area' means an area not designated as an 'urban area'.

3. Initial distribution

   27.54 per cent to local roads in urban areas

   72.46 per cent to local roads in rural areas.

4. Local road grant in urban areas

   Funds will be allocated:

   a. 5 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. 7 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 (ABS).

   Road length is based on the most up-to-date data available to the Commission for formed roads, which are councils' financial responsibility.

   Bridge length is based on the most up-to-date data available to the Commission for bridges and culverts 6 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 Commission and the Local Government Association of New South Wales (LGNSW).

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23

The NSW methodology for distributing funding in 2023–24 has not changed from that used in 2022–23.

The Commission's strategy has been to allocate funds fairly to communities with the greatest relative disadvantage. This remains a challenge while the National Principles mandate that 30 per cent of the GPC must be distributed on a per capita basis to councils with greater relative advantage. Following extensive independent and internal reviews of the methodology, in 2018–19 the Commission adopted a revised model with a transition period. In steering the path out of the transition, the Commission has considered many external factors, including natural disasters and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and, to this point, has retained the 0 per cent floor. The Commission had continued to consult with the sector about resuming the lower limit to -5 per cent.

Developments in relation to the use of long term financial and asset management plans for 2023–24

Local councils in NSW report under an integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) framework that drives their strategic planning, including long-term financial and asset management planning.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) provides IP&R guidance material for councils, including a Guideline and Handbook setting out in detail the IP&R framework. The main components of the IP&R framework are:

- **Community Strategic Plan** – The highest level of strategic planning undertaken by a council, with a ten-year plus timeframe. All other plans must support achievement of the Community Strategic Plan objectives.
- **Resourcing Strategy –** Shows how council will resource its strategic priorities, identified through IP&R. The Resourcing Strategy includes 3 inter-related elements:
  - Long-Term Financial Planning
  - Workforce Management Planning
  - Asset Management Planning.
- **Delivery Program –** The council's commitment to the community about what it will deliver during its term in office to achieve the Community Strategic Plan objectives.
- **Operational Plan** – Shows the individual projects and activities a council will undertake in a specific year. It includes the council's annual budget and Statement of Revenue Policy.
- **Annual Report** – reports back to the community on the work undertaken by a council in a given year to deliver on the commitments of the Delivery Program via that year's Operational Plan. Councils also report on their financial and asset performance against the annual budget and longer-term plans.

The NSW Auditor-General oversees the auditing of councils' annual financial statements to improve the consistency, reliability and quality of financial reporting and public accountability in the local government sector.

In their Report on Local Government 2023 (for the 2021–22 year) the Auditor-General issued 2 qualified audit reports as these councils were unable to provide sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to support completeness and accuracy of road assets, water supply network and sewerage network assets within its infrastructure, property, plant and equipment balance.

The Auditor-General is currently undertaking a performance audit of road asset management, with the report to be issued in 2024–25. The audit will consider how effectively 3 councils are managing their road assets. It will examine whether the selected councils:

- have a strategic framework in place for road assets
- have effective data and systems for managing road assets
- whether they manage their road assets in line with planned service levels and quality outcomes.

Councils are required to have an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee. OLG has issued comprehensive Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW to assist councils implement these requirements. Amendments have been made to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to require all councils to have a risk management framework.

OLG encourages the professional development of council staff and councillors. Training materials are available on OLG's website that cover a range of topics including IP&R, strategic planning, financial reporting, financial management, professional development and risk management. These materials can be accessed by council staff and councillors.

OLG regularly monitors council financial performance and follows up with councils where OLG has questions or concerns. As part of its assessment of financial sustainability, OLG reviews councils' long term financial plans and resourcing strategies. OLG has also recently implemented a new risk assessment tool.

The local government sector in NSW is well placed to review and improve long term financial and asset management planning and ensure these plans are effectively implemented as an integrated part of council's operations.

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

The Your Council website, an initiative of the NSW Government, draws on data collected by the OLG from NSW councils and other agencies and presents it in an easy to understand and user-friendly way. The website is updated annually as new data becomes available.

Your Council provides comprehensive statistics on the operations of NSW councils. The data for each council is also benchmarked against the average for similar councils so ratepayers can compare and assess performance.

The data is available in time series format enabling comparisons between councils against a range of local government data and performance indicators including housing, employment and population that can be used to measure council's performance across various disciplines and across multiple years.

Data sources include council financial reports, rating records, Australian Bureau of Statistics' population data and various other government data. The information collected has also been used to calculate financial assistance grants, analyse councils' financial health, and check compliance of rates collected.

OLG works closely with the NSW Audit Office, which plays a key role in conducting financial and performance audits under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This engagement contributes to improvements in sector financial reporting, including through the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and other guidance, training and support to councils in NSW. Insights from these audits also continue to provide valuable input to work on developing improved comparative performance measures at a State level over time.

Reforms undertaking taken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Review of the NSW rate peg methodology

Following a request from the NSW Government to undertake a review of the rate peg methodology in NSW, the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (the Tribunal) consulted with key stakeholders (receiving over 169 submissions and 3,400 responses to a survey of ratepayers) and released its final report on 9 November 2023.

As a result, major changes were made to the rate peg methodology to apply from the rate peg for the 2024–25 financial year.

The new method for setting the rate peg is simpler and will more accurately reflect changes in costs to NSW councils in providing their current services. The Tribunal's new measures will be forward-looking and better capture the diversity of councils across NSW.

The review highlighted that the rate peg cannot adequately address the efficiency or sustainability of the cost base of councils and the need for an independent investigation into the financial model for councils in NSW.

Inquiry into the ability of NSW local governments to fund infrastructure and services

On 14 March 2024, the NSW Parliament Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development commenced an inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services.

The Inquiry is examining the income received by councils to determine if NSW council revenues have kept up with council expenses.

The Inquiry is also looking at whether current levels of service delivery and financial sustainability in NSW local government, including the impact of cost shifting, has changed over time.

Submissions closed on 26 April 2024 and 128 submissions were made, predominately from NSW councils and key sector stakeholders.

Hearings commenced in May 2024, and it is expected that the Inquiry will report on its findings to the NSW Government in 2024–25.

Inquiry into assets, premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Government has been working to support councils to understand and act on the determination by the NSW Government that neither the Rural Fire Service nor the State control Rural Fire Service assets for accounting purposes, and that the assets are vested in local councils under the *NSW Rural Fires Act 1997*.

In January 2024, the NSW Government asked the NSW Parliament Public Accounts Committee to report on:

- funding, maintaining, and accounting for RFS assets and premises
- whether arrangements between councils and the RFS are fit-for-purpose
- the appropriate role for local councils in the provision of emergency services
- the sustainability of local government contributions to emergency service provisions.

Submissions closed on 10 May 2024 and the Public Accounts Committee received 78 submissions.

It is expected that the Public Accounts Committee will report on its findings to the NSW Government in 2024–25.

Meanwhile, the NSW Government continues to provide local councils with a listing of assets compiled by the Rural Fire Service with costing information to assist with council stocktakes.

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

In June 2024, OLG released resources to explain the role of a councillor and to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stand for election at the September 2024 local government general elections.

Councillor diversity program

OLG continues to work with current First Nations councillors to identify short and longer-term strategies to increase the number of First Nations councillors in NSW in the 2024 local government elections.

IP&R

NSW councils are required to prepare IP&R plans to facilitate strategic planning and delivery of council services to best meet community needs.

The IP&R framework allows councils and communities to respond flexibly to local need and includes a requirement for a community strategic plan to be developed in consultation with groups in the local community and based on principles of social justice.

As part of this process, councils must develop a Community Engagement Strategy which includes how they will engage with hard-to-reach groups. The strategy should ensure that all groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, have an opportunity to be heard. In this way IP&R helps councils to work in partnership with the NSW Government and others to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW.

Local government reform activities by NSW during 2023–24, including deregulation and legislative changes

In December 2023, OLG issued comprehensive Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW to assist councils implement the necessary requirements. The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* was amended to give statutory force to key elements of the Guidelines.

OLG is continuing to prepare a pathway to return Central Darling Shire Council to an elected body. An analysis of Council's current and future financial, service/asset delivery position, and projected costs to meet future community needs has been completed and will help to inform the governance options to ensure a sustainable financial model for council once it returns to an elected body.

B2 Report from the Victorian Government

Methodology: 2023–24 grant allocation

The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) makes recommendations for the allocation of financial assistance grants (general purpose and local roads grants) in accordance with the national principles formulated under the *Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.*

Methodology for general purpose grants

The Commission's methodology for recommending general purpose grants considers each council's assessed relative expenditure needs and relative capacity to raise revenue.

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

The available general purpose grants pool is then allocated in proportion to each council's raw grant, considering the requirement in the Commonwealth legislation and associated national distribution principles to provide a minimum grant to each council. Increases and decreases in general purpose grant outcomes may be limited in movement which, in turn, 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.

Standardised expenditure

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

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

The total recurrent expenditure across all Victorian councils in 2021–22 equaled $10.248 billion. Under the Commission's methodology, the gross standardised expenditure in the allocation model for 2023–24 therefore also equals $10.248 billion, with each of the nine expenditure functions assuming the same share of both actual expenditure and standardised expenditure.

For each function, with the exception of Local Roads and Bridges, gross standardised expenditure is obtained by multiplying the relevant major cost driver by:

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

- **Governance** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average expenditure per unit of **$70.25**
- **Family and Community Services** function uses the major cost driver **Population** and average expenditure per unit of **$150.78**
- **Aged and Disabled Services** function uses the major cost driver **Population > 60 + Disability Pensioners + Carer's Allowance Recipients** and average expenditure per unit of **$303.23**
- **Recreation and Culture** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average expenditure per unit of **$359.51**
- **Waste Management** function uses the major cost driver **No. of Dwellings** and average expenditure per unit of **$484.63**
- **Traffic and Street Management** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average expenditure per unit of **$140.57**
- **Environment** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average expenditure per unit of **$88.05**
- **Business and Economic Services** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average expenditure per unit of **$149.70.**

For five expenditure functions, a modified 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 State average are assumed to have a population higher than the census-based estimate as a result of their part-time resident population:

- For the Governance expenditure function, actual populations are adjusted upwards to reflect two-thirds of the "excess" vacant dwellings on census night and councils with a population of less than 20,000 are deemed to have a population of 20,000
- For the Recreation and Culture and Traffic and Street Management functions actual populations are adjusted upwards to reflect two-thirds of the "excess" vacant dwellings on census night
- For the Environment and Business and Economic Services functions actual populations are adjusted upwards to reflect two-thirds of the "excess" vacant dwellings on census night. Councils with a population of less than 17,500 are deemed to have a population of 17,500.

Cost adjustors

A number of cost adjustors are used in various combinations against each function. These allow the Commission to take account of the particular characteristics of individual councils which impact the cost of service provision on a comparable basis. Each cost adjustor has been based around a 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 12 cost adjustors used in the calculation of the 2023–24 general purpose grants were:

- Aged Pensioners
- Economies of Scale
- Environmental Risk
- Indigenous Population
- Language
- Population Dispersion
- Population Growth
- Population less than 6 years
- Regional Significance
- Remoteness
- Socio-Economic
- Tourism

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.

Net standardised expenditure

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

Average grant revenue on a per unit basis is shown below:

- **Governance** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average grant per unit of **$3.00**
- **Family and Community Services** function uses the major cost driver **Population** and average grant per unit of **$44.22**
- **Aged and Disabled Services** function uses the major cost driver **Population > 60 + Disability Pensioners + Carer's Allowance Recipients** and average grant per unit of **$142.94**
- **Recreation and Culture** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average grant per unit of **$8.28**
- **Waste Management** function uses the major cost driver **No. of Dwellings** and average grant per unit of **$0.26**
- **Traffic and Street Management** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average grant per unit of **$3.74**
- **Environment** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average grant per unit of **$1.24**
- **Business and Economic Services** function uses the major cost driver **Modified Population** and average grant per unit of **$2.78**.

Net standardised expenditure (for each function)

The net standardised expenditure is calculated for each expenditure function, using council's expenditure less the standardised revenue:

- gross standardised expenditure calculation using the major cost driver, the cost adjustors and the average expenditure per unit
- standardised grant revenue calculation using the major cost driver and the average grant per unit.

Standardised expenditure for the Local Roads and Bridges expenditure function within the general purpose grants model is based on the grant outcomes for each council under the Commission's local roads grants model. This incorporates a number of cost modifiers (similar to cost adjustors) to take account of differences between councils.

Net standardised expenditure for this function for each council is calculated by subtracting other grant support (based on actual identified local roads grants and a proportion of Roads to Recovery 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 generating plants and airports have been added to their standardised revenue to ensure that all councils are treated on an equitable basis.

With the introduction of rate capping in 2017, the Commission altered its calculation of rate revenue raising capacity at that time to reflect a four-year average of valuation and rates data, rather than the previous three years. With all valuations and rates data in the model now fully reflecting the rate capping environment, the Commission reverted to the use of a three-year average for the 2023–24 allocations.

The derivation of the average rates for each of the property classes is shown below:

- **Residential** – average valuations of **$1,933,321 billion** and rate revenue of **$5.081 billion** with a statewide average rate of **$0.00263**
- **Commercial/Industrial/Other** – average valuations of **$332.176 billion** with a statewide rate revenue of **$1.070 billion** with average rate of **$0.00322**
- **Farm** – average valuations of **$110.193 billion** and rate revenue of **$0.330 billion** with a statewide average rate of **$0.00299.**

The 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 statewide 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 adjusted State median revenue from user fees and charges (adjusted to remove the skewing effect of large outliers in the data). For some functions, this is then modified by a series of "revenue adjustors" to take account of differences between municipalities in their capacity to generate fees and charges, due to their characteristics.

The Commission continues to use a three year average of revenue on an ongoing basis, with the median revenue across three years being used for each functional area.

The standard fees and charges used for each function are shown below:

- **Governance** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$16.59**
- **Family and Community Services** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$6.53**
- **Aged and Disabled Services** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$25.33**
- **Recreation and Culture** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$11.47**
- **Waste Management** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$33.20**
- **Traffic and Street Management** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$4.61**
- **Environment** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$1.21**
- **Business and Economic Services** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$41.18**
- **Local Roads and Bridges** function with standard fees and charges per unit of **$2.55**.

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

Minimum grants

The available general purpose grants pool for Victorian councils for 2023–24 represented, on average, $83.11 per head of population (using ABS population estimates as at 30 June 2022). The minimum grant national distribution principle requires that no council may receive a general purpose grant that is less than 30% of the per capita average (or $24.93 for 2023–24).

Without the application of this principle, general purpose grants for 2023–24 for 17 councils – Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Darebin, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Manningham, Melbourne, Monash, Merri-bek, Mornington Peninsula, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse and Yarra, would have been below the $24.93 per capita level. The minimum grant principle has resulted in the general purpose grants to these councils being increased to that level.

If grant movements were not constrained by the Commission, Maribyrnong would also have received the minimum grant in 2023–24. However, the Commission recommended that councils that were not previously in receipt of the minimum grant should not receive a lower general purpose grant than in 2022–23. Therefore, the recommended actual grant outcome for Maribyrnong remained slightly above the minimum grant level in 2023–24.

Limits to grant movements

The Commission applied the following limits to movements in the recommended general purpose grant outcomes for 2023–24:

- no floor was applied to councils that were in receipt of the minimum grant in 2022–23;
- grants to increase for all other councils by a minimum of 5 per cent; and
- grant increases to be limited to no more than 17 per cent.

Natural disaster assistance

The 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.

For 2023–24, it was recommended that a total of $367,977 be allocated to six councils for twelve events referred to in Table 20.

Table 20 Victorian natural disaster assistance grants to councils for 2023–24

Recipient council	*Type of disaster*	*Amount (in dollars)*
Baw Baw (Shire)	Floods and Storms	$92,975
East Gippsland (Shire)	Storms	$105,000
Mansfield (Shire)	Storms	$12,487
Moorabool (Shire)	Floods and Storms	$35,000
South Gippsland (Shire)	Storms	$70,000
Wellington (Shire)	Storms	$52,515
Total	**Various**	**$367,977**

Methodology for local roads grants

The Commission's methodology 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 series of 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.

This formula is designed to reflect the relative needs of Victorian councils in relation to local roads funding in accordance with the national principle relating to the allocation of local roads funding.

Road and traffic volume data

The allocation of local roads grants for 2023–24 was based on road length and traffic volume data reported by all councils for the 12 months to June 2022.

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

Victorian councils reported a total of 133,292 kilometres of local roads as at 30 June 2022, an increase of 278 kilometres, or 0.2% more than the length reported 12 months earlier.

Where significant changes were made to the data previously provided, councils were asked to verify those data changes and, in some instances, provide additional supporting documentation.

Variations to changes in road length reported by councils were as follows:

- Increase of more than 5.0 per cent – reported by 2 councils
- Increase of 1.0 per cent to 5.0 per cent – reported by 6 councils
- Increase of up to 1.0 per cent – reported by 33 councils
- No change# – reported by 30 councils
- Decreases – reported by 8 councils.

2022–23 and 2023–24 – As a result of COVID-19, the Commission reviewed all data which may have been impacted by the pandemic. In relation to their local roads data, councils were asked to update their road length data where applicable, but not to adjust traffic volume data.

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 used in the 2023–24 allocations were unchanged from the previous year and are shown in Table 21.

Table 21 Victorian asset preservation costs

Local road type	*Daily traffic volume range*	*Annual asset preservation cost (in dollars per km)*
Urban	Less than 500	$8,640
Urban	500 to less than 1,000	$11,760
Urban	1,000 to less than 5,000	$15,840
Urban	5,000 +	$25,680
Rural	Natural Surface	$840
Rural	Less than 100	$6,000
Rural	100 to less than 500	$12,480
Rural	500 to less than 1,000	$13,920
Rural	1,000 +	$15,840
Timber bridge	Not applicable	$240 per square metre
Concrete bridge	Not applicable	$144 per square metre

Cost modifiers

The Commission's formula for allocating local roads grants is designed to reflect the relative needs of Victorian councils in relation to local roads funding in accordance with the national principle relating to the allocation of local roads funding.

The allocation model uses a series of five cost modifiers to reflect differences in circumstances between councils in relation to:

- the relative volume of freight carried on local roads in each council
- climate
- the availability of road-making materials
- sub-grade conditions
- 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.

Grant calculation

The Commission calculates a total network cost for each council's local roads. 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 carriage, climate, materials availability, sub-grade conditions and strategic route lengths. The deck area of bridges on local roads is included in the network cost at a rate of $144 per square metre for concrete bridges and $240 per square metre for timber bridges.

The calculation of the "network cost" for each traffic volume range is calculated using:

- Length of local; multiplied by
- Asset preservation; multiplied by
- Overall cost modifier (which is calculated by multiplying the cost modifier for freight, climate, materials, reactive sub-grades and strategic routes).

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

Limits to grant movements

The Commission did not apply any limits to movements in the recommended local roads grant outcomes for 2023–24.

Methodology Changes

The Commission has a continuous process of reviewing and adjusting its allocation methodology in consultation with councils.

Prior to determining its recommendations for the 2023–24 allocations, the Commission reviewed several key aspects of the grants allocation formula.

In preparing its recommendations for general purpose grants for 2023–24, the Commission gave consideration to issues raised by councils through written submissions and the individual and statewide meetings held with councils throughout the year.

All data used by the Commission in allocating general purpose grants has been updated where possible. Major inputs for the 2023–24 allocation include Australian Bureau of Statistics' population estimates, valuations data and the most recent information on council expenditure and revenue. Significant data sets from the 2021 Census, including socio-economic disadvantage and employment data have also been incorporated into the allocation model for 2023–24.

Considering the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the Commission did not incorporate the most recent data provided by Tourism Research Australia and continued to utilise pre-pandemic tourism data in the relevant sections of the methodology.

In addition to incorporating revised data sets, the Commission has made three changes to the allocation methodology as follows:

- an increase in the base population used in the Environment and Business and Economic Services functions from 15,000 to 17,500 to take account of increasing 'flag fall' costs in providing these services;
- an adjustment to the calculation of the number of non-permanent residents to take account of the increased usage of secondary dwellings during and post COVID; and
- a technical change to the way in which the relative rate revenue raising capacity of each council is calculated, to ensure that councils with decreasing populations do not receive an unintended advantage.

Victorian Local Government Report

Performance Reporting

In 2023, the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) collected its ninth year of sector performance data from all Victorian councils. Established in November 2015 and launched by the Minister for Local Government, the framework and related Know Your Council reporting system and website (www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council) is designed to improve council transparency and accountability by enabling the community to access and compare council performance.

The LGPRF requires all Victorian councils to annually collect and report their data against 58 performance indicators across 11 different service areas, including finance, roads, waste collection and food safety. The framework also includes a checklist of 24 items considered essential for supporting good governance and management in local government.

Following consultation with the sector and feedback from stakeholders, the framework was enhanced by introducing targets for eight selected performance indicators. The inclusion of council-set performance targets marks a significant advancement in the framework's development, strengthening transparency by allowing the public to see the council's goals in the annual budget and tracking the achievement of those goals in the Annual Report.

Councils included their targets for four service and four financial measures in the 2023–24 budgets and reported on outcomes for the same year.

Sector Reforms

Rural Councils Transformation Project

The Victorian Government's December 2017 'Rural and Regional Councils Sustainability Reform Program' report found that rural and regional councils face greater financial and operational sustainability challenges than metropolitan councils. Following this report, the Victorian Government committed $20 million to the 'Rural Councils Transformation Program'. The program aims to improve rural and regional councils' financial sustainability by:

- Achieving economies of scale through regional service delivery or collaborative procurement
- Promoting more efficient and improved service delivery through collaboration and innovation
- Facilitating benefits for rural and regional communities, prioritising rural communities
- Demonstrating potential efficiencies to be gained through regional service delivery.

Over two rounds of funding totalling $16.43 million, RCTP has sought to support 31 rural and regional councils, working together on 12 projects, to better address their financial and operational challenges. This has included joined-up service delivery of corporate services, procurement and asset management. The adoption of regional service delivery models can help to achieve greater service benefits for rural communities through increased collaboration across councils, and the delivery of greater efficiencies.

RCTP has also funded the development of the Rural and Regional IT Strategic Implementation Framework for Shared Services that provides guidance to rural and regional councils on a shared service approach to IT implementation to enhance organisational capability and performance and improve the customer experience for Victorians. This built on the RCTP2 IT Implementation Strategy for Shared Services that provided guidance to the 25 councils funded under RCTP Round 2 on implementing technology shared services solutions.

Supporting councils to adapt to new ways of operating is a shared effort with the sector and is key to increasing the long-term sustainability of rural and regional councils.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Initiatives

Local Government Victoria participated in several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Initiatives during this reporting period.

It continued to implement the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021–2026 (VALGS), which provides councils with a practical guide that will help embed the voices and priorities of Aboriginal communities at a local government level.

The Strategy has guided the local government sector's engagement with Aboriginal Victorians, in line with the Victorian Government's vision and work towards Treaty and Closing the Gap targets.

In 2023, the Victorian Government established the VALGS Strategic Working Group made up of representatives from the Victorian Aboriginal community, local government, and the Victorian Government to support and monitor VALGS implementation. The Working Group's deep knowledge of the Aboriginal sector played a vital role in meeting the Victorian Government's commitment to build and support a strong partnership between Victoria's First Peoples and the local government sector. Its advice and insights have given the Victorian Government a better understanding of:

- The issues and barriers surrounding VALGS implementation
- The evaluation of VALGS at a state-wide level
- The reported level of cultural capacity within councils
- Opportunities to improve partnerships and engagement between councils, Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal community more broadly.

The Victorian Government, in conjunction with the Strategic Working Group and Reconciliation Victoria, conducted a sector-wide survey to assess councils' awareness of VALGS and build a baseline on council progress in their VALGS implementation. The findings of the survey will inform Local Government Victoria's future internal VALGS implementation work program, including its work with local government peak bodies.

During the 2023–24 period, Local Government Victoria continued to support local government and Traditional Owner engagement strategies as part of current and future Recognition and Settlement Agreements (RSAs). Efforts have focused on supporting the most recently ratified RSA, with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. Local Government Victoria has also contributed to the monitoring and implementation of the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation RSA.

LGV works with councils to support the implementation of the Local Government Engagement Strategy (LGES) to meet the aspirations of the Traditional Owners under their RSAs. The Taungurung Local Government Forum was established to further Taungurung, State and council priorities. It enables effective engagement approaches between the parties to deliver on the RSA's objectives. The Forum met in April 2024 and August 2024. The forum is an important step in helping to coordinate local government engagement with Aboriginal people that reduces the burden on Traditional Owners to engage with multiple councils on overlapping issues.

Local Government Reform Activities – Deregulation and Legislative Changes

Reforms to the Local Government Act 2020

The Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission's (IBAC) Operation Sandon Special Report (tabled on 27 July 2023) made 34 recommendations to improve transparency in the planning system and increase accountability in local government. 17 of these recommendations are directed to the Local Government Portfolio and are supported in-principle by the Victorian Government.

The *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* received Royal Assent on 25 June 2024. The Act implements the first stage of reforms designed to improve councillor conduct and accountability by introducing:

- Mandatory regular professional development training for councillors and training mayors and deputy mayors, including on conflicts of interest
- A uniform Model Councillor Code of Conduct
- Higher sanctions for findings of misconduct.

These reforms, and associated amendments to the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*, acquit seven of the recommendations made by IBAC in the Operation Sandon Special Report.

Local Government Reform Activities – Efficiency and Effectiveness of local government service delivery

Gender Equality Initiatives

Local Government Victoria continued to implement gender equality focused programs over the reporting period.

Women Leading Locally is a $1.8m councillor readiness and retention program. It is primarily targeted at the municipalities with the lowest female representation following the October 2020 local government elections. Young women, women who are Aboriginal, live with a disability, are from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds or identify as LGBTQI+ were especially encouraged to apply.

Women Leading Locally builds awareness of and skills in key areas of councillor responsibility via a series of masterclasses. These include Values Led Leadership, Managing Conflict, and Governance and Accountability. The program has been managed by the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA). Specialty content was also provided by the leadership group, Politics in Colour.

In August 2023, the first cohort of 59 women graduated from the Women Leading Locally program masterclass series. The second cohort of 60 women graduated in August 2024.

39 of the program's 122 participants (approximately one third) nominated as candidates in the October 2024 local government elections.

Surveying conducted by ICDA noted that respondents found the program to be:

- A safe place to learn
- Applicable to their real-world setting
- Encouraging and supportive
- A credible source of information.

Women Leading Locally is designed to inspire, equip, and sustain women to become – and remain – successful local representatives for their communities. Fellows from both cohorts are encouraged to form a strong alumnus, offering mutual friendship and support on their leadership journeys. Further evaluation of the program and analysis of the results of the 2024 local government elections will inform future policy directions.

The Victorian Government's Gender Equality Strategy, Our Equal State, sets the framework for improving gender equality, diversity and participation in Victorian communities.

B3 Report from the Municipal Association of Victoria

Developments in financial and asset management

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is supporting Victorian councils in the development and use of long-term financial and asset management plans. While these are fundamental for councils to have in place, it is a challenge to ensure their accuracy.

One major issue, consistent across the state, is accessing an accurate cost index, as council costs increase at a higher rate than the CPI figure used to set Victoria's rate cap.

The MAV is taking the lead in developing a more accurate Victorian Local Government Cost Index.

We have experimented with more complex indices involving upwards of 20 different components such as gas and printing costs. We found that any difference in the output did not warrant the increased complexity.

Employee costs contribute 40% to the cost index. We use increases in the Local Government Industry Award, as well as incorporating increases to the Superannuation Guarantee.

While each Victorian council has negotiated an EBA with its workforce, the award still represents a good statewide basis and is the comparison point for Better Off Overall Tests in negotiations.

Infrastructure costs are set at 30% and use the Road and Bridge Construction Index for Victoria published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The MAV believes this index, which we are currently road testing with a selection of councils, may be somewhat conservative compared to the costs being experienced on the ground by councils. However, it still stands as the best option for a broadly available and trusted figure. Finally, we use the CPI for Melbourne for the remaining 30% to account for all other costs.

The MAV is also supporting councils through 'Financial Health Assessments'.

Using the wealth of local government experience and expertise, we are working with councils to analyse their long-term financial and asset plans, and what they will need into the future pending their growth trajectory.

Working with councils, our reports offer a series of recommendations for their consideration, ranging from specific immediate actions right through to 10, 20, and 50 year plans.

At a council level, Yarra City Council (YCC) adopted a Victorian-first Financial Sustainability Strategy (FSS). The FSS identifies seven strategic levers:

- Sustainable cash reserves and responsible borrowing
- Optimise revenue
- Well planned assets
- Review the service landscape
- Invest in transformation
- Robust financial management
- Prioritise advocacy and partnerships.

Comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

Councils not only continue to monitor and compare performance and financial management of services and assets, but they are also proving agile and innovative in collaborating to ensure best financial management possible.

Councils are not merely sitting back calling for other levels of government to solve their problems. They are actively pursuing solutions.

The MAV has increased its own work engaging councils, in turn connecting and encouraging comparisons across service delivery, asset management, and fees and charges. This includes regular engagement, open forums, and networking opportunities for elected officials, CEOs and leadership teams, and officers in specific portfolios across communications, emergency management, and early years learning.

In 2024, the MAV initiated the development of a Victorian local government Data Hub to enable Victorian councils to benchmark and compare service levels, funding and a range of other data sets, including planning and building activity and housing, between local governments. The MAV Data Hub platform and the underlying data behind it will also enable and inform Victorian councils to share data-driven storytelling. Over time, the MAV seeks to further develop this data platform to enable Victorian councils to measure their public value to the communities they serve and support.

Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery

The MAV's Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability highlighted a number of case studies which showed councils improving efficiency and effectiveness through innovation and collaboration.

Some of those examples include:

MyLi – My Community Library delivers comprehensive library services across Baw Baw Shire, Bass Coast Shire, Cardinia Shire, and South Gippsland Shire.

As the first library service in Victoria to become a not-for-profit organisation following changes to Victorian legislation, MyLi represents a pioneering model for library services. South Gippsland, Bass Coast, and Baw Baw Shire, formerly part of the West Gippsland Library Corporation, were the founding members of MyLi, and Cardinia has since joined the service.

In a innovative initiative, Benalla, Mansfield, Murrindindi, and Strathbogie Shire Councils embarked on a digital transformation project aimed at improving operational efficiencies and service delivery through a collaborative model.

By leveraging shared platforms and architecture, these four councils capitalize on their collective strengths, reducing administrative overheads and fostering a cooperative environment that promotes efficiencies and excellence.

In 2024, the MAV in partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong commenced the Advancing AI Innovation in Local Government project. Funded by the Commonwealth Housing Support Program, this project will inform guidance and recommendations for local governments across Victoria to procure AI and automation tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of statutory planning in councils.

This ground-breaking project will help find efficiencies in the planning process to support the delivery of more houses faster. This project is an opportunity to equip council planning officers with tools that empower them to do their job better and more efficiently, with an ecosystem of leading practitioners with expertise in statutory planning, AI, data and automation, regulation, and technology ethics to provide leading insight and recommendations to the Victorian local government sector.

Services provided by local governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

In 2024 the MAV released its new Strategic Plan to guide the sector, which featured First Peoples local government relations as one of the organisation's 10 key priorities.

We will work with the First Peoples' Assembly to connect with councils across the state to build understanding and capacity in treaty negotiations and continue to close the gap.

Further work alongside the sector has begun to deepen dialogue with the First Peoples' Assembly to support local engagement with councils. This work supports councils to engage their communities with the Victorian Treaty process.

B4 Report from the Queensland Government

Queensland method for distributing the Financial Assistance Grant for 2023–24

General Purpose Grant (GPG)

General description of the fiscal capacity methodology

The fiscal capacity model calculates the potential revenue a council could raise if it experienced the same set of underlying conditions as the average Local Government Area (LGA) (note: in the formula section of the report, councils are referred to as LGAs for consistency with formula descriptions). The potential revenue is compared against the capacity for an LGA to raise revenue, given its actual conditions or limiting factors. The difference between the potential and capacity is essentially the fiscal gap. This fiscal gap is used to determine how much of the grant pool should be allocated to each LGA.

In calculating the fiscal gap, two multipliers are applied to the potential side of the equation:

1. A population segment uplift is applied, determined by which segment an LGA falls into. The segment uplift attempts to reflect the elements that shape expenses in the operating environments of similar size LGAs
2. A set of cost factors are also applied. The cost factors are unique to each LGA and attempt to reflect how different circumstances impact expenses in the operating environments of LGAs.

Applying these multipliers to the potential side of the equations will adjust the fiscal gap.

The final calculation is the use of scaling. The fiscal gap is used to determine an LGAs share of the grant pool, and then scaled by the ratio of the gap to the potential, so that large councils don’t necessarily receive a greater allocation by virtue of their larger numbers. This scaling is explained in further detail below.

Assumptions and limitations

The fiscal gap calculation is the mechanism for determining an LGAs share of the available FA Grant pool. It does not necessarily reflect the actual fiscal support each LGA should receive to function at an average standard, as the purpose of the FA Grant is to address relative disadvantage between LGAs.

There are many elements that contribute to relative disadvantage which can be qualitative in nature and not readily measurable. To address this challenge, a number of metrics are used as a proxy for some component of disadvantage.

General process of GPG model

Calculate Fiscal Gap

$$\text{Fiscal Gap} = (\text{Potential} \times \text{Segment Uplift} \times \text{Cost Factors}) - \text{Capacity}$$

Apply Proportionate Scaling

$$\text{Scaled Amount} = \left(\frac{\text{Fiscal Gap}}{(\text{Potential} \times \text{Segment Uplift} \times \text{Cost Factors})} \right) \times \text{Fiscal Gap}$$

Final GPG Allocation

$$\text{GPG Allocation} = \text{LGA Minimum Grant} + \left(\frac{\text{LGA Scaled Amount}}{\text{Sum of all Scaled Amounts}} \right) \times (\text{GPG Grant Pool} - \text{Minimum Grant Total})$$

where:

$$\text{LGA Minimum Grant} = \text{per capita Minimum Grant} \times \text{LGA Population}$$

and:

$$\text{Per capita Minimum Grant} = \text{QLD GPG Pool} \times 30\% \div \text{QLD Population}$$

Revenue items

Rates

A council's capacity to raise revenue through rating has two main drivers: the number of rateable properties and the value of the rateable properties.

Councils can decide on rating via a cents-in-the-dollar approach, a fixed amount per property based on type and features, or a combination of both. Challenges in comparing rates between councils arise because there is no consistency or standardised rating system, multiple rating categories and some councils do not have rateable properties (indigenous).

Formula

Potential

The rate revenue *potential* for a council is calculated by multiplying the number of rateable properties in that council area by the average rates revenue per property for the state.

$$\text{LGA Rate Revenue Potential} = \text{LGA 5 year avg no. of rateable properties} \times \text{QLD avg rates revenue per property}$$

where:

$$\text{QLD avg rates revenue per property} = \frac{\text{QLD 5 year avg rates revenue per LGA}}{\text{QLD 5 year avg no. of rateable properties per LGA}}$$

and:

- 'LGA 5 year avg no. of rateable properties' includes residential, commercial and rural properties
- 'QLD 5 year avg rates revenue per LGA' is net general rate revenue
- 'QLD 5 year avg rates revenue per LGA' and 'QLD 5 year avg no. of rateable properties per LGA' excludes non-rating LGAs.

Capacity

The rate revenue *capacity* for a council is calculated by multiplying the total value of rateable properties in that council area by the percentage of rates as a share of total property value in the state.

$$\text{LGA Rate Revenue Capacity} = \text{LGA 5 year avg value of rateable properties} \times \text{QLD rates as share of property values}$$

where:

$$\text{QLD rates as share of property values} = \frac{\text{QLD 5 year avg rates revenue per LGA}}{\text{QLD 5 year avg property values per LGA}}$$

and:

- 'LGA 5 year avg value of rateable properties' and 'QLD 5 year avg property values per LGA' include residential and commercial properties
- 'QLD 5 year avg rates revenue per LGA' is net general rate revenue
- 'QLD 5 year avg rates revenue per LGA' and 'QLD 5 year avg property values per LGA' excludes non-rating LGAs.

Water and Wastewater Revenue

Many councils, particularly smaller regional councils, have experienced significant population decline over time. This has resulted in large legacy asset bases with a reduced capacity to service and maintain them. The fiscal capacity calculation used for water and wastewater revenue addresses this issue.

The main component of the water and wastewater fiscal capacity is the Economic Real Rate of Return (ERRoR). ERRoR is the annual percentage of profit earned on an investment.

$$\text{ERRoR} = \frac{[\,(\text{Operating Revenue} - \text{Operating Expenses}) \times 100\,]}{\text{Written down replacement cost}}$$

where:

- *Operating revenue* = Revenue from utility operations
- *Operating Expenses* = Operation, maintenance, administration expenses and current cost of depreciation for the utility
- *Written down replacement cost* = Written down replacement cost of operational assets for the utility.

Formula

Potential

The water and wastewater revenue *potential* for a council is calculated by multiplying the state average ERRoR by the total water and wastewater asset base for that council. This potential revenue reflects the revenue that a council could generate from its assets if it had an average population (i.e. rate payers).

LGA Water & Wastewater Revenue Potential
=
QLD avg ERRoR W&WW x LGA 5 year avg Written Down Value of W&WW Assets

where:

QLD avg ERRoR W&WW = Avg [ERRoR(Qld Urban Utilities), ERRoR(UnityWater)]

and:

ERRoR = ((QG3.9 + QG3.10) – ((QG3.11 x (QG1.13 + QG1.14))
+ (QG3.12 x (QG1.15 + QG1.16))) – (QG3.15 + QG3.16))
÷ (QG3.5 + QG3.6)

where:

Table 22 Queensland key performance indicators (KPI)

KPI Code	*Indicator Title*	*Units*
QG 1.13	Connected residential properties – water supply	000s
QG 1.14	Connected non-residential properties – water supply	000s
QG 1.15	Connected residential properties – sewerage	000s
QG 1.16	Connected non-residential properties – sewerage	000s
QG 3.9	Total revenue – water	$,000
QG 3.10	Total revenue – sewerage	$,000
QG 3.11	Operating cost – water	$/connection
QG 3.12	Operating cost – sewerage	$/connection
QG 3.15	Current cost depreciation – water	$,000
QG 3.16	Current cost depreciation – sewerage	$,000
QG 3.5	Nominal written-down replacement cost of fixed water supply assets	$,000
QG 3.6	Nominal written-down replacement costs of fixed sewerage assets	$,000

and:

- above metrics are key performance indicators reported in the Statewide Water Information Management (SWIM) system by Qld Water
- all above input data is averaged over 5 years
- ERRoR is expressed as a percentage.

Capacity

The capacity for a council to generate water and wastewater revenue is calculated by multiplying the number of water and wastewater connections for that council by the state average water and wastewater revenue per connection.

LGA Water & Wastewater Revenue Capacity
=
QLD avg return on W&WW per connection x LGA no. of Connections

where:

QLD avg return on W&WW per connection
=
QLD Written Down Value of W&WW Assets x QLD avg ERRoR W&WW ÷ QLD no. of connections

and:

- QLD Written Down Value of W&WW Assets = [Avg of WDV Water Assets (Qld Urban Utilities) and WDV Water Assets (Unitywater)] + [Avg of WDV Sewerage Assets (Qld Urban Utilities) and WDV Sewerage Assets (Unitywater)]
- QLD avg ERRoR W&WW = Avg of ERRoR (Qld Urban Utilities) and ERRoR (UnityWater)
- QLD no. of connections = Avg of Total water connections (Qld Urban Utilities) and Total water connections (UnityWater)
- LGA no. of Connections = LGA total water connections
- All input data is averaged over 5 years.

User Fees and Charges

The revenue that a council can receive from user fees and charges is broadly reflective of economic conditions in their council area. The three main variables used in this component of the fiscal capacity model are business counts, gross value added (GVA), and user fees and charges revenue.

Business counts are published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and user fees and charges revenue is provided by councils annually in the consolidated data collection. GVA is an economic productivity metric used to measure of the contribution to Gross State Product (GSP) for each LGA. GSP is a measurement of the state’s economic output, including value added across all industries (i.e. the value of goods and services produced).

Formula

Potential

$$\text{User fees and charges revenue POTENTIAL} = \left(\frac{\text{QLD 5 year avg user fees and charges revenue per LGA}}{\text{QLD avg business count per LGA}}\right) \times \text{LGA business count}$$

Capacity

$$\text{User fees and charges revenue CAPACITY} = \left(\frac{\text{QLD 5 year avg user fees and charges revenue per LGA}}{\text{QLD 5 year avg Gross Value Added per LGA}}\right) \times \text{LGA 5 year avg Gross Value Added}$$

Other Grants

Under the national principles, other grant support is to be taken into account on an "inclusion approach". This "inclusion approach" is not defined and can be interpreted by the states grants commissions. The Queensland approach considers the five-year average operating grants (state and commonwealth) and population per LGA.

Formula

Potential

$$\text{Other grant revenue Potential} = \text{QLD 5 year avg total operating grants per LGA}$$

where:

- '*QLD 5 year average total operating grants per LGA*' includes Commonwealth and State operating grant revenue.

Capacity

$$\text{Other grant revenue Capacity} = \text{QLD 5 year avg operating grants per capita} \times \text{LGA 5 year avg population}$$

where:

- '*QLD 5 year average total operating grants per capita*' includes Commonwealth and State operating grant revenue.

Expenditure

A series of multipliers are applied to the revenue *potential* calculation to adjust the fiscal gap, including a population segment uplift multiplier and a set of cost factors. The cost factors are unique to each LGA and attempt to reflect how different circumstances impact expenses in the operating environments of LGAs.

Segment uplift

The purpose of applying a segment level uplift is to capture the broad array of factors that contribute to an LGAs operating environment that can be difficult to quantify, including services which fall to councils as a 'provider of last resort'. For the purpose of this model, we have segmented on the basis shown in Table 23 below:

Table 23 Queensland segment level uplift

Segment	*Population*	*No. of Councils*	*Segment uplift*
Indigenous	n/a	16	1.3
Very Small	< 10,000	22	1.9
Small	10,000 to 24,999	11	1.3
Medium	25,000 to 79,999	13	0.5
Minimum Grant	≥80,000	15	0

The segment uplift multiplier also assists in addressing the divergence between operating revenue and expenditure depending on population (see Financial assistance grant allocation methodology, Information paper, August 2022).

Cost factors

The purpose of the cost factors is to reflect the components of an LGA operating expenditure environment on an individual level. The cost factors are multiplied together with the segment uplift to give a final multiple against revenue potential which will be unique to each non-minimum grant council.

The cost factors that are applied in the general purpose calculation are: *Remoteness, Indigenous population, SEIFA (Advantage and Disadvantage) and Dispersion*.

Remoteness

The *Remoteness* cost factor recognises the greater impost on council operating expenditure of remote councils. It utilises the 'Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA)'.

Cost factor = Transformation (LGA ARIA score)

Indigenous population

The *Indigenous population* cost factor recognises the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local government area, as required by the national principles. It utilises the Census data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by local government area, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

$$\text{Cost factor} = \text{Transformation}\left(\frac{\text{LGA Indigenous Population}}{\text{LGA Total Population}}\right)$$

SEIFA (Advantage and Disadvantage)

The *SEIFA (Advantage and Disadvantage)* cost factor recognises the impact on council operating expenditure of socio-economic factors that create advantage and disadvantage in the local government area. It utilises the 'Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (Advantage and Disadvantage Index)', by local government area, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

$$\text{Cost factor} = \text{Transformation (LGA SEIFA score)}$$

Dispersion

The *Dispersion* cost factor recognises the impact on council operating expenditure of a number of dispersed population centres in the local government area. The cost factor is a rank for each council based on the number of population centres, as well as the average distance of centres from the primary population centre, in the local government area.

$$\text{Cost factor} = \text{Transformation \{Rank [Rank (Avg distance from primary centre) + Rank (No. of population centres)]\}}$$

Linear transformation calculation

The cost factors used are all on different scales. For example, Remoteness uses the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which is on a scale of 0.01 to 15, while Indigenous population is a range of percentages from 1 per cent to 95 per cent. To be able to create a set of equally weighted multipliers, these measures must be converted to a consistent range. To achieve this, the following linear transformation is used (not to be confused with matrix transformation, more similar to normalization equation):

To transform a measure x, that is part of a range of measures, to a new scale y, where: $x \geq 0$

Where the largest measure indicates most disadvantaged (this applies to the *Remoteness*, *Indigenous Population* and *Dispersion* cost factors):

$$\text{Transformation} = y_{min} + \left(\frac{(y_{max} - y_{min})}{(x_{max} - x_{min})} \times (x - x_{min}) \right)$$

Where the largest measure indicates least disadvantaged (this applies to the *SEIFA* cost factor):

$$\text{Transformation} = y_{max} - \left(y_{min} + \frac{(y_{max} - y_{min})}{(x_{max} - x_{min})} \times (x - x_{min}) \right) + y_{min}$$

where:

- y_{min} = minimum value for multiplier range
- y_{max} = maximum value for multiplier range
- x_{min} = minimum value from input data set used to calculate multiplier
- x_{max} = maximum value from input data set used to calculate multiplier
- x = individual LGA value from input data set used to calculate multiplier

Example of an LGA's SEIFA multiplier calculation:

$$\text{SEIFA multiplier} = 1.1 - \left(1 + \frac{(1.1 - 1)}{(1060 - 566)} \times (941 - 566) \right) + 1 = \mathbf{1.02}$$

Scaling

One of the fundamental constraints of the FA Grant is the objective of supporting horizontal fiscal equalisation through a limited pool of funds. The fiscal capacity result acts as a mechanism to allocate the limited pool of funds. In an ideal scenario, the sum of the fiscal gaps would equal the pool of funds available. Unfortunately, this is not the case, so the grant amount must be scaled somehow to match the funding available with the allocation amounts.

There are a number of ways to approach this scaling problem. The simplest is to apply a simple proportional approach. That is, to calculate each LGA's share of the pool based on their fiscal gap share of the total fiscal gap. Note that this solution will favour larger LGAs, as often their fiscal gap is larger, due to the scale of their businesses.

The scaling approach we have adopted is referred to as proportionate scaling. Under this approach the fiscal gap is scaled based on its proportion to the potential amount. A hypothetical example is shown below.

In this example, the sum of the fiscal gaps is $30M, however the grant pool available is only $8M. If the simple scaling approach was adopted, then all three LGAs would receive the same amount (approximately $2.7M for each LGA).

If Simple Proportional Scaling were used:

Table 24 Queensland simple proportional scaling

Council	Potential	Capacity	Fiscal Gap	Share of Gap	Result
Council A	$100m	$90m	$10m	33%	$2.7m
Council B	$40m	$30m	$10m	33%	$2.7m
Council C	$20m	$10m	$10m	33%	$2.7m

As one of our goals is to achieve more equitable outcomes, we want to weight the scaling towards those LGAs with the greatest need. As shown below, the proportionate scaling outcome weights the funding available towards LGAs where the fiscal gap is a greater proportion of their potential.

Proportionate Scaling Example (as used in model):

Table 25 Queensland proportionate scaling

Council	Potential	Capacity	Fiscal Gap	Funding need share of Potential	Basis for Proportionate scaling
Council A	$100m	$90m	$10m	10%	$1m
Council B	$40m	$30m	$10m	25%	$2.5m
Council C	$20m	$10m	$10m	50%	$5m

As shown above, the proportionate scaling in the model ensures that councils with the greater need receive the greater share of the available GPG.

Identified Road Grant

National principles guidance for the Identified Road Grant (IRG) states that this component of the FA Grant should be allocated as far as practicable on the basis of the relative needs of each LGA for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. The National Principles also state that in assessing road needs, relevant considerations include length, type and usage of roads.

Key features of the IRG model are:

- Two data inputs: LGA self-reported length of roads (5-year average) and a Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) supplied cost relativity index
- The IRG pool is split into two pools for Minimum Grant LGAs and non-minimum grant LGAs, based on the inverse proportion of population in both groups, or 'cohorts'
- The length of roads is multiplied by the cost relativity index, and this amount determines the share of the relevant funding pool.

Cost Relativity Index

This index is supplied by DTMR and represents the relative per km cost to maintain roads for each LGA.

Note that the cost relativity index is not available for all indigenous LGAs. Therefore, the average of available indigenous indexes is used for all indigenous LGAs.

Key points

- The relativity index is not released to the public
- Unit rates are updated annually
- The rate reflects difference in construction/maintenance costs for each LGA based on a broad selection of road type measures.

Formula

$$\text{LGA IRG Allocation} = \left(\frac{\text{LGA adjusted cost per km}}{\text{Group total cost per km}}\right) \times \text{Group Funding Pool}$$

where:

$$\text{LGA adjusted cost per km} = \text{LGA relativity to lowest cost per km} \times \text{LGA 5 year avg road length}$$

where:

$$\text{LGA relativity to lowest cost per km} = \frac{\text{LGA cost per km (TMR)}}{\text{Group minimum cost per km}}$$

And where the funding pools are calculated as the inverse population proportion of that group:

$$\text{Group funding pool} = \left[1 - \left(\frac{\text{Group population}}{\text{State Population}}\right)\right] \times \text{IRG Funding Pool}$$

Dividing the IRG funding pool is an approach adopted in other jurisdictions e.g. NSW. The rationale for this approach is aligned with the reason for allocation of LGAs to only receive the minimum grant component of the GPG.

Table 26 Queensland abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ARIA	Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia
Avg	Average
ERRoR	Economic Real Rate of Return
FA Grants	Financial Assistance Grants
GPG	General Purpose Grants
GSP	Gross State Product
GVA	Gross Value Added
IRG	Identified Road Grants
LGA	Local Government Area
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
W&WW	Water and Wastewater

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the FA Grant for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23

There were no changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the FA Grant for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23. The 2023–24 FA Grant represents the second year of a three-year transition period to the new methodology for FA Grant allocation in Queensland, following a review in 2021.

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 a period of at least 10 years and must review their long-term financial forecast annually. All Queensland local governments are also required to prepare and adopt long-term asset management plans to ensure the sustainable management of council assets. These asset management plans are to be part of, and consistent with, the local government's long-term financial forecast.

In October 2016, the Auditor-General of Queensland tabled a report, on forecasting long-term sustainability of local government, containing recommendations for improvement. In July 2023, the Auditor-General tabled another report on improving asset management in local government. Individual local governments in Queensland continue to implement these recommendations where appropriate.

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

The provision of information by the Queensland Government to the community through the Queensland Local Government Comparative Information Report continued in 2023–24, reporting on 2022–23 financial data. This report assists Local Governments to develop new and more effective methods 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 Queensland Government has implemented a new local government sustainability framework, which commenced on 1 July 2023. The new framework updates the way council sustainability is monitored across five key elements: finances, asset management, governance, compliance, and operating environment. Councils are required to report on a boarder set of sustainability performance measures as part of their 2023–24 general purpose financial statements.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

The department is committed to promoting efficient and effective local government by providing advice, services and capacity building support to local governments. Throughout 2023–24 the department continued to enhance their end-to-end grants management record system to streamline grant project reporting, acquittals and requests.

All candidates for local government elections were required to complete training to inform them about the role of a councillor, and to ensure they are aware of the obligations should they be elected. During 2023–24, more than 1,800 people completed the online candidate training, and more than 260 people attended one of the 71 in-person information or training sessions that were conducted prior to the quadrennial elections in March 2024.

Following the elections, inductions were delivered to 74 councils across Queensland. These sessions introduced new and returning councillors to the context of local government and focused on their obligations as leaders of their communities.

Additionally, all councillors must undertake mandatory post-election training about their responsibilities under Queensland law. Training on a wide range of additional topics has also been developed and is available online to councillors and council staff to complete.

The Advancing Asset Management Project commenced in 2021–22 and is designed to deliver asset management capability improvements for the long-term, with a focus on smaller and remote councils. The initial information gathering phase has been completed and analysis of survey outcomes will inform the ongoing development of tools, support and training to lift asset management capacity and capability.

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

Following the 2023–24 review of funding arrangements for Queensland's Indigenous councils, the Indigenous Councils Funding Program (ICFP) was delivered as a consolidated program in 2023–24. The ICFP consolidates three former programs into one and simplifies the administrative arrangements, with a single funding allocation methodology, as well as making it quicker and easier for councils to receive and use funding.

The new funding methodology allows for Indigenous councils with similar needs to be allocated a similar amount of funding to ensure equitable and transparent distribution. As part of the establishment of the ICFP, the Queensland Government provided an additional $25.8 million for 2023–24. This brought the total ICFP funding for 2023–24 to $69.8 million.

Additionally, the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program (ICCIP) is a $120 million funding program that is delivering critical water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure to Queensland's Indigenous councils. The aim of ICCIP is to support Indigenous councils to deliver projects and infrastructure works relating to critical water, wastewater and solid waste assets, and provide a basis for the long-term strategic management of essential assets. During 2023–24 some Indigenous councils continued to deliver ICCIP projects.

Councils also receive support through existing multiyear grant programs including the Queensland Government's 2021–2024 Works for Queensland Program. This program supports 65 regional councils to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects. The $200 million 2021–2024 program was allocated to 65 councils with $27.93 million being allocated to Queensland's 16 Indigenous councils.

Thirteen priority infrastructure projects totalling $13.419 million were approved for 10 Indigenous council areas under the 2022–2024 Local Government Grants and Subsidies program. These projects continued to be delivered through 2023–24 and beyond.

Local government reform activities during the 2023–24 reporting period, including deregulation and legislative changes

The Queensland Government progressed various legislative reforms in 2023–24, including the *Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* which commenced in November 2023 and the *Local Government Legislation (Councillor Conduct) Amendment Regulation 2024* which commenced in March 2024.

Key reforms included:

- recalibrating the councillor conduct complaints system, including by introducing time limitations for the receipt of complaints, a preliminary assessment process, new public interest considerations, a vexatious complainant declaration process, new publishing requirements for all parties, and new natural justice requirements; and refining the system's jurisdiction
- changes to the councillor conflict of interest requirements
- modernised local government advertising requirements
- a discretionary power for the Electoral Commission of Queensland in relation to the recovery of local government election costs
- compulsory training requirements for councillors
- approval of a new 'Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland'.

B5 Report from the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

Advancing Long-Term Financial and Asset Management in Local Government

Across the state of Queensland, 77 councils play an essential role in coordinating the delivery of services and infrastructure that enhance and support community wellbeing.

Queensland councils continue to report the many challenges they face in maintaining community services and infrastructure to the necessary standards in the face of rising costs and operational complexity.

The Queensland Audit Office (QAO), in its most recent report, identified five primary themes that would aid improvement specifically:

- Governance and internal controls
- Asset management and valuations
- Financial reporting
- Information systems
- Procurement and contract management.

On the theme of asset management, Queensland councils are responsible for over $160 billion in community assets.

Queensland councils invest substantial funds annually to maintain existing assets and develop new ones for their communities. In the 2022–23 financial year, they invested $5 billion (up from $4 billion in 2021–22), marking the highest expenditure in the past five financial years. These investments were funded predominately through grants or operational revenue, with limited reliance on borrowing.

Importantly, the QAO identified that this increase reflected the higher costs of procuring materials and labour and did not mean that community assets were being maintained to the levels that communities require.

For years, Queensland councils have advocated for an improved performance assessment framework that accounts for the diversity of local government operations. Addressing financial health, asset management, governance and regulatory compliance is essential to developing a robust framework for long-term sustainability.

Comparative Performance Measures

The Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works introduced the *Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline (2023)*, effective from the 2023–24 financial year.

This new Guideline addresses the unique challenges faced by Queensland councils, particularly in rural and remote areas, by introducing tailored measures to enhance financial sustainability as shown in Table 27 below.

Queensland councils are now grouped into eight tiers, based on factors such as remoteness and population, with each tier assigned specific benchmarks for the measures. This tiered approach marks a significant improvement over the previous *Financial Management Sustainability Guideline (2013)*, which applied uniform benchmarks to all councils.

Table 27 Tailored measures to enhance financial sustainability

Ratio	***What it measures***
Operating surplus ratio	The extent to which a council's operating revenues (revenue earned from day-to-day business) cover its operational expenses (expenses incurred for day-to-day business).
Operating cash ratio	A council's ability to cover its operational expenses and increase its cash from its core operations – excluding depreciation expense (cost of allocating the value of an asset over its life).
Unrestricted cash expense ratio	How much money a council has available for its regular expenses and unexpected financial needs.
Asset sustainability ratio	How timely a council is in replacing its old assets as they wear out.
Asset consumption ratio	How much of a council's infrastructure assets have been used compared to what it would cost to build new assets with the same benefit to the community.
Leverage ratio	How easily a council can repay its debts.
Council-controlled revenue	How much of a council's revenue comes from sources it can influence – such as being able to increase rates – to make sure it can deal with unexpected financial requirements.
Population growth	A key driver of a council's operating income, service needs and infrastructure requirements in the future.
Asset renewal funding ratio	The ability of a council to pay for its future asset renewal and replacement needs.

The LGAQ's dedicated Digital and Data teams have been providing services and support to councils to assist them in better understanding and utilising their data. Councils have access to a vast amount of comparative data, but this can often be overwhelming or challenging to distil. The LGAQ is supporting councils in gaining key insights to their operations through interactive dashboards and reporting, helping council staff make smarter, data-driven business decisions.

Most recently, the LGAQ has updated benchmark reporting which will allow councils to compare their council against others – or Queensland as a whole. The benchmark reporting compares several different factors, including; operating costs, revenue, liabilities, and specific operational costs for maintenance of parks, water, and sewerage connections. A wider range of tools is also available that compare unemployment rates, community demographics and more. Gaining a better understanding of this type of comparative data helps councils better understand opportunities to improve costs, create efficiencies and deliver better for their communities.

Local Buy, a subsidiary of the LGAQ, provides procurement reporting to member councils through a fully funded procurement technology program. The award-winning initiative enables the processing of council spend data into visualised procurement reports, including de-identified benchmarking of select data points against similar sized councils and segment types.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

A significant focus of the Association over the last year has been an investment in the development of a new Workforce Strategy for Queensland Local Government.

Commencing in late 2023, the Association embarked on a significant program of engagement for the purpose of developing the Strategy to provide guidance on how councils can address many of the identified workforce challenges.

The member-informed Strategy was achieved with significant input and consultation from council civic leaders, chief executive officers, senior executives and human resource officers and their teams.

The Workforce Strategy encourages councils to develop their own Workforce Plans to support their five-year Corporate Plans.

Six primary focus areas were identified as being the most prominent areas of focus for councils:

1. Attracting people to work in local government (Talent Attraction)
2. Retaining employees in local government and maintaining workforce stability by improving CEO retention rates, culture and engagement (Retention and Attrition)
3. Maintaining and growing the skills of council employees (Training and Development)
4. Maximising opportunities for efficiency and productivity (Organisational Effectiveness and HR Governance)
5. Keeping council employees and the community safe (Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing)
6. Ensuring that employment systems support the cost-effective delivery of council services (Workforce Legislation and Industrial Relations).

The LGAQ's efforts to support Queensland councils further include:

- **Procurement Solutions:** An $8 million investment in a procurement platform for streamlined processes, transparency and economic outcomes. This initiative has earned recognition, including the CIPS Excellence in Procurement Award in 2023 and the Best Procurement Transformation and Change Program Award in 2024
- **Rural and Remote Capacity Building:** A $3 million project to provide targeted training to 24 geographically disadvantaged councils
- **First Start Program:** Supporting 370 trainees and 103 apprentices under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative
- **Leadership Development:** Partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors for tailored governance training for council leaders.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

Queensland's 17 First Nations councils deliver vital local government services while addressing unique cultural responsibilities. These councils face limited revenue-generation opportunities and rely heavily on government funding, such as the State Government Financial Aid program.

The LGAQ facilitates an Indigenous Leaders Forum twice a year, bringing together First Nations leaders to discuss and debate emerging issues and set policy direction.

The Association also coordinates the delivery of elected member training and oversees a dedicated Indigenous Capacity Building Project (ICBP) funded through the Queensland State Government that coordinates the delivery of essential training for local government workers in remote communities.

The LGAQ has also helped place 392 trainees and apprentices into First Nation local governments over the last five years, with 203 so far successfully completing their qualifications.

B6 Report from the Western Australian Government

Western Australian method for distributing the Financial Assistance Grant for 2023–24

The Western Australian (WA) share of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) funding for 2023–24 was $377,625,444, being 12.16 per cent of the national allocation of $3,106,445,787. WA's share consisted of $231,362,524 for the general-purpose component and $146,262,920 for the local roads' component.

The WA Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) is responsible for the allocation of the FA Grant in WA.

General purpose grants

In 2023–24, 32 local governments (of the 137) received the minimum grant entitlement which equated to $24.90 per capita. This was an increase from 2022–23 when local governments received $22.94 per capita. Collectively, the local governments receiving the minimum grant accounted for $52.9m (23 per cent) of the total general-purpose funding pool, while comprising 76 per cent of the State's population.

Balanced Budget Methodology

The Commission continues to use the Balanced Budget method for allocating General Purpose Grants. The Balanced Budget approach to horizontal equalisation applies to all 137 local governments in WA and is primarily based on the formula:

Assessed expenditure need less assessed revenue capacity = assessed equalisation requirement.

Calculation of assessed revenue capacity is based on standardised mathematical formula 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 standardised mathematical formula 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.

Cost adjustors

Cost adjustors are determined through a combination of data specific to the cost adjustor as well as a population component. As several small and remote local governments have high (more disadvantaged) cost adjustor specific data scores, a weighting on population in the cost adjustors ensures that local governments with small populations are not compensated excessively.

The cost adjustors (12), in order of significance, as determined by the Commission, are as follows:

- Location;
- Socio-Economic Disadvantage;
- Population Dispersion;
- Climate;
- Aboriginality;
- Growth;
- Fire Mitigation;
- Regional Centres;
- Off-Road Drainage;
- Medical;
- Cyclone; and
- Special Needs.

Table 28 Western Australian cost adjustors applied to expenditure standards

Expenditure standard	*Cost adjustors applied to the expenditure standard*
Governance	Location, Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Aboriginality, Regional Centres
Law, order and public safety	Location, Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Population Dispersion, Fire Mitigation, Cyclone, Special Needs, Aboriginality
Education, health and welfare	Location, Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Population Dispersion, Medical Facilities, Aboriginality
Community amenities	Location, Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Growth, Population Dispersion, Regional Centres, Off-Road Drainage, Special Needs, Aboriginality
Recreation and culture	Location, Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Growth, Population Dispersion, Climate, Regional Centres, Aboriginality
Transport	N/A

Data from a wide range of sources is used to calculate the cost adjustors applied to the expenditure standards. Wherever possible, data is collected from independent sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Table 29 Data sources utilised by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission

Data Type	Source
Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA++)	National Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA)
Socio-economic Indexes of Areas (SEIFA)	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Population, Population forecasts	Australian Bureau of Statistics, Department of Planning – WA Tomorrow Growth Report
Population Dispersion	Australian Bureau of Statistics QuickStats for Townsite Populations
Regional Centres	Determined by the Commission
Aboriginal Population	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Fire Mitigation	Department of Home Affairs and Environment - Biophysical Attributes of Local Government
Cyclone	Australian Building Standards for Cyclone Prone Areas (Australian Building Code Board)
Off-road Drainage Data	Road Information Returns, Main Roads WA
Interest Expenditure/ Investment Revenue	WA Treasury Corporation, WA Local Government Grants Commission Information Returns
Valuations, Area, Assessments	Landgate (Valuer General)
Residential, Commercial and Industrial Rates, Agricultural Rates, Pastoral Rates, Mining Rates	WA Local Government Grants Commission Information Returns
Climate	Bureau of Meteorology

Equalisation averaging

The Commission uses the 'Olympic' method of averaging general-purpose grant equalisation needs. This method uses the last six years of equalisations (grant need), removes the highest and lowest figures and averages the remaining four equalisations.

Local road grant funding

The Commission distributes Local Road Grants using the Asset Preservation Model, which has been in place since 1992.

Under the arrangements approved for WA, seven per cent of the Commonwealth funds provided for local roads are allocated for special projects (one-third for roads servicing remote Aboriginal communities and two-thirds for bridges). The remaining 93 per cent is distributed in accordance with road preservation needs, as determined by the Commission's Asset Preservation Model (APM).

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 WA contributes an additional third of the cost of special projects funded under this program. The amounts allocated for 2023–24 were as shown in Table 30 below:

Table 30 Allocations of Commonwealth local road grant in Western Australia

Description of component	*Amount ($)*
Roads servicing Aboriginal communities	$3,409,371
Bridges	$6,812,628
Distributed according to the Asset Preservation Model	$136,040,921
Total	**$146,262,920**

Special projects – roads servicing remote Aboriginal communities

In 2023–24, the Special Projects funds for Aboriginal access roads were as shown in Table 31 below:

Table 31 Western Australian special projects funds for Aboriginal access roads

Special projects	*Amount ($)*
Special project funds from the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission	$3,409,371
State funds from Main Roads WA	$1,704,686
Total	**$5,114,057**

The Aboriginal Roads Committee advises the Commission on procedures and priorities for determining the allocations of Commonwealth road funds for roads servicing remote Aboriginal 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;
- National Indigenous Australians Agency;
- Main Roads WA;
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet;
- Department of Communities;
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; and
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).

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

The Committee's recommendations are submitted to the Commission for endorsement.

Special projects – bridges

The 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.

In 2023–24, the Special Project funds for the preservation of bridges were as shown in Table 32 below:

Table 32 2023–24 special project funds for the preservation of bridges in Western Australia

Special projects – bridges	*Amount ($)*
Special project funds from Commission	$6,812,628
State funds from Main Roads Western Australia	$3,406,314
Total	**$10,218,942**

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

- WA Local Government Grants Commission (Chair);
- Western Australian Local Government Association;
- Main Roads WA; and
- DLGSC.

The Committee regularly receives recommendations from Main Roads WA on funding priorities for bridges. Main Roads WA 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 Commission for bridge funding each year.

The Committee's recommendations are submitted to the Commission for endorsement.

Publications

Detailed calculations and explanations are made available to local governments through the Commission's website. Publications include:

- Balanced Budget;
- Quarterly Grant Schedule;
- Schedule of Financial Assistance Grants;
- Principles and Methods of Distribution of Financial Assistance Grants; and
- Annual Report.

Methodology changes for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23

No major refinements were implemented for the 2023–24 grant determinations. However, there were some minor changes that are noted below.

Off-road drainage (cost adjustor)

Drainage infrastructure and costs are not collected annually. To ensure an equitable distribution of FA grants the Commission encourages all local governments to provide accurate costs when requested. As a result of updates to data, there was a significant increase to the assessed allowances for 2022–23. The total off road drainage allowance for 2023–24 is $14.79 million, which is a 5 per cent increase from 2022–23 which was $14.1 million.

Transport standard (expenditure standard)

The Commonwealth's 2020-21 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) funding stream was allocated to local governments largely based on asset preservation needs but were not required to be spent on roads. Based on the WALGA Road Assets and Expenditure Report, 17 per cent of the $190.6 million provided in Phases 1 and 2 was spent on roads.

As this expenditure was not necessarily for asset preservation exclusively, it was proposed to take 71 per cent of this expenditure ($22m) into account, as this represents the proportion of general local government expenditure on roads that focuses on asset preservation.

The effect of this inclusion of 12 per cent of the LRCIP is to increase the total preservation grants netted out from the required transport expenditure from $257.2m to $280m. This had the effect of reducing the transport standard expenditure calculated for local governments and resulted in reductions to local government equalisations in many circumstances.

Medical facilities (cost adjustor)

The Commission agreed to be more targeted of doctor and nurse practitioner expenditure categories recognised through the medical cost adjustor, reflecting the direct cost to local governments.

As a result, the final expenditure categories to be recognised are now; doctor (salary/retainer), car, housing, doctors surgery (rent forgone), communication expenses, and other costs (at the Commission's discretion). The removal of some expenditure led to a decision that rather than having a cost adjustor pool for distribution for medical facilities, the Commission would instead recognise a fixed percentage (82 per cent) of costs, capped at $85,000. Due to the variable nature of medical costs, the Medical Facilities cost adjustor will no longer be indexed in line with the other cost adjustors. The Commission will review the percentage of costs recognised annually.

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

In 2023–24, the State Government continued the delivery of the largest reforms to the system of local government in WA in more than 25 years.

These landmark reforms were within the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (the 2023 Amendment Act), passed by the Western Australian Parliament in May 2023.

They formalise the tiering of local governments in WA into four classes. This tiering enables the implementation of reforms that recognise the immense diversity in local government across the state.

The 2023 Amendment Act will also enable the introduction of a restructured service planning framework, centred around new Council Plans.

Council Plans will be relatively short plans that are based on a long-term view of the likely future issues and needs of the district. Council Plans will be supported by more detailed plans, as specified in regulations. Clear templates will be developed for local governments to use or adapt if they wish to. Implementation of this reform is ongoing as part of the broader package of local government reforms being progressed via regulations.

As part of the Local Government Amendment Bill 2024 reforms (the 2024 Reforms), it is also proposed that local governments will be required to adopt a rates and revenue policy with a four-year projection. This policy will set out the local government's medium-term expectations of what its rate revenue will be and the reasons for any increases or decreases over that term.

In relation to 2024–25, the Local Government Amendment Bill 2024 was passed by the Western Australian Parliament on 27 November 2024; following this, the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* received Royal Assent on 6 December 2024.

This further work to reform local government planning, budgeting and reporting to make it more transparent and reduce red tape for councils is ongoing in close consultation with the sector.

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

As part of the ongoing reforms, the State Government is working to improve the transparency and scope of performance measures between local governments.

The 2023 Amendment Act includes a range of new transparency requirements, including the publication of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), new online registers, and new requirements for ratepayer surveys for larger (class 1 and 2) local governments.

In 2023–24, DLGSC published updated Model Financial Statement templates and associated Guidance Material for 2023–24. Two versions were published, with a redacted version to reduce the reporting requirements on the smaller (class 3 and 4) local governments.

Publication of CEO key performance indicators

The 2023 Amendment Act provides a framework to bolster transparency and accountability of the performance of local government CEOs by requiring that the performance indicators set for the CEO, and the results achieved against them, are published each year in accordance with regulations.

In relation to 2024–25, draft regulations on CEO KPIs were released for public consultation on 18 December 2024; it is anticipated that these provisions will commence in the second half of 2025.

Local government CEOs will be able to include comments or responses alongside the results when they are published. This ensures that the CEO can explain how the effects of disruptions or events – such a natural disaster, economic reasons or other unexpected challenges – may have practically impacted on the results achieved over the year.

Local governments will also be able to seek an exemption for publishing a specific performance indicator, if there is a clear reason. For instance, a CEO performance indicator may relate to confidential staffing matters within the local government. Exemption requests will be considered by the Director General of the DLGSC.

New online registers

Under the reforms, local governments will be required to disclose key information in public online registers, which will be updated on a regular basis.

Regulations will specify the information local governments will need to publish, to ensure everyone has a clear line of sight into how local governments are allocating resources and finances.

In relation to 2024–25, draft regulations on online registers were released for public consultation on 18 December 2024; it is anticipated that these provisions will commence in the second half of 2025.

Under these reforms, regulations will require all local governments to publish:

1. An online register to capture information about the leases the local government has entered into – either as the lessor or lessee. This new transparency measure will ensure that everyone has a clear view into how local government property is being managed
2. An online register to outline all grants and funding provided by the local government to third parties, such as community groups
3. An online register to report all goods or services contracts above a threshold value specified in the regulations. The register will not include individual employment contracts of local government employees
4. An online register to capture all disclosures made by council members about their interests related to matters considered by council. While this information will also remain in meeting minutes, collating it in one register provides a further degree of transparency that will be easily accessible to ratepayers
5. An online applicant contribution register to account for funds collected from applicant contributions, such as cash-in-lieu contributions for public open space and car parking provision made under planning approvals
6. A training register detailing the professional development activities undertaken by council members.

Ratepayer survey

Under the new reforms, larger (class 1 and 2) local will be required to regularly conduct surveys of ratepayers. To enable comparisons between local governments, a small number of standard questions will be set in the regulations. This reform, alongside the reforms to council planning processes remains under development alongside the other wide-ranging reforms to the local government sector.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local Government Act reform

In 2023–24, the State Government continued the delivery of the largest reforms to the system of local government in WA in more than 25 years.

The 2023 Amendment Act received Royal Assent on 18 May 2023. The 2023 Amendment Act introduced a number of key reforms related to elections including the introduction of optional preferential voting in local government elections, measures to increase transparency and accountability, and changes to the size and structure of councils. These changes include the introduction of directly-elected Mayors and Presidents for all class 1 and 2 local governments, abolishing all wards in smaller (class 3 and 4) local governments, and aligning the size of council representation with the population of each local government district.

The 2023 Amendment Act provided for a number of changes to be in effect for the 2023 local government elections. The electoral reforms related to the introduction of directly-elected Mayors and Presidents for class 1 and 2 local governments, removal of wards for class 3 and 4 local governments, and changes to council sizes based upon population.

These reforms resulted in 53 local governments making representation changes for the 2023 local government elections, and a further 17 local governments staging their representation changes for both the 2023 and 2025 local government elections.

Further 2024 Reforms propose to overhaul the existing oversight of local governments through the creation of the new office of Local Government Inspector supported by local government monitors. Once implemented, this reform will further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government service delivery as the Inspector's focus on addressing dysfunction and integrity issues in local governments assists in raising the standard and expectations of local governments.

The 2024 Reforms also clarify the ability for local governments to share CEOs and senior employees which may assist in the attraction and retention of staff to deliver shared services. This is complemented by other reforms that give greater flexibility to regional subsidiaries to bolster their capability to deliver shared services across local governments.

Additionally, local governments will be granted the power to borrow against their freehold land, providing a new capacity to raise capital to deliver community projects or reinvest in renewing aging assets.

Capacity building

To better educate and build capacity across the sector, DLGSC has undertaken several projects over 2023–24, including:

- increasing in-person visits and general engagement with local governments, through:
  - 14 LG Professionals meetings and presentations;
  - 89 WALGA zone meetings;
  - 19 DLGSC-led webinars and presentations;
  - seven multi-agency briefings;

  - 52 LG alerts;
  - 592 calls answered on the LG hotline; and
  - 1,191 emails resolved through the LG hotline.
- A sector-focused webinar series, in partnership with LG Professionals WA, continued in 2023–24. This series is targeted at local government professionals, covering a variety of topics to improve sector capacity building through collaboration, education and providing best practice tools and resources, with topics including:
  - Pets WA centralised registration system for cats and dogs;
  - Nature Play;
  - model financial statements;
  - fair valuation of assets;
  - the minor breach process;
  - differential rates and minimum payments;
  - Compliance Audit Returns; and
  - an update on the Cemeteries and Cremations Act review; and
  - general DLGSC updates.

The DLGSC's Support and Engagement team continued to provide advice and support to the local government sector through webinars, new guidance materials and responding to LG Hotline phone and email enquiries, which experienced a 35% increase in volume overall.

The DLGSC's Local Government division successfully delivered the Placemaking initiative, which provided all local government staff and elected members with free, online placemaking training through Town Team Movement. Over the year, 533 staff from 96 organisations registered for at least one course, and a total of 763 courses were downloaded.

In addition to the Placemaking initiative, DLGSC supported Town Team Movement with the Minister for Local Government's inaugural Place Innovation Awards in 2023. The awards drew nominations from 31 local governments, both regional and metropolitan.

The DLGSC continued to apply the consistent approach to identifying and managing local government non-compliance through the Local Government Capability and Compliance Framework. This framework operationalises the DLGSC's Regulatory Approach to sector regulation through:

- defining non-compliance and various types of non-compliance;
- ensuring consistent decision making to address non-compliance, through the decision-making triage tool; and
- identifying treatment actions where non-compliance is identified.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

To help contain the scope and cost of annual financial statement audits, amendments were made to the regulations on 23 October 2023 to clarify the requirements for valuation of non-financial assets

The amendments ease the burden on the requirements prescribed by the Australian Accounting Standards, which will save on consulting costs, especially for smaller local governments by prescribing revaluations of non-financial assets are only required every 5 years and in the intervening years it is not necessary to undertake and assessment as to whether a revaluation was required.

The new requirements apply from the 2023–24 financial year onwards.

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

Closing the Gap

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG) came into effect on 27 July 2020. Under the National Agreement, each of the States and Territories agreed to develop a jurisdictional implementation plan to guide the reform process. The State Government has developed its first Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Implementation Plan.

In 2022, an Aboriginal Policy and Business Advisor position was established to lead and manage the development and implementation of DLGSC's Reconciliation Action Plan, and to coordinate the implementation of the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Western Australia 2021-2029 and Closing the Gap WA Implementation Plan (the Plan).

The Implementation Plan is closely aligned with the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy, which sets the State Government's high-level strategic approach for working with Aboriginal people towards empowerment and better outcomes. The DLGSC continues to work with the State Government and local government to develop a State action/implementation plan.

The DLGSC has continued its work in partnership with Reconciliation WA, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and WALGA on the Local Government Reconciliation Resource Project "Kolbang Yanginy" meaning going forward and sharing.

The aim and purpose of the Project is to develop a website to assist local governments to engage with local Aboriginal communities to support reconciliation, provide advice and support to local governments with respect to how they can engage with Aboriginal communities, and support local governments to understand and meet legislative requirements with respect to Aboriginal heritage and native title.

Local government reform activities during the 2023–24 reporting period, including deregulation and legislative changes

Local Government Amendment Act 2023

Key provisions of the *2023 Amendment Act* were proclaimed throughout the 2023–24 financial year including reforms to:

1. The introduction of principles in the *Local Government Act 1995*, including to recognise that Aboriginal Western Australians should have greater involvement in local decision-making
2. Formally recognising tiering of local governments in the *Local Government Act 1995* (based on the existing Salaries and Allowances Tribunal framework)

3. Formalising a State-wide caretaker period, to be followed by all local governments during ordinary elections
4. Tightening the rules for the eligibility for a person to be enrolled to vote or run as a candidate in a local government election on the basis of a lease – to address the issue of "sham leases" identified in the Inquiry into the City of Perth
5. Introducing specific requirements for the video streaming of council meetings (class 1 and 2 local governments) and audio recordings of all council meetings (class 3 and 4 local governments)
6. Providing council members with specific entitlements to take parental leave from meetings if they have recently welcomed a new child into their household.

The remaining reforms to be rolled out from the *2023 Amendment Act* are:

1. Reforming Council Planning – streamlining the way local governments plan for their future service delivery
2. Establishing Community Engagement Charters – setting a clear standard for how local governments engage with a diverse range of people within their district
3. Establishing Council Communications Agreements – which provide an improved framework for how council members receive information and advice from the CEO
4. Standardising the meeting procedures for all local council, committee, and electors' meetings across WA
5. Delivering transparency and accountability measures, including new requirements for all local governments to publish information online, such as leases, grants, and significant contracts through public registers
6. Setting a new requirement for the publication of performance indicators and results for all local government CEOs, with limited exemptions for confidential matters.

Work to implement these reforms, including through new regulations, continued throughout 2023–24. Work also continued on the 2024 Reforms, which is the second tranche of legislation that will provide, amongst various matters, for the establishment of the Local Government Inspector and facilitate the appointment of local government monitors.

In relation to 2024–25, the Local Government Amendment Bill 2024 was passed by the Western Australian Parliament on 27 November 2024; regulations are currently in development in order to implement these Local Government Amendment Act 2024 reforms.

All of these reform initiatives have been progressed in consultation with the sector.

Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2023

These regulations made series of amendments to local government regulations:

- A small number of technical amendments, including requiring the copy of the results of the distribution of preferences to be published on a local governments website, rather than by local public notice
- Amendments to introduce livestreaming and recording requirements for council meetings from 1 January 2025
- Amendments to the owner and occupier enrolment requirements for non-resident occupiers for local government elections from 1 January 2024.

Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2024

The entitlement to long service leave for local government employees in WA is provided under regulations made under the *Local Government Act 1995*. Previously, these regulations were the *Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations of 1977*, which were significantly outdated. The State Government made regulations in April 2024, replacing these 1977 regulations with the *Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2024*.

In relation to 2024–25, the 2024 Regulations were commenced on 1 September 2024.

The 2024 Regulations were made to improve the operation of the local government long service leave portability scheme and align more closely with reforms that have occurred to the *Long Service Leave Act 1958* since 1977.

Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Bill 2024

In 2023–24, the State Government has continued to progress reforms to improve the registration and licensing system for Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs). The proposed amendments included: registration labels (stickers) for registration of ORVs, replacing the sole form of registration being vehicle plates; the removal of the statutory declaration requirement when registering an ORV; and reforms to increase penalties to prevent illegal ORV activity.

These reforms aim to improve the regulation and management of ORVs making the process more user-friendly while also addressing safety and legal concerns. The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Bill 2024* was introduced into the Western Australian Parliament on 20 June 2024.

In relation to 2024–25, the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Bill 2024 did not pass before the Western Australian Parliament prorogued; therefore, reform work is anticipated to continue.

Stop Puppy Farming reforms and PetsWA

The State Government is continuing to deliver on its commitment to stop and prevent puppy farming in response to overwhelming community support.

As a key milestone of this commitment, tranche one of the regulations to support the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* was being developed in 2023–24.

In relation to 2024–25, the tranche one regulations were published on 27 November 2024 and important changes for dog supply and pet shop approvals will be in effect from 26 May 2025.

Another critical element of the State Government's commitment to stop puppy farming is the progress towards implementing a centralised registration system for dogs and cats in WA. Local government sector contribution to the centralised registration system (referred to as PetsWA) continues to inform the development of the solution. Highlighting the sector's contribution, a group of local government representatives have nominated to be change heroes to encourage and motivate the sector to support the implementation of this change.

B7 Report from the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)

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

Annual assets and expenditure report

The annual report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure, produced by WALGA with support from the WA Local Government Grants Commission, offers comprehensive information on the lengths and types of roads, paths and bridges. It highlights trends in the data over the past five years and includes detailed statistics on funding sources and the amount of Local Government expenditure on these assets. The report also provides insights into the allocation of expenditure across expansion, upgrades, maintenance and renewal of the network, both at a regional level and for individual Local Governments.

The expenditure statistics are analysed to provide comparisons of road preservation performance, net preservation needs and expenditure effort. These comparisons provide insight into the adequacy of funding and the difference between road preservation needs and current expenditure on road preservation. The data shows that the shortfall continues to grow, indicating that the condition of the network is deteriorating. The report further highlights the fact that regional Local Governments are largely dependent on State and Federal grants to maintain and improve their road network.

Valuation of non-financial assets and valuation guidelines

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* were amended in 2023 to clarify that a Local Government only needs to re-value assets once every five years. This amendment was the result of advocacy from the Local Government Sector and the WA Office of the Auditor General.

The regulatory amendment provided clarification for the sector and auditors with respect to the valuation of non-financial assets. This also reduces cost and compliance requirements for the Local Government sector.

In addition, the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Local Government sector have developed Non-Financial Assets Valuation Guidelines.

This guide has been developed as a resource to provide greater consistency in the sector with a specific focus on:

- Guidelines on methodologies to be used in valuing non-financial assets in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- A model scope of works to be used when engaging contractors to undertake revaluations of non-financial assets
- Guidelines on reviewing assumptions used by a contract valuer.

The guide commences with a specific section for WA to provide direction for the application of recent legislative changes regarding asset valuations. The application of the WA legislation takes precedence over any inconsistencies with AAS. Consequently, the WA specific guidance helps ensure the legislative compliance of asset valuations.

The remainder of the guide is generic and focuses exclusively on compliance of asset valuations with AAS.

Other jurisdictions may add sections to this guide to provide territory-specific legal direction to local governments in their area. This may be needed if territory-specific legal stipulations override AAS.

The guidelines should be implemented in 2025.

Model financial statements

In WA, work has continued on the size and scale of the financial reporting framework that was introduced in 2022–23.

DLGSC, in conjunction with the Office of the WA Auditor General and the Local Government sector, developed model financial statements for Local Governments. WA Local Governments are categorised by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal into 4 bands or classes, with Band 1 for the largest Local Governments and Band 4 the smallest. Two sets of model financial statements were produced, one for Bands 1 and 2 Local Governments and a set of statements for Bands 3 and 4.

This initiative is widely supported by the Local Government sector.

Simplified strategic and financial planning

In 2023–24 work has been carried out on simplifying the strategic and financial planning framework for Local Governments, with the aim of having clear information about the finances of Local Governments, to enable informed public and ratepayer engagement and input to decision-making.

The framework for financial planning is based on information being clear, transparent, and easy to understand for all ratepayers and members of the public. In order to provide more consistency and clarity across the State, there will be a greater use of templates to be introduced to make planning and reporting clearer and simpler, providing greater transparency for ratepayers. The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPR) currently in place, is being adapted with the following proposals:

- simplified **Council Plans** that replace existing Strategic Community Plans and set high-level objectives, with a new plan required at least every eight years. These will be short form plans, with a template available from the DLGSC
- simplified **Asset Management Plans** to consistently forecast the costs of maintaining the Local Government's assets. A new plan will be required at least every ten years, though local governments should update the plan regularly if the local government gains or disposes of major assets (e.g., land, buildings, or roads). A template will be provided, and methods of valuations will be simplified to reduce red tape
- simplified **Long Term Financial Plans** will outline any long-term financial management and sustainability issues, and any investments and debts. A template will be provided, and these plans will be required to be reviewed in detail at least every four years
- a new **Rates and Revenue Policy** that identifies the approximate value of rates that will need to be collected in future years (referencing the Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan) – providing a forecast to ratepayers (updated at least every four years)

- the use of simple, one-page **Service Proposals** and **Project Proposals** that outline what proposed services or initiatives will cost, to be made available through council meetings. These will become **Service Plans** and **Project Plans** added to the yearly budget if approved by council. This provides clear transparency for what the functions and initiatives of the Local Government cost to deliver. Templates will be available for use by local governments.

DLGSC has advised that the development of the regulations for IPR and council plans will be carried out in 2025 and will involve input from the sector by key stakeholders. WALGA will be represented as a key stakeholder as part of the ongoing development of these regulations.

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

Condition assessment of regionally significant roads

This multi-year program provides quality condition data and high-definition imagery of all Roads of Regional Significance in WA. Regionally significant roads are District Distributors, Regional Distributors and other routes, including defined freight networks, which are shown to have a clear role in contributing to the economic and/or social well-being of the State. During 2023–24, the surface condition, structural condition and drainage condition of 2100 km of roads in 16 Local Governments were surveyed in the South West Region.

This data was analysed at a regional level and incorporated into the road asset management system of each of the participating Local Governments. The high-definition imagery and survey data also provide initial function evidence for potential claims for disaster recovery funding. It is anticipated that all the significant roads In WA will have been surveyed in a 5-year cycle by the end of 2025.

Local Government Performance Monitoring Project – planning and building

The WA Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and associated Local Government Performance Monitoring Report were initiated by the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group of Local Governments and WALGA in 2017.

The Project and accompanying Report have been undertaken annually since that time, with the number of participating Local Governments increasing from 11 to 43 in 2022–23 and the process of collecting and reporting data refined and improved. The Performance Monitoring Dashboard, now in its third year, provides a collated view of all participating Local Governments across the seven years of Project reporting and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments. The use of the dashboard reduces project costs and reporting times and allows for a faster expansion of the Project.

42 Local Governments, representing approximately 90% of West Australia’s population and 94% of the State’s 2021-2022 population growth, participate in the project. Collectively they provide a strong indication the Local Government sector’s performance in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation. The low standard deviation within specific measures, and average sector performance year on year is consistent, indicating a high degree of confidence that the reported performance reflects the sector as a whole and that high levels of performance by some larger Local Governments are not impacting sector averages.

Key findings from the 2022–23 data:

- participating Local Governments determined 55,598 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits), a 16% decrease from the previous year
- 92% of these applications were determined or responded to within statutory timeframes
- 99% of all development applications were approved
- 97% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority
- 22 Local Governments are currently reviewing their Local Planning Scheme (LPS)
- Local Governments continue to be concerned at the length of time taken to receive consent to advertise and final endorsement for LPSs.

For scheme amendments;

- local governments finalised 64 scheme amendments in 2022-2023
- 60% of the time taken to complete scheme amendments could be attributed to State Government processes, significantly higher than the 49.5% average over the 7 years of reporting.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Program

WALGA is committed to working closely with all levels of government to ensure that WA Local Governments understand and are supported in undertaking their emergency management (EM) responsibilities. In 2019, recognising the need for a more contemporary and effective local emergency management system, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved a review of the current Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) model. From April to December 2022, as part of the LEMA Review, WALGA consulted with 100 WA Local Governments to inform a LEMA Improvement Program aimed at reducing administrative burden and building the capability of Local Governments in developing and maintaining a fit-for-purpose LEMA. Phase One of the LEMA Improvement Program commenced in March 2024 as a partnership between WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the SEMC.

To ensure that the LEMA Improvement Program meets the different needs and risk profiles of WA Local Governments, WALGA has established a Local Government LEMA Working Group with diverse representation from the sector. This group is providing input into the SEMC's proposed LEMA policy reforms and co-developing new LEMA resources, tools, and guidance material. These new LEMA approaches will be piloted with the broader Local Government sector in 2025 to inform the SEMC's rollout of a more fit-for-purpose LEMA model.

Financial performance indicators

Work continued in 2023–24 on developing a new Local Government Financial Indicator to replace the previous Financial Health Indicator (FHI).

DLGSC engaged with the WA Treasury Corporation to undertake a review of the Financial Health Indicator which is currently being used to help assess the financial performance of local governments. The review, undertaken in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including WALGA, had the following core purposes in mind:

- reaffirm the FHI's purpose and target audience
- assess support for the continued use of a single score to measure a local government's financial performance

- review the appropriateness of ratios, benchmarks and weightings that comprise the FHI
- ensure the methodology used to calculate the FHI score is straightforward and transparent.

Stakeholder collaboration affirmed that the FHI is broadly well-regarded and that support exists for the continuance of using a single-score approach to summarising LGA's historic financial performance. However, the construct of the FHI, as well as its interpretation requires modification.

A revised LGFI financial performance evaluation will be based on WALGA's four recommended financial ratios (as opposed to the previous slate of seven ratios) as follows:

A. Operating Surplus Ratio

B. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

C. Debt Service Coverage Ratio

D. Current Ratio.

The new Local Government Financial Indicators (LGFI) have been approved by the Minister for Local Government, currently all Local Governments are being asked to verify and return their data to DLGSC. In addition, the DLGSC is engaging an external developer to convert the previously used FHI's to the new LGFI and this information will be updated on the DLGSC's MyCouncil Website.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program

The Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program is a partnership between WALGA, Main Roads WA and the National Transport Research Organisation. The objective of the program is to undertake research and development to support the implementation of innovative practices by WA Local Governments. Projects that seek to deliver cost-effective and practical solutions are prioritised. The following projects are progressing and scheduled for publication in 2024:

- Practitioners Guideline for the design and construction of local roads incorporating crushed recycled concrete
- Practitioners Guideline for the use of crumbed rubber modified bitumen in asphalt applications
- Practitioners Guideline for the use of crumbed rubber modified bitumen in sprayed seal applications
- Practitioners Guideline for the use of recycled asphalt pavements
- A Catalogue of Standard Pavement Profiles for local roads In WA.

The outcomes and guidance arising from projects will be communicated via a series of webinars.

LG Stars

The LG Stars tool was designed and developed during 2022–23 by the WALGA RoadWise Team with funding from the National Office of Road Safety.

The tool aims to help Local Governments assess the safety of the roads they manage, help them prioritise road network investment and support the implementation of the Safe System Approach to road safety management by assisting and supporting the inclusion of road safety considerations in long-term works programs and investment decisions.

A paper-based and app version of the tool has been made available and is designed to be simple to use. The tools support Local Governments in assessing road characteristics against a selection of cross-sections and attributes.

During the year, 36 Local Governments have registered and have used LG Stars to rate 15,624 km of the WA locally managed road network.

RoadWise Councils

RoadWise Councils is a fresh approach by WALGA to engage and motivate Local Governments in working towards globally recognised best practice road safety. RoadWise Councils have taken formal steps to demonstrate a commitment to work towards providing the best possible road safety outcomes for their local communities.

These Councils enjoy direct access to WALGA's road safety services, tools, and resources. This includes regular meetings with and support from a designated Road Safety Advisor. Road Safety Advisors assist RoadWise Councils in planning, delivering, monitoring, reporting and communicating local road safety activities guided by the RoadWise Framework.

The Framework, aligned to the safe system approach, is specially designed to guide Local Government through the important governing and management functions that will enable the delivery of better practice, and evidence-based effective road safety interventions and countermeasures in a systematic and holistic approach. Road Safety Advisors work with RoadWise Councils, using the Framework to:

- incorporate effective, systems-based actions into the planning and delivery of road safety activities
- identify any gaps in the delivery of better practice, evidence-based road safety or potential for action not previously considered
- develop plans to address these gaps or introduce new actions
- record all road safety activity across the organisation
- guide and demonstrate progress towards better practice road safety through the achievement of Points and Ribbons.

Points are allocated to each recorded activity by a panel. Points are based on the expected effectiveness, sustainability and scale of each intervention. 'Base Points' are weighted to reflect the differing capacity between RoadWise Councils, determined by external factors such as geography, size and population. Points allocated in a RoadWise Council's first year, establish a baseline for benchmarking purposes. Activities and Points will then be monitored and an increase in Points, in relation to activities, over time will indicate progress towards better road safety practice.

RoadWise Councils receive a Ribbon for demonstrating effort in each of five elements of the RoadWise Framework – governing, managing and action from the three road safety-related functional areas of Local Government, road management and planning; community development and leadership; and fleet management and employment. A total of five Ribbons demonstrates a holistic approach to road safety across the Council.

Each year on 1 July, the Ribbons achieved by active RoadWise Councils during the year are tallied and RoadWise Councils are provided with a Ribbon status to recognise and promote the holistic approach to road safety they have demonstrated during the previous year.

RoadWise Awards are presented annually to recognise and celebrate RoadWise Councils' achievements. During the 2024 WALGA Local Government Awards Gala, one RoadWise Council was recognised for achieving five Ribbons, five for achieving four Ribbons, 18 for achieving three Ribbons, 23 for achieving two Ribbons and 13 for achieving one Ribbon. Three councils also received acknowledgement for being among the most active RoadWise Councils for the year.

During the 2023–24 year, 66 Local Governments committed to becoming a RoadWise Council, 71% passed a resolution of Council and 29% made a formal declaration signed by the CEO and Local Government Mayor or President. Of the 66 RoadWise Councils, 60 were awarded a combined 26,875 Points for 384 recorded activities.

Courtesy speed display signs

Courtesy speed display signs were made available to Local Governments on a loan basis through WALGA RoadWise, to install in targeted areas to promote safer local streets. The interactive signs help slow traffic on local streets, and this effect can be further enhanced by speed enforcement by local police.

During the year, the signs were loaned 9 times on a monthly basis, to a total of 10 Local Governments across 5 regions.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by Local Governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Aboriginal Engagement Forum

WALGA's annual Aboriginal Engagement Forum, held on 20 March 2024, attracted over 180 delegates from Local Government, State Government, not-for-profit and private sector organisations. Since its inception in 2017, the Aboriginal Engagement Forums have sought to provide space for the WA Local Government sector and its partners to embrace the principles of reconciliation – to listen, learn and share the collective goal of creating positive outcomes for Aboriginal Peoples and the wider community through respectful Aboriginal and community engagement. The Forum aims to build capacity to achieve better practice policies, programs, and service delivery by WA Local Governments.

In the context of the Voice Referendum outcome, the 2024 event theme "Looking Back to Move Forward' acknowledged that our shared path to reconciliation is not straightforward, but through reflection, sharing experiences, innovation, and collaboration we can inspire each other and move forward. Cultural authority and guidance were provided by the establishment of a Reference Group which included representatives from Elected Members and Community Development officers.

WA Local Government Aboriginal Engagement Network

WALGA facilitates the WA Local Government Reconciliation Network. This group brings together WA Local Government Officers working in reconciliation and Aboriginal projects, including experienced Aboriginal community development officers who can provide advice and guidance on Aboriginal engagement. The main purpose of the group is to share peer-to-peer advice and learnings, offer support and encouragement, explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration between Local Governments, and coordinate meetings and events.

National Reconciliation Week 2023

As part of Nation Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2024, WALGA collaborated with Reconciliation WA (RWA) to further increase participation by Local Governments and encourage the delivery of Reconciliation Week activities for staff and local communities. WALGA hosted a webinar on engaging in RWA NRW activities and partnering on a series of regional breakfasts in Karratha (City of Karratha), Newman (Shire of East Pilbara), Albany (City of Albany) and Kalgoorlie (City of Kalgoorlie). WALGA staff also showed their solidarity by joining the Walk for Reconciliation at Langley Park, Boorloo (Perth).

Aboriginal Culture Heritage Legislation

WALGA continues to represent the interests of the Local Government sector in implementing the amended *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. This has included submitting feedback on the amended legislation and guidance materials, advocating for capacity building for all involved parties and facilitating regional information sessions for local governments.

Kolbang Yanginy – Local Government Reconciliation Resource

WALGA has partnered with RWA, the WA Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and DLGSC to develop the Kolbang Yanginy – Local Government Reconciliation Resource (Kobang Yanginy).

The Kolbang Yanginy (Going forward | Sharing) website has been developed to support Local Governments in building their capability to engage meaningfully with local Aboriginal communities, highlighting best practice examples of reconciliation and Aboriginal engagement.

B8 Report from the South Australian Government and the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA)

South Australian method for distributing the Financial Assistance Grant for 2023–24

General purpose grant

The methodology used to assess the general purpose component of the Local Government Financial Assistance Grants is intended to achieve an allocation of grants to local governing bodies in the State consistent with the National Principles. The overriding principle is one of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation, which is constrained by a requirement that each local governing body must receive a minimum entitlement per capita as prescribed in the Commonwealth legislation.

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

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

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

Formulae

General financial assistance

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

$$G = Pc \times S \times \left[\left(\frac{Us}{Ps} \times RRIs \right) - \left(\frac{Uc}{Pc} \times RRIc \right) \right]$$

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

$$G = Pc \times S \times \left[\left(\frac{Uc}{Pc} \times CRIc \right) - \left(\frac{Us}{Ps} \times CRIs \right) \right]$$

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

G = council's calculated relative need assessment

P = population

U = unit of measure. Some units of measure are multiplied by a weight

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

RRI = Revenue Relativity Index. *CRI* = Cost Relativity Index (also known as a disability factor). They are centred around 1.00, i.e. 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 Commission calculates a revenue relativity index based on the SEIFA Index of Economic Resources (from the Australian Bureau of Statistics). Where no revenue relativity index exists, the RRIc = 1.0. Currently in all expenditure calculations, with the exception of roads and stormwater maintenance, there are no disability factors applied and consequently, CRIc = 1.0.

A raw calculation, 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 entitlement, ($24.81 for 2023–24), has the per capita grant applied. The remaining balance of the grant pool is apportioned to the remaining councils based on their calculated proportion of the raw calculation. Commission-determined limits are then applied to minimise the impact on councils' budgetary processes.

In the calculation of the 2023–24 general purpose grants, the Commission constrained changes to councils' grants to between minus 25 and positive 30 per cent. No councils received increases or decreases in grants outside the constraints. 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 greater or less than the State average. Councils with below average capacity to raise revenue receive positive component revenue grants and councils with above average capacity receive negative component revenue grants.

The Commission estimates each council's component revenue grant by applying the State average rate in the dollar to the difference between the council's improved capital values per capita multiplied by the RRIc and those for the State as a whole and multiplying this back by the council's population.

The State 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 the State as a whole if it applied the State 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. Revenue Relativity Indices (RRIc) are only applied to the calculations for residential and rural land use categories.

Subsidies

Subsidies of the type that most councils receive that 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.

Component expenditure grants

Component expenditure grants compensate or penalise councils according to whether the costs of providing a standard range of local government services can be expected to be greater than or less than the average cost for the State as a whole due to factors outside the control of councils. The 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 State 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 the State'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 the State as a whole (standard cost). This in turn is multiplied back by the council's population to give the component expenditure calculation for the function. As already indicated this calculation 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 State average, in this example to reconstruct or maintain a kilometre of road. Accordingly, the methodology allows for a **cost relativity index (CRI)** to be determined for each expenditure function for each council. Indices are centred around 1.0 and are used to inflate or deflate the component expenditure grant for each council. In the case of roads, CRIs measure 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 annually revised road lengths) are averaged over three years. The following table details the approach taken to expenditure functions included in the methodology.

Table 33 South Australia's expenditure functions included in the methodology

Expenditure function	***Standard cost[1]***	***Units of measure***
Waste management	Reported expenditures	Number of residential properties, rural and commercial (shop) properties
Aged care services	Reported expenditures	Population Aged 65+ as per ABS Census and estimated resident population
Services to families and children	Reported expenditures	Population Aged 0–14 years per ABS Census and estimated resident population
Health inspection	Reported expenditures	Establishments to inspect
Libraries	Reported expenditures	Estimated resident population
Sport, recreation and culture	Reported expenditures	Population Aged 5–64 years as per ABS Census and estimated resident population
Sealed roads – built-up[5]	Reported expenditures	Kilometres of Built-up Sealed Road as reported in GIR
Sealed roads – non-built-up[5]	Reported expenditures	Kilometres of Non-built-up Sealed Road as reported in GIR
Sealed roads – footpaths etc	Reported expenditures	Kilometres of Built-up Sealed Road as reported in GIR
Unsealed roads – built-up[5]	Reported expenditures	Kilometres of Built-up Unsealed Road as reported in GIR
Unsealed roads – non-built-up[5]	Reported expenditures	Kilometres of Non-Built-up Unsealed Road as reported in GIR
Unformed roads[5]	Reported expenditures	Kilometres of Unformed Road as reported in GIR
Stormwater drainage maintenance[2,3]	Reported expenditures	Number of urban properties[4]
Community support	Reported expenditures	3-year average population multiplied by the SEIFA Advantage/Disadvantage CRI
Jetties, wharves, marinas and boat ramps	Reported expenditures	Number of jetties, wharves, marinas and boat ramps
Public order and safety	Reported expenditures	Total number of properties
Planning and building control	Reported expenditures	Number of new developments and additions
Bridges	Reported expenditures	Number of bridges
Environment and coastal protection	Reported expenditures	Estimated resident population
Airports and authorised landing areas	Reported expenditures	Number of airports and authorised landing areas
Other needs assessments	Set at 1.00	Based on Commission-determined relative expenditure needs in a number of areas[6]

Notes:

1. Council's net expenditure, reported in the Commission's supplementary returns.
2. Includes both construction and maintenance activities.
3. The Commission has also decided, for these functions, to use cost relativity indices based on the results of a previous consultancy by BC Tonkin and Associates.
4. Urban properties equal the sum of residential properties, commercial properties, industrial properties, exempt residential properties, exempt commercial properties and exempt industrial properties.
5. The Commission has, for these functions, used cost relativity indices 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 Commission-determined relative expenditure needs with respect to the following:

   Isolation – measured as the distance from the General Post Office (GPO) to the main service centre for the council (as published in the South Australian Local Government Directory distributed by the Local Government Association of South Australia)

   Additional recognition of needs of councils with respect to Aboriginal people – identified by the proportion of the population identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

   Unemployment – identified by the proportion of the population unemployed.

This final factor Other Needs Assessment (also known as Function 50) originates from awareness by the 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 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 Commission must exercise its judgement based on experience, the evidence submitted to the Commission, and the knowledge gained by the Commission 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 34.

Table 34 Summary of figures by expenditure function in South Australia

Total population = 1,815,817

Function	*Standard (in dollars)*	*Unit of measure per capita*	*Total units of measure*	*Unit of measure*
Waste management	218.27	0.48167	858,558	No of residential, rural and commercial (shop) properties
Aged Care Services	117.72	0.19589	349,165	Population aged more than 65
Services to families and children	69.71	0.17260	307,653	Population aged 0 to 14
Health inspection	590.45	0.01211	21,581	Establishments to inspect
Libraries	69.12	1.01871	1,815,817	Estimated resident population
Sport, recreation and culture	352.07	0.75008	1,336,994	Population aged 5 to 49
Sealed roads – built-up	13,354.56	0.00626	11,150	Kilometres of sealed built up
Sealed roads – non-built-up	13,354.56	0.00457	8,142	Kilometres of sealed non built up
Sealed roads – footpaths etc	20,718.42	0.00626	11,150	Kilometres of sealed built up
Unsealed roads – built-up	2,422.05	0.00036	640	Kilometres of formed and surfaced, and natural surface formed built up road
Unsealed roads – non-built-up	2,422.05	0.02591	46,184	Kilometres of formed and surfaced, and natural surface formed non built up road
Roads – unformed	240.02	0.00496	8,832	Kilometres of natural surfaced unformed road
Stormwater drainage – maintenance	90.04	0.46706	832,523	Number of urban, industrial and commercial properties including exempt
Community support	58.70	0.99979	1,782,089	3-year average population * Socio Economic Indexes For Areas Advantage Disadvantage Cost Relativity Index
Jetties, wharves, marinas and boat ramps	17,007.03	0.00015	267	Number of jetties, wharves, marinas and boat ramps
Public order and safety	35.29	0.55013	980,579	Total number of properties
Planning and building control	2,114.53	0.02456	43,772	Number of new developments and additions
Bridges	16,107.82	0.00040	708	Number of bridges

Function	Standard (in dollars)	Unit of measure per capita	Total units of measure	Unit of measure
Environment and coastal protection	21.32	1.01871	1,815,817	Estimated Resident Population
Airports and authorised landing areas	89,663.18	0.00004	68	Number of airports and authorised landing areas
Other special needs	1.00	13.49974	24,062,800	Total of dollars attributed

Table 35 Summary of figures by revenue function in South Australia

Function	Standard (in dollars)	Unit of measure per capita	Total units of measure	Unit of measure
Rates – residential	0.0032	206,427	364,464,392,503	Valuation of residential
Rates – commercial	0.0061	25,655	45,729,675,290	Valuation of commercial
Rates – industrial	0.0072	4,141	7,381,216,109	Valuation of industrial
Rates – rural	0.0028	32,333	56,830,753,859	Valuation of rural
Rates – other	0.0039	7,674	13,678,005,689	Valuation of other
Subsidies	1.00	30.03556	53,537,283	The total of the subsidies

Calculated standards by function

The Commission uses Table 34 and Table 35 to determine a council's raw calculation for each of the assessed functions, by calculating each individual council's unit of measure per capita, comparing it with the similar figure from the table and then multiplying the difference by the standard from the table and the council's population. If CRIs are applicable, they are included as a multiplier against the council's unit of measure per capita.

It must be stressed that this process determines whether a single council has a greater than average capacity to provide services (and is therefore a per capita minimum council) or a less than average capacity. For councils with a less than average capacity, the raw calculation determines the "share" of the available pool of funding to which the council is entitled, subject to the application of final constraints.

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 calculation figure.

Where the raw calculation per head of population for a council is less than the per capita minimum established as set out in the Act ($24.81 for 2023–24), the calculation 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 calculation. This process provides what the Commission call its "per capita applied" grant.

Commission-determined limits, known as constraints or caps and collars, may then be applied to per capita grants to minimise the impact on councils' budgetary processes or for the Commission to manage changes in grants (up or down) as a result of methodology changes or other external impacts on the pool of available funding. In the calculation of the 2023–24 grants, constrained changes to councils to between minus 25 and positive 30 per cent. An iterative process is then undertaken until the final "estimated grant" is determined.

Identified local road grant

In South Australia, the identified local road grants pool is divided into formula grants (85%) and special local road grants (15%). 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 are based on recommendations from the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (the Panel). The Panel is responsible for assessing submissions from the metropolitan local government group and regional local government associations on local road projects of regional significance.

Outback Communities Authority

The Outback Communities Authority (the OCA) 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 Commission's recommendations for distribution of Financial Assistance Grants. It has a broad responsibility for management and local governance of the unincorporated areas of South Australia. The OCA has a particular emphasis on assisting in the provision of local government-type services normally undertaken by councils elsewhere in the State.

Due to the lack of comparable data, the Commission is not able to calculate the grant to the OCA in the same manner as grants to other local governing bodies. Rather, a per capita grant has been established. The 2023–24 per capita grant was $677.89.

Aboriginal communities

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

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

Grants have gradually been increased in line with the increase in the general purpose pool of funding for South Australia since the initial study. For the 2023–24 financial year, the per capita grant varied from $263.49 for the Gerard Community Council to $1,882.52 for the Maralinga Tjarutja Community.

Changes to the methodology for distributing funding to local government under the FA Grant for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23

For 2023–24, the Commission did not make any changes to its methodology for distributing funding to local government from that used in 2022–23.

The Commission continued work in 2023–24 investigating a number of methodology matters including:

- Non-resident Ratepayers – the Commission examined the impact of ratepayers who own a property in a council and pay rates, but do not count that property as their principal place of residence on Census night and are therefore not counted as part of the council's population for the assessment of relative need for the General Purpose Grants
- Review of the Commission's local roads Geographical Information System (GIS) – the Commission is reviewing its long-established local roads GIS, maintained for over 20 years and now viewed to be largely superseded by councils' own GIS
- A range of other methodology issues including a review of the distribution of the Identified Local Road Grants, based on a submission from the Wakefield Regional Council.

The Commission also continued to focus efforts on the movement of grants via the application of constraints to the grant recommendations for 2023–24. This process is addressing changes in per capita applied grants to councils that have occurred during previous years as a result of methodology changes, the indexation pause, and the impacts of significant brought forward payments.

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

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

The Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) has a new role in providing independent advice to councils on a four-yearly rotational basis in relation to a council's long-term financial plan, infrastructure and asset management plan, and revenue sources as outlined in the council's funding plan.

The Local Government Advice Scheme has been in place for two years and of the councils reviewed, it has found that approximately one-third of councils are at risk of being financially unsustainable. In many cases, the advice is confirming the challenges for councils to maintain and renew critical assets.

This aligns with the findings from an annual survey of council chief executive officers and general managers that identified financial sustainability as the number one risk facing local government. (Refer JLT Public Sector Risk Report 2022–23)

There are, however, many different underlying factors that can impact on councils' sustainability. These include issues around the cost of replacing or upgrading infrastructure, the ability to manage assets appropriately as an ongoing concern, and the growth in volume, scope and quality of legislated and non- legislated services (often linked to population growth) (Refer South Australian Productivity Commission 2019, Inquiry into Local Government Costs and Efficiency – Final Report, November 2019, page 10).

Many of the factors that drive sustainability are outside the control of local government. They include:

- impacts of natural disasters and other external environmental factors that impact directly on council services and divert resources from other necessary council services;
- expansion of the roles and requirements placed on councils by federal and state governments, increasing their costs without commensurate revenue to support them; and
- cost pressures faced by councils that exceed CPI, such as increases in the cost of building and maintaining infrastructure.

The LGA continued to provide advice and assistance to the sector in 2023–24 through resources that were developed and distributed during its previous Financial Sustainability Program (2005–2017).

Those published, reviewed, or updated in 2023–24 included:

- Model Financial Statements
- Model Rates Notice Templates
- Better Practice Model – Financial Internal Controls
- Integrated Strategic Management Framework
- Financial Sustainability Information Papers (there are 27 in the suite)
- Asset Management Information Papers (there are 13 in the suite).

In 2024–25, the LGA is delivering a pilot program to provide direct support to councils to underpin their activities to improve financial sustainability. A full report will be prepared at the end of the pilot to capture lessons learnt. The LGA is also concerned what impact drought in the Mid North and Murraylands and Riverland regions will have on rate revenue and how it will contribute to increased financial pressure on South Australian councils.

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

Comparisons between councils on a wide range of data are facilitated by the Commission's publication of annual "database reports" dating back to 1995–96. These reports are publicly available at https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/grants-commission.

Financial indicators

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* require councils to use three specific financial indicators in their financial planning and reporting – operating surplus ratio, net financial liabilities ratio, and asset renewal funding ratio. The Office of Local Government published detailed explanatory information about each financial indicator and trend data covering individual councils on the Councils in Focus website (https://councilsinfocus.sa.gov.au).

Each year, the LGA also assembles an update report providing the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector. The 2024 update report included data on the three financial indicators for the sector as a whole. This report is presented to the sector at the LGA's Annual General Meeting.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

The Local Government Research and Development Scheme continued as a primary source of funding for research and innovation in local government, funded through tax-equivalent payments by the Local Government Finance Authority. The Scheme's governance was overseen by an Advisory Committee, which provided independent and objective advice to the LGA South Australia Board.

From its inception in 1997 until 30 June 2024, the Scheme had approved over 900 projects for the benefit of local government in South Australia. The Scheme was delivered through two competitive grant rounds, a regional capacity building program and a range of ongoing strategic initiatives for the benefit of local government. This has attracted significant matching funds and in-kind support from other sources. The project outcomes for the funded projects are available through the LGA South Australia research library website.

Projects approved for funding during 2023–24 include:

- Local Government Data Governance Framework – 2023.98
- Decision support for lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in local roads and footpaths – 2023.96
- Local Government Educational Resources – 2023.92
- Grow Your Own – Urban and Regional Planners Initiative – 2023.91
- Support Framework and Guidelines for Visually Impaired Council Members – 2023.90
- Collaboration Towards Emergency Resilience – 2023.82
- Recognising and rewarding staff of Local Government: A step toward greater wellbeing and staff retention – 2023.74
- Building regulatory efficiencies for sustainable onsite wastewater system management – 2023.68
- Workforce and gender Equality in SA local government – 2023.67
- A clandestine laboratory and methamphetamine contamination toolkit for Environmental Health Officers – 2023.65
- SA Local Government Aboriginal Cultural Capability Toolkit – 2023.55
- Coastal Adaptation – Stage One – 2023.10
- Climate Change Policy Pilot – 2023.09
- Participation and Elections Review -consultation and engagement with the sector – 2023.07
- Building Sector Capability – 2023.05
- Climate Risk Training and Engagement Package – 2023.04
- Electricity management support for councils – 2023.03
- Measuring the costs of legislative compliance – 2023.01.

Project were delivered by councils and by external organisations. In support of the sector, the above projects involved organisations such as the History Trust of South Australia, Regional Study Hubs, the University of South Australia, Environmental Health Australia and Flinders University.

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

The South Australian Government funds the provision of municipal services to Aboriginal communities outside of the APY Lands.

The Municipal Services for Aboriginal Lands Program is administered by the Office of Local Government, SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport. Over 2023–24, $3.2 million (ex GST) was provided to deliver these municipal services including waste management, dog control, environmental health, road maintenance, and water provision.

Of the 18 service providers funded, four are local councils or a similar body, including:

- Berri Barmera Council for services to the Gerard Aboriginal community
- District Council of Yorke Peninsula for services to the Point Pearce Aboriginal community
- District Council of Coober Pedy for services to Umoona Aboriginal community
- The OCA for services to the Dunjiba Aboriginal community

This funding will continue to be provided to communities during 2024–25 to support these vital services.

Local government reform activities by the jurisdiction during the 2023–24 reporting period including deregulation and legislative changes

Local government reform

The *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* passed Parliament and received the Governor's assent on 17 June 2021.

The reforms are commencing in stages. A number of reforms commenced during 2023–24, including:

- Amendments to remove the ability for councils to declare rates on the basis of site (unimproved) value.
- Further amendments to implement financial accountability reforms, including:
  - Extending the work of council audit committees to audit *and risk* committees to provide independent assurance and advice to councils on accounting, financial management, internal controls, risk management and governance matters
  - Requiring audit and risk committees to consist of a majority of independent members and enabling councils to form regional audit and risk committees
  - New requirements for councils and their chief executive officers to ensure that effective policies, systems and procedures relating to risk management are established and maintained
  - New requirements for council chief executive officers I that have an internal audit function to consult with the relevant audit and risk committee before appointing a person to be primarily responsible for the internal audit function.

The LGA is supporting councils with the implementation of reforms through the LG Equip program. The LG Reform website provides LGA member councils with information relevant to provisions scheduled for commencement. During 2023–24, an additional 16 explanatory items were published to the website. The LGA also developed and/or updated approximately 14 other resources, such as best practice guidelines, model policies, templates and reports.

The LGA also held and/or facilitated several information sessions for council staff to support implementation of the reforms.

B9 Report from the Tasmanian Government

Tasmanian method for distributing the Financial Assistance Grant for 2023–24

Methodology used for developing the recommendations for the allocation of Tasmania's General Purpose Grant

For the 2023–24 General Purpose Grant recommendations, the Commission adopted a two pool approach. Firstly, 30 per cent of the General Purpose Grant was allocated to councils according to their share of the State's total population (this is referred to as the per capita grant). The remaining 70 per cent of the Grant was allocated on a relative needs or equalisation basis.

The Commission uses a balanced budget equalisation model as a basis for determining the recommendations for the distribution of the relative needs pool. Based on state-wide average council revenue raised and council expenditure, on a per capita basis, the Commission estimates the annual revenue raising capacity of each council and estimates the annual expenditure requirement for providing core services to a common standard with all other councils. Councils are assessed as having hypothecated annual surpluses or deficits. As the Commission does not use actual revenue and expenditure data for each council, these hypothecated surpluses and deficits may be different from their actual financial performance.

Councils that are assessed as having a surplus are regarded as having sufficient capability to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average of other Tasmanian councils. These councils are not allocated a share of the relative needs pool. The recommendation for these councils is therefore the minimum grant, namely their population share of 30 per cent the General Purpose Grant, consistent with the relevant national principle.

The remaining councils have assessed deficits, which indicates that these councils do not have sufficient capability to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other Tasmanian councils and therefore require additional support.

The deficits of these councils are aggregated. The relative needs pool is allocated among these councils such that each council's share of the relative needs pool is equal to the share of the aggregated deficit attributable to that council.

Revenue capacity for a council comprises:

1. the revenue that council could raise if it applied a 'state-wide average rate in the dollar' to all rateable property in its area. The 'state-wide average rate in the dollar' is calculated based on the most recent Assessed Annual Value (AAV) estimates for all municipalities provided by the Valuer-General and the total level of actual annual revenue raised by all councils for providing a common range of services; plus
2. that council's per capita grant allocation; plus
3. other financial support (OFS) revenue that meets the criteria for inclusion.

A council's expenditure requirement comprises:

1. the estimated cost of providing a common range of services in that municipality (standardised expenditure), and road expenditure; plus
2. any additional allowances provided to councils for council-supported medical practices or airports; plus
3. a Budget Result Term (BRT) allowance, which is a hypothetical positive or negative allowance. The Commission calculates the actual aggregate net deficit or surplus of all councils for providing the common services, including the relative needs component of the General Purpose Grant and all state-wide sources of revenue. This is then allocated across councils on a per capita basis so that, at a State level, the budget of councils is balanced.

Standardised expenditure is calculated for each functional category, with the exception of roads, as follows:

1. determine each council's actual expenditure, net of any operational OFS receipts that meet the criteria for recognition as OFS by deduction, in accordance with the requirement to apply the Other Grant Support (National Principle 4);
2. sum the net council expenditure to determine the total state-wide expenditure;
3. allocate the total state-wide expenditure between all councils on a per capita basis; and
4. apply cost adjustors (refer to Table 1) to each council's allocated expenditure to reflect unavoidable cost advantages/disadvantages faced by individual councils in providing services. The cost adjusters are:
    - Absentee Population
    - Scale (Administration)
    - Climate
    - Scale (Other)
    - Dispersion
    - Worker Influx
    - Isolation
    - Service Industry Employment (SIE)
    - Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD).

The Commission's General Purpose Grant equalisation model assesses council expenditure using the following functional categories: General Administration; Health, Housing and Welfare; Law, Order and Public Safety; Planning and Community Amenities; Waste Management and the Environment; Recreation and Culture; Other; and Roads.

The Commission has determined that no additional adjustments are needed to account for the different needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders across municipalities in Tasmania. This is based on both the Index of Relative Indigenous Socioeconomic Outcomes and advice provided by those councils with the highest proportion of their populations recognising as having indigenous origin.

The road expenditure requirement is calculated as follows:

1. determine each council's actual expenditure, net of any operational OFS receipts that meet the criteria for recognition as OFS by Deduction, in accordance with the requirement to apply the Other Grant Support under the relevant national principle;
2. sum the net council expenditure to determine total state-wide road expenditure; and
3. redistribute the total state-wide road expenditure based on each council's share of the Identified Local Road Funding pool under the road funding methodology explained in the following section.

In preparing grant recommendations for any year, the Commission uses a three-year average of assessed revenue capacity and expenditure requirement, using the most recent year for which data are available and the preceding two years.

Methodology used for developing the recommendations for the allocation of Tasmania's Identified Local Road Funding pool

For 2023–24, the Commission estimated the annualised cost for preserving council road, bridge and culvert assets in the State.

Three road types are used, based on typical Tasmanian road characteristics, to categorise roads in Tasmania. Average costs are estimated to construct and maintain these roads over their typical lifetime. This is used to calculate the State average cost per kilometre, per annum, for councils to maintain their road networks. The three road types used in the assessment are urban sealed, rural sealed and unsealed roads. Council bridge and culvert asset preservation requirements are accounted for through the inclusion of four bridge types and two culvert types in the asset preservation cost assessment.

Cost adjustors and allowances are applied to account for relative cost advantages or disadvantages faced by councils in maintaining their roads. The road cost adjustors are rainfall, terrain, traffic and remoteness. An urbanisation allowance is also applied to eligible road lengths in recognised urban areas. There is also an allowance to recognise additional costs in respect of the road network on Bruny Island. The Commission does not apply any cost adjustors to its standard bridge or culvert asset preservation costs.

The Commission estimated the assessed annualised cost for each council to preserve its road network. These costs are then aggregated. The grant recommendations are calculated such that each council's share of the road funding pool is equal to its share of the aggregated road costs.

Grant stability

The Commission applies caps and floors for its General Purpose Grant recommendations for each council as a means of creating a degree of grant stability for councils. The cap limits the year-on-year increase while the floor restricts any reduction, compared to the previous year's grant recommendation.

In finalising the General Purpose Grant recommendations for 2023–24, the Commission applied a cap of 17 per cent, and a floor of 7 per cent.

Caps and floors are not used for the road-related funding recommendations.

Reviews

The Commission is keen to ensure that its approach to preparing recommendations remains contemporary and equitable. Some potential changes to its methodologies are initiated by the Commission and some are suggested by councils.

The annual hearings and visits program conducted by the Commission allows the Commission to be informed of the issues that councils are facing and to receive comments on its approach to preparing grant recommendations. In some cases, information received by councils can trigger a review of one or more elements of its methodologies.

The Commission consults extensively with councils on proposed changes to its methodologies, often involving more than one round of consultation. The hearings and visits also provide an opportunity to consult on proposed changes to its methodologies.

During the 2023–24 hearings and visits, the Commission sought feedback from councils on the following proposed changes to its General Purpose Grant methodology:

1. Calculating councils' expenditure requirements using estimates of the population it services within its municipality and not the resident population as estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The service population includes, for example, those who stay in their holiday homes or in short stay accommodation; and
2. Removal of the per capita grant allocation of 30 per cent of the General Purpose Grant to every council, while maintaining the minimum grant for relevant councils. This would be calculated by initially allocating the entire General Purpose Grant on a relative needs basis and adjusting it to ensure that the minimum grant National Principle is applied. This process is referred to as the direct assessment approach.

Most councils agreed in principle to the changes, which would result in an increase in the share of funding allocated according to relative need, and to those councils whose service population is proportionately greater than its resident population, relative to other councils. Both changes have been adopted for the 2024–25 General Purpose Grant recommendations.

The Commission also considered the appropriateness of the cost estimates it applies to roads, bridges, and culverts in its road preservation model. Prior to 2024, the Commission's most recent cost estimates for the three road classes (urban sealed, rural sealed and unsealed roads), together with bridges and culverts, were prepared in 2012, with costs indexed annually every year. The Commission informed councils during the 2024 hearings and visits program of its intention to review these estimates as significant changes have occurred over this period, including increased statutory requirements relating to traffic management.

The Commission has since been provided with updated asset preservation cost estimates prepared by a consultant, which has resulted in an increase to the cost estimates applied to rural sealed roads relative to urban sealed roads. Six different rates previously applied to bridges and culverts have also been replaced by a single rate based on concrete bridges, which reflects the fact that most councils are replacing their ageing steel and timber bridges with concrete bridges. The updated rates have been adopted for the 2024–25 Road Grant recommendations.

The Commission's methodological paper has been updated to reflect the above changes, which can be downloaded from its website at www.treasury.tas.gov.au/state-grants-commission/methodology.

Data sources

The Commission's models are primarily data driven, which means that significant changes in data can influence calculated grant shares. The Commission takes the accuracy and consistency of data seriously and actively seeks to increase the integrity of data used within its assessments. The Commission uses data from many sources to inform its models and decisions.

The main datasets used by the Commission to inform its models, and the data sources, are detailed in Table 36:

Table 36 Tasmanian data sources

Data used	***Sourced from***
Population, population dispersion, workforce movements, place of usual residence, dwellings unoccupied to total dwellings as per Census night survey and Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage	Australian Bureau of Statistics (Commonwealth)
Assessed Annual Values data by municipality	Office of the Valuer-General (Department of Natural Resources and Environment –Tasmania)
Rainfall data	Bureau of Meteorology (Commonwealth)
Medical practice and airport costing data	Affected councils
Council revenue and expenditure, by function/expense category, grant and other financial support receipts received	Office of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet)'s Consolidated Data Collection Returns (Tasmania)
Road lengths and type	Office of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet)'s Consolidated Data Collection Returns (Tasmania)
Roads to Recovery funding	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (Commonwealth)
Tasmanian Freight Survey - freight task by council road network by road type	Department of State Growth (Tasmania)
Road component construction costs, Road and Bridge Construction Index	Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors Australian Bureau of Statistics Consultant engineers Councils
Geographic Information System (GIS) Rainfall and Terrain data broken down by Road Type and Road Slope	Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Tasmania)
Bridge and culvert asset inventory, including location, dimensions and construction type	Office of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet)'s Consolidated Data Collection Returns (Tasmania)

Further information on the Tasmanian State Grants Commission's methodology for determining its 2023–24 Financial Assistance Grants recommendations is provided in the State Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grants Distribution Methodology Paper, the State Grants Commission 2022–23 Annual Report, including 2023–24 Financial Assistance Grant Recommendations (Report #47), and the State Grants Commission 2023–24 Financial Assistance Grant Data Tables, all of which are available on the Publications Page of the State Grants Commission website at: www.treasury.tas.gov.au/state-grants-commission/publications.

Methodology changes for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23

2023–24 methodology

For the 2023–24 General Purpose recommendations, the Commission made the following methodological changes:

- It removed the Population Decline cost adjustor based on feedback received during the hearings and visits, which indicated that population decline was no longer a material cost disadvantage for Tasmanian councils
- It increased the cap from +10 to +17 per cent and increased the floor from 0 to +7 per cent. The increase to the cap reflects the significant increase in inflation and in the dollar values of grants, while the effect of the new floor was to preserve the real value of grants, based on CPI movements.

Legislative change

There were no changes made to the *State Grants Commission Act 1976* during the 2023–24 year.

Local government reform activities during the 2023–24 reporting period, including deregulation and legislative changes

In 2022, the Tasmanian Government commissioned an independent, wholesale review into the role, function, and design of local government in Tasmania – the Future of Local Government Review. The objective of the Review was to create a more robust and capable system of local government, for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

The Review provided its Final Report to the Minister for Local Government in October 2023, which included 37 recommendations for reform. The Government undertook public consultation on the Final Report from November 2023 to the end of February 2024. In November 2024 the Government confirmed its support – either in full, in part, or in principle – to all but one of the recommendations of the Final Report.

In response to the broader Future of Local Government Review reform package, the Government has also released its Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024–26. Priority legislative reforms that will be progressed as part of the Reform Program, will deliver two key outcomes, by:

1. implementing a number of Review recommendations which will streamline and enhance council strategic direction-setting and planning processes, improve engagement in council decision-making, and provide increased levels of transparency and accountability around how councils are performing
2. responding to ongoing community and sector concerns around elected member conduct and council governance. Reforms would broaden the suite of tools available to councils and regulators for dealing with governance and conduct challenges, with a focus on early intervention.

The Government has committed to implementing the Priority Reform Program ahead of the October 2026 Local Government Elections.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

In response to the Review Final Report, several Tasmanian councils have approached the State Government expressing interest in exploring the benefits of voluntary structural reform for their communities. As part of the Priority Reform Program, the Government has committed to support interested councils to scope, develop, and refine detailed proposals for structural reform studies.

The Government will work with, and support interested councils with progressing structural reform, where councils are both able to prepare and submit credible and robust proposals and can demonstrate the intent and commitment of all participating councils to proceed with reform. This approach will include:

1. Motivated councils (in consultation with the Office of Local Government) further developing clearly scoped structural reform studies, that specify the necessary technical analysis, change management, implementation design and community engagement required to deliver robust, credible, and actionable amalgamation proposals
2. Councils clearly identifying their funding needs to deliver the above proposals, including councils' own proposed investment/contributions, and any funding request from the State Government
3. the Office of Local Government assisting highly motivated councils to proactively commence work over the 2024–25 period, in a manner that will maximise the objectives of any agreed amalgamation project proposal.

Tasmania's Local Government Act prescribes that changes to local government areas may only be made following a Local Government Board Review. Under the proposed approach, the role of and process for the necessary Board would be as targeted and streamlined as possible, noting that the Act prescribes certain minimum council and community consultation requirements that would need to be satisfied.

As the program of work is being driven primarily by councils, councils themselves would be responsible for demonstrating community support in any final amalgamation proposal. Under this model the Government supports the need for community engagement for any proposal to amalgamate. The conduct of community consultation and engagement is at the discretion of the councils involved in the amalgamation proposals.

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

The Tasmanian Government has committed to working with the local government sector to develop, resource and implement a best practice local government performance monitoring system, in connection with Review recommendation 24.

The Review developed a 'pilot' version of its own performance dashboard during the Review process. This was well received by the community and the local government sector.

The key objective is to ensure there is greater clarity, consistency, and confidence in relation to how councils are collecting and reporting important performance data.

The development of a new performance monitoring framework for the Tasmanian local government sector will take significant time and dedicated resources and will require broad consultation and engagement with the sector and other key stakeholders.

As a first step, the Local Government Act will need to be amended so that it can provide the necessary supporting architecture for implementing the future framework. This will form part of the proposed legislative amendments being progressed under the Priority Reform Program during 2025.

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

In its response to the Review recommendations, the Tasmanian Government has committed to work with councils to establish benchmark asset life ranges for major asset classes. Councils who adopt asset useful lives outside these benchmarks will be asked to publish a justification for their assessment. The Director of Local Government and the Tasmanian Audit Office will consider these published statements in their ongoing audit and performance review processes. This work is to be undertaken in 2026.

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

Legislative amendments as part of the Priority Reform Program will establish a new requirement for councils to make and adopt a community engagement plan. While the specific requirements in connection with the plan are still being refined in consultation with local government, fostering meaningful council engagement with Aboriginal Tasmanians is a key objective.

A number of councils reviewed or remade their reconciliation plans during the reporting period. Notably the Launceston City Council developed its Aboriginal Partnership Plan, which has recently been finalised and endorsed. The Plan has been developed to form part of the Council's Community Engagement Strategy. It outlines a focused and agreed approach for the Council to engage with Aboriginal People in a culturally respectful and genuine manner.

B10 Report from the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)

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

In 2023–24 LGAT continued to support councils in financial and asset management.

Elected representative knowledge on finance and asset management

It is critical that elected representatives have strong knowledge of finance and asset management to support the delivery of the functions and services of local government. To support this, we held a full day session on Finance and Asset Management for elected representatives on 6 March 2024. The workshop included:

- Finance – essential fundamentals of council finances
- Asset management – why and how councils manage assets that underpin council functions and services across the board
- Climate change and its impacts on council assets and finances.

Tasmanian Development Manual

We have a current project to create a Tasmanian Development Manual (TDM), that will replace and expand on the Tasmanian Municipal Standards. It will include a range of pre-application design guidelines and post approval construction standards. It aims to be a convenient single reference point for proponents in informing development proposals and post-approval compliance requirements for construction.

Networks to support continual improvement

LGAT continued to facilitate the regular meetings of the statewide Tasmanian Asset Management Group, that focuses on collaborative, continual improvement work and professional development in the financial and asset management area. Membership includes financial and asset management professionals from Tasmanian councils, Tasmanian Government departments, government business enterprises, and other public infrastructure authorities, such as TasWater.

We also note that the Tasmanian Government has provided comment in its response regarding the FoLGR recommendation regarding benchmarks for asset useful lives.

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

Please refer to the Tasmanian Government's response on this question.

We note that the FoLGR, detailed below, is considering performance measurement and reporting for councils.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government

The investigations, findings and recommendations of FoLGR, and the Tasmanian Government's priority reform program will help to improve the sector's efficiency and effectiveness.

We understand that the Tasmanian Government's response focuses on structural reform. We note that some interested councils are investigating these opportunities.

A number of further recommendations were made in the FoLGR Final Report to support council efficiency and effectiveness, which were supported by the Tasmanian Government, and we would highlight the following:

- A revised, legislated local government role statement to clarify the roles and functions of councils. This will help to manage community expectations and support councils' delivery of services and functions that are identified under legislation
- A Local Government Charter that will help to articulate the specific functions and responsibilities of councils. Importantly, it will identify the obligations of the Tasmanian Government when working with the sector as a partner and deliverer of state legislation and regulation, and the commensurate resourcing to undertake these functions
- Establishment of a developer contributions scheme for local infrastructure. Currently, these costs are either borne by ratepayers, or the infrastructure has not been delivered in time to support economic development. This is in line with our detailed Infrastructure Contributions discussion paper
- A review of the heavy vehicle motor tax to increase the amount that councils receive to maintain local roads for heavy vehicles. Limited funding has meant that ratepayers have subsidised the maintenance of these heavy vehicle routes on local roads, despite the State Government receiving the Heavy Vehicle Motor Tax, that is intended for this purpose
- Implementation of a rating approach for renewable energy facilities that are currently not contributing to the rates base of municipalities, which again means general ratepayers are subsidising these developments.

Work to support elected representative's health and safety

The effectiveness of local government rests directly on individual elected representatives. Unfortunately, Tasmanian elected representatives have had experiences where their health and safety is impacted. We have worked closely with the Tasmanian Government on reforms and guidance to clarify and enhance behaviour management abilities under the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* and this work continues.

Procurement

LGAT Procurement is an arm of LGAT that aims to help councils undertake best practice procurement and deliver value for money for their communities. In 2023–24 we did this by:

- establishing a Tasmanian civil works and materials panels to help councils save in one of their biggest areas of expenditure
- providing 22 panel arrangements that cover a broad range of goods and services
- delivering five training sessions
- providing expert procurement advice
- maintaining our procurement network to support collaboration between council officers.

In 2023–24 council spending under the panel arrangements exceeded $21 million, a 30 per cent increase over the last financial year. The program delivered estimated total savings for councils of more than $3.3 million.

Beyond the goods and services procurement panels, LGAT Procurement provides the following key services:

- harmonised customer contracts, rather than 29 different approaches
- a simple quotation response process for council projects
- access to detailed supplier information, including insurances and relevant certification
- relationship-based contracting that provides better project outcomes
- a central point of contact to aid effective works planning and contracting.

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

Please refer to the Tasmanian Government's response on this question.

B11 Report from the Northern Territory Government

The methodology used for distributing funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government for 2023–24 by the Northern Territory Grants Commission

The Northern Territory Grants Commission's (the Commission) methodology conforms to the National Principle requirement for horizontal equalisation. The Commission in assessing relative need for allocating general purpose funding uses the balanced budget approach to horizontally equalise based on the formula.

Assessed expenditure need minus assessed revenue capacity = assessed equalisation requirement.

The methodology calculates standards by applying cost adjustors and average weightings to assess each local governing body revenue raising capacity and expenditure need. The assessment is the Commission's measure of each local governing body's ability to function at the average standard in accordance with the National Principles.

Population

The Commission used the 30 June 2022 Northern Territory estimated resident regional population distribution figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the basis for the Commission to reconcile the estimated resident total population.

Revenue-raising capacity

As the ownership of the land on which many communities are located across the Northern Territory is vested in land trusts established pursuant to the *Aboriginal Lands Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), it is not feasible to use a land valuation system solely as the means for assessing revenue raising capacity.

The collection of financial data through the Commission's annual returns enabled a number of revenue categories to be used, including municipal and regional and shire 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, library and local roads grants are recognised in the revenue component of the methodology. In the case of recipients of the Roads to Recovery 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 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 2023–24 allocations, financial data in respect of the 2021–22 year was used as the 2022–23 year-end financial reports were not completed at the time the allocations were calculated.

Expenditure needs

The assessment of standard expenditure is based on the Northern Territory's average per capita expenditure within the expenditure functions to which cost adjustors reflecting the assessed disadvantage of each local government are applied.

The Commission currently uses the nine expenditure functions in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Local Government Purpose Classifications. The assessment model ensures that the gross standard expenditure for each function equals the total actual identified expenditure of councils.

The total identified local government expenditure across all Northern Territory councils in 2021–22 amounted to $357 million. Therefore, under the methodology the gross standard expenditure equals $357 million, with each of the nine expenditure functions assuming the same share of both actual and standardised expenditure.

Cost adjustors

The Commission uses cost adjustors 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 factors influence the cost of service delivery. The Commission used location, dispersion and Aboriginality as cost adjustors for the 2023–24 methodology.

The cost adjustors are used in various combinations against each expenditure function in the methodology and have different weightings. Each cost adjustor is based around the Territory weighted average to ensure total standardised expenditure sums to total actual expenditure.

Minimum grants

For most local governments, the assessed expenditure needs exceed the assessed revenue capacity, meaning there is an assessed need. In 2023–24, four councils' assessed revenue capacity was greater than assessed expenditure need, meaning that there was no assessed need. However, as the legislation requires that local governments cannot get less than 30 per cent of what they would have been allocated had the funding been distributed solely on the basis of population, then three local government councils still received a grant by applying the minimum grant national principle.

Formula

1. Revenue component

Table 37 Formula for revenue component for all councils in the Northern Territory

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 other, municipal rates, regional and shire rates, special rates other, parking restricted and interest
Domestic waste	=	Per capita
Garbage other	=	Actual
Municipal council rates	=	Average rate
Regional and Shire rates	=	Per capita
Special rates other	=	Actual
Parking restricted	=	Actual
Interest	=	Actual
State income by revenue category 2021-22	=	Actual state local government gross income
Actual state local government gross income 2021-22	=	$228,691,284
Other grant support	=	Roads to Recovery grant 2022–23 (50%), library grant 2022–23 and road grant
Budget term	=	Population x per capita amount
Total local government revenue for 2023–24 allocations	=	**$357,324,173**

2. Expenditure components

Total local government expenditure of $357,324,173 apportioned over each expenditure component

a. **General public services ($121,617,396)**

Community population/Northern Territory population multiplied by general public services expenditure multiplied by Aboriginality

b. **Public order and safety ($23,195,734)**

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

c. **Economic affairs ($50,190,682)**

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

d. **Environmental protection ($19,270,894)**

Community population/Northern Territory population multiplied by environmental protection expenditure

e. **Housing and community amenities ($55,595,639)**

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

f. **Health ($3,551,450)**

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

g. **Recreation, culture and religion ($55,727,048)**

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

h. **Education ($38,788)**

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

i. **Social protection ($28,136,542)**

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

3. Local road grant funding

To determine the local road grant the Commission applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are shown in Table 38.

Table 38 Weightings by road type in the Northern Territory

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.

Methodology changes for 2023–24 from that used in 2022–23

The 2023–24 general-purpose entitlement was calculated using the current methodology and incorporating the latest estimates of resident population from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Northern Territory reflected a small population growth of 804 from the previous year.

The Commonwealth's decision to bring forward 100 per cent of the 2023–24 year's Financial Assistance Grant program allocation in 2022–23, caused a number of allocation anomalies to individual councils when compared with the Commission's methodology, resulting in some councils initially being overpaid their entitlement.

To remedy this situation the Commission resolved to realign allocations to individual councils and applied a loss assist factor to ensure no council received a general purpose grant decrease of more than 5 per cent. By applying this into its methodology, 13 councils received a general purpose entitlement increase for 2023–24 ranging from 3 per cent to 26 per cent, while four councils experienced a decrease ranging from 2 per cent to 5 per cent.

The outcomes for the road grant entitlements resulted in all councils and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (which is responsible for some council roads and has been declared to be a local governing body for the purpose of Financial

Assistance Grants) receiving an increase in 2023–24. The road grant distributions primarily reflect the increase in the overall funding entitlement and council's road data changes as advised through the annual road return process.

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

For 2023–24, under the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, which both commenced on 1 July 2021, councils have continued to follow the new mandatory requirements, including:

- Reviewing council's annual budget at least once in every six months and, where a budget amendment had a material impact on the council's long term financial plan, the council was required by resolution to amend the long term financial plan (regulation 9)
- Keeping electronic registers of council's major assets and portable and attractive assets and recording the minimum information required in the registers (*Guideline 4: Assets*, issued by the Minister responsible for *Local Government Act 2019*)
- Preparing council's annual budget using the prescribed annual budget reporting format and providing the additional reporting required on planned capital expenditure and major capital works at council and local authority levels
- Preparing council's monthly financial reports using the prescribed monthly financial reporting format and following the additional requirements regarding regular reporting on major capital works, tax and superannuation payments and reporting obligations, and disclosure of transactions on council credits held by the Chief Executive Officer and elected members
- Ensuring council's annual report includes the prescribed unaudited statements comparing actual financial performance against budget for the year with an explanation on material variations
- Following the prescribed related party disclosure format in the notes to the audited annual financial statement and the requirement to disclose the total remuneration individually paid to council's permanent, acting and temporary Chief Executive Officer to enable sector comparison.

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

The *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, which commenced on 1 July 2021, *Guideline 5: Budgets*, which commenced on 28 July 2022, and *Guideline 6: Annual Reports*, which commenced on 5 August 2022, all enable comparison of performance between councils. *Guideline 5: Budgets* has requirements not just for councils' annual budgets but also their long term plans.

The *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* require councils to use a form approved by the Agency Chief Executive Officer for their monthly financial reports.

While the Guidelines and Regulations do not mandate exactly how councils must present their financial information, they prescribe minimum levels of content and provide suggested templates.

In 2023–24, the Agency continued to monitor and work with councils to support their reporting in compliance with the Guidelines and Regulations.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

Council member training

The *Local Government Act 2019*, which commenced on 1 July 2021, introduced mandatory professional development for all elected members. All elected members must participate in approved training within twelve months of their election.

Periodic general elections for all Northern Territory councils occurred in August 2021. Accordingly, most elected members received training in 2021–22 and 2022–23. The Agency worked with councils to deliver foundation training in components of good governance face to face with each council. The training focused on core areas such as:

- the role of elected members
- managing conflicts of interest
- Codes of Conduct
- financial management.

Each component contained standard information about foundations of good governance, with the delivery tailored to the needs of each council. All councils received the training at their own location.

As there were instances of council members resigning, new members received the training in 2023–24.

Groote Archipelago Prospective Council

On 17 August 2022, the Warnindilyakwa Prospective Council was established. On 18 July 2023, its name was changed to the Groote Archipelago Regional Council. When the results of elections to be held for the Council on 15 March 2025, it will officially commence as a fully functioning council.

The role of a prospective council is to make preparations for when a fully-fledged council commences, such as developing a staffing structure, preparing preliminary service delivery plans, organising bank accounts and getting registered with the Australian Taxation Office and other organisations.

In 2023–24, the Groote Archipelago Prospective Council was funded with an operational subsidy of $0.7 million, to support its constituting member and staff in preparing it to become a regional council.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

In 2022–23, the Northern Territory Government approved a standardised approach for funding disaster related events by requiring all councils to make an initial upfront 25 per cent financial contribution of their eligible DRFA expenditure, up to a capped cumulative value in any financial year of $25,000 for shire councils; $100,000 for regional councils; and $400,000 for municipal councils. $3 million was also approved to be set aside in the Treasurer's Advance to enable the Agency to make more timely payments for eligible expenditure claimed by councils under the DRFA. This new process is aimed at reducing the impact a disaster event may have on council service delivery.

DRFA claims require evidence of the pre-disaster condition of assets (e.g. roads or bridges). This evidence has often been challenging for councils to provide. In 2023–24, the Agency worked with councils to encourage gathering of asset condition evidence, such as reports and photographs, prior to the main disaster season, which is typically from November to April in the Northern Territory.

Initiatives undertaken and services provided by local government to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

In 2014, local authorities were established in 63 remote communities across the Northern Territory. A further three local authorities were approved in 2017–18 and another one was approved in 2019–20. The primary role of local authorities is to offer community members living in regional and remote communities a stronger local voice and input on service delivery outcomes for their respective communities. One of the functions of local authorities is to determine local projects that reflect the needs and priorities of the local community.

On 8 August 2023, the then Minister for Local Government amended *Guideline 1: Local Authorities*, which sets out some of the administrative rules for local authorities, to provide more flexibility around membership, including the use of proxies, to encourage participation in local authorities by a broader range of community members.

In 2023–24, grant funding of $5.472 million was allocated across the nine regional councils to assist with funding priority projects, as identified by their respective local authorities. Local Authority Project Funding supports projects that encourage the continued development of local authorities and their communities and aims to:

- build stronger communities
- help local governing bodies and their communities become stronger and self-sustaining
- provide quality community infrastructure that facilitates economic opportunities and lifestyle improvements
- develop local government capacity to provide legitimate representation, effective governance, improved service delivery and sustainable development.

The funding pool is distributed to local authorities through a methodology developed by the Northern Territory Grants Commission.

In 2023–24, grant funding totalling $8.5 million was allocated to nine regional councils and one shire council under the Indigenous Jobs Development Fund to assist with subsidising up to 50 per cent of the cost of employing Aboriginal staff within their respective councils. The grant provides councils with financial assistance for salaries and approved on-costs for Aboriginal employees delivering local government services. Around 500 positions are supported through this program, which was fully subscribed.

In 2023–24 the protection and maintenance of burial areas in regional and remote communities was supported through the first round of the $0.54 million Regional and Remote Burial Areas grant program. The program was fully subscribed, and funding was allocated to two Aboriginal organisations and seven local government councils.

Local government reform activities including deregulation and legislative changes

Implementation of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022*

In 2022, the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory passed the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022* leading to its commencement on 28 November 2022. The previous legislation, the *Cemeteries Act 1952*, was outdated and did not recognise burial areas on Aboriginal land, which over many years resulted in widespread non-compliance with that legislation and the creation of legacy issues. In particular, burials were not consistently recorded in regional and remote communities across the Northern Territory.

The burial and cremation legislation is being implemented through collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders including Aboriginal organisations, local government councils, Land Councils, Commonwealth and other Northern Territory Government agencies, funeral service providers, and various Northern Territory entities that have a direct interest in burial and cremation matters. It acknowledges and respects the rich history of traditional Aboriginal funerary practices, recognising without interference how deceased loved ones are honoured after death. The legislation also aligns with the Northern Territory Government's commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement), thereby empowering Aboriginal Territorians to make decisions about, and effectively plan for the use and management of burial areas on Aboriginal land. Specifically, the legislation:

- enables and accommodates different methods and practices for the burial, exhumation and disposal of human remains, including respecting the rights of Aboriginal people to practice customs and traditions in relation to burials and exhumations
- ensures records of burials, exhumations and disposals of human remains are kept and maintained for the benefit of next of kin and future generations
- regulates record keeping for the protection and maintenance of burial sites
- recognises different burial areas across the Northern Territory
- regulates the management of cemeteries in a way that takes into account economic, social, cultural and regional interests
- regulates facilities for the disposal of human remains such as crematoriums.

In 2023–24 several resources that support the implementation of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022* were developed in consultation with stakeholders, including relevant Commonwealth and Northern Territory government agencies, local government councils, Aboriginal organisations, Land Councils and funeral service providers. They include templates of forms, registers, certificates, checklists and policies for the management of cemeteries and crematoriums.

In 2023–24 the Agency worked with West Arnhem Regional Council, the Northern Land Council and community members in Maningrida and Minjilang (Croker Island) to facilitate the declaration of Minjilang Community Cemetery on Croker Island and Manayingkarirra Community Cemetery in Maningrida.

B12 Report from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)

LGANT's strategic plan focuses on the core issues for our member councils and includes:

- SP1: Aboriginal Outcomes: Assist Aboriginal people to have a greater voice to achieve better social, cultural and economic outcomes
- SP2: Finance, Governance and Workforce: Strengthen financial sustainability and governance, and develop the workforce
- SP3: Profile and Reputation: Build the profile and reputation of the local government sector
- SP4: Climate, circular economy and environment: Adapt to the effects of climate change, manage waste, and preserve the natural environment
- SP5: Infrastructure: Maintain and construct over 2,000kms of regional and remote roads and support delivery and maintenance of other infrastructure
- SP6: Economic Development: Take a leading role in economic development
- SP7: Community services: Advocate local government interests in community services.

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

- Advocated for policy and legislative settings that enable local government councils to function effectively by:
  - securing a commitment from the Northern Territory Government (NTG) to review Guideline 3: Borrowings
  - securing a reversal of a ministerial request to councils to exempt charities and public benevolent institutions from paying council rates
  - securing a commitment for the Remuneration Tribunal to revisit the 2023 Determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal regarding allowances for Elected Members of local government councils and for members of Local Authorities
  - lodging submissions to:
    - inquiry into local government sustainability
    - NT Remuneration Tribunal into local government and local council and authority allowances (with resultant changes reflected in next Determinations e.g. vehicle allowance, travel time, professional development for shire councils)
    - Mineral Development Taskforce final report
- Continued to manage 2,000kms or remote roads on behalf of members
- Provided input and support to the Australian Local Government Association's submission and advocacy to the Infrastructure Investment Program Review which resulted in increased Roads to Recovery and Black Spot and Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program funding for local government councils
- Promoted the important role of local government in stimulating economic development by successfully advocating for inclusion of the local government sector as key stakeholders in the NTG's Territory Benefit Plan Guidelines

- Delivered the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) for 2022–23 which assists councils in developing their rates and budget
- Continue to provide collective risk protection through JLT Discretionary Trust and industrial relations and human resources services (through WALGA) to members.

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

- Partnered with NTG to review and promote the Guiding/Cross-Government Principles
- Participated in the NTG coordinated Facing North delegation to Canberra
- Attended ALGA's National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra and used the opportunity to meet with Ministers and Shadow Ministers. LGANT also worked with Senator McCarthy's office on an NT Roundtable at Parliament House.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

- Built local government capability in governance and human resource management by:
  - advocating for change to many sections of the NTG's *Local Government Act 2019*
  - managing a steep increase in code of conduct complaints
  - securing a commitment from the NTG to review the local government code of conduct
  - delivering a number of successful events aimed at building capacity of elected members and council staff including:
    - twice yearly conferences featuring a Mayors and Presidents and Cabinet roundtable and Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition election debate
    - Circular Economy Symposium
    - Rates and Finance Symposium.
- Facilitated natural disaster preparedness and resilience among local governments by:
  - attending the NT Emergency Management Symposium 2023
  - appearing at the Select Committee's inquiry on Australia's Disaster Resilience after contributing to ALGA's submission
  - lodging a submission to the Independent Review of Disaster Funding (Colvin)
  - providing input to ALGA's submission to the COVID response inquiry
  - successfully advocating for cyclone shelter build program commitments from the NTG
  - providing support to the NTG's Disaster Ready Fund application for cyclone shelters in four communities.
- Facilitated viable circular economy solutions for local governments by:
  - delivering the inaugural Circular Economy Symposium with the theme: *How Many 'R's in the Circular Economy* in recognition that it encompasses more than reduce, reuse, recycle
  - introducing the new LGANT Circular Economy Award designed to encourage councils to nominate recycling initiatives being carried out in their communities and how these initiatives could be adopted by other councils

- lodging submissions on:
  - the Proposal to Regulate E-Products Discussion Paper
  - Incentivising the use of recycled content over the use of virgin material
  - Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export-Waste Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 Exposure Draft
  - Improving the Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper
  - Phasing out Single Use Plastics in the NT Discussion Paper
  - Draft Determination in respect of conduct in connection with the Soft Plastics Taskforce.
- Positioned the local government sector as an important partner of the NT and Commonwealth governments by:
  - advocating the interests of the local government sector in the lead up to the NT Legislative Assembly General election
  - partnering with NTG to review and promote the Guiding/ Cross-Government Principles
  - participating in the NTG coordinated Facing North delegation to Canberra
  - attending ALGA's National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra and used the opportunity to meet with Ministers and Shadow Ministers.
- Built community understanding of and respect for local government by:
  - celebrating long service of elected members and staff through the annual awards ceremony.
- Re-establishing a Local Buy role which focuses on upskilling council staff in the use of the procurement platform and works to increase local suppliers on the platform.

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

- 89% of regional council elected members in the NT are Aboriginal.
- Advocated for clear roles and responsibilities for local government in implementing local and national initiatives and policies relating to Aboriginal people by:
  - lodging submissions to:
    - Productivity Commission's Review into Closing the Gap
    - Australian and NT government's reviews into their respective Aboriginal Procurement Policies.
- Built capacity of local government councils to engage meaningfully with local Aboriginal communities to understand their needs by:
  - continuous implementation of actions to overcome the inequality experienced by Aboriginal people through partnership in the NT Closing the Gap arrangements
  - investing a disproportionately high amount of resources into representing and justifying the sector's interests in regard to recognition of its important role in delivering services and infrastructure by Aboriginal elected members for Aboriginal people

- considerable advocacy efforts into influencing exclusionary policy and program development including procurement and local decision-making policies and grant programs (such as preferencing to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the draft Regional Job and Economic Development Program (RJEDP))
- being a key driver in the review of the NTG's Local Decision-Making policy.

- Built the capacity of local government councils to engage in reconciliation by:
  - reporting to Reconciliation Australia on its Reflect Reconciliation Action.
- Increased participation in local government elections by:
  - signing an MOU with the Australian Electoral Commission aimed at enabling electoral participation by Aboriginal people
  - attending West Arnhem Regional Council and Belyuen Community Government Council by-election information sessions with the intent of attracting candidates.

B13 Report from the Australian Capital Territory Government

The ACT Government administers the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) 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 typical state or local government functions. This is demonstrated by the ACT Government's engagement with local government through membership of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation and the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, as well as engagement with other jurisdictions through the National Cabinet.

The ACT Government is increasingly focused on enhancing Canberra's role as the regional centre for South East NSW and the relationships that exist across the Canberra Region. The ACT Government works closely with the NSW Government and local governments in the Canberra Region to address matters of common interest. The ACT Government also engages with major cities in Australia to share solutions and advocate on city issues.

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

The ACT Government Infrastructure Plan and Infrastructure Investment Program

The ACT Budget is formulated on a rolling four-year cycle with the infrastructure investment program extending to the fifth year. The additional year recognises the long lead time required for the development and planning of major capital works projects.

The five-year infrastructure investment program includes provisions for expected funding requirements for projects which are subject to approval or are commercially sensitive. This approach provides visibility and transparency in expected expenditure and facilitates sound budget management practice.

The infrastructure investment program is guided by the ACT Infrastructure Plan which sets out the Government's priorities and project pipeline over the short, medium and long term. The Plan was first released in 2019 and was updated in tranches during 2023–24.

The combination of annual publications of the five year infrastructure investment program and the ACT Infrastructure Plan provides industry with an overview of the current infrastructure pipeline and future projects under consideration.

The Wellbeing Framework

All ACT Government business cases must include a Wellbeing Impact Assessment outlining the expected wellbeing impacts of the proposal. This requirement is a key component of embedding the ACT Government's Wellbeing Framework into public policy development to improve the quality of life for Canberrans.

The Framework comprises twelve wellbeing domains (and associated indicators and measures) including economic performance, living standards, access and connectivity, health, education, housing, environment and climate, governance and institutions, safety, identity and belonging, social connection, and time. Over the longer term, outcome data from the Framework will inform development of policies and programs to improve the quality of life for all Canberrans.

The Capital Framework

During 2023–24, the ACT Government continued to plan, manage and review capital works projects under its Capital Framework. The Capital Framework seeks to improve business case development, service and asset planning, as well as project definition and scope.

Strategic Asset Management Plans

The ACT Government also supports a Strategic Asset Management program, providing financial assistance for agencies to establish Strategic Asset Management Plans for management of the Territory's assets. This program fosters better practice to increase the ACT's economic capacity, reduces future costs, and grows the city in a way that meets the changing needs of the ACT demographic and maintains current infrastructure.

Engagement with comparative performance measures between local governing bodies

The ACT Government does not currently undertake comparative performance measures with other local governments. However, the ACT Government does participate in the *Productivity Commission's Annual Report on Government Services*. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of Government Services in Australia. The Report outlines ACT performance relative to other State and Territory jurisdictions on key Government services including: Education, Health, Community Services, Justice Services, Emergency Management and Housing and Homelessness.

Reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery

Access Canberra

Customer Support

In 2023–24, Access Canberra supported a safe and liveable city through the delivery of essential government services to the community, ensuring regulatory protections across a range of areas, and striving to give Canberrans back time through providing connected, easy, and simple services and transactions regardless of the service channel chosen – online, by phone or in-person.

To further strengthen customer services and inclusivity, Access Canberra joined the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative to further support customers living with non-visible disabilities when visiting Service Centres. Trained Access Canberra staff wear a lapel pin indicating their support. Access Canberra has also introduced a quiet hour each Wednesday at most Access Canberra Service Centres, to help facilitate a calmer, less stimulating space for customers to complete their transactions.

The Access Canberra website introduced a new language translation function that supports 133 languages. Access Canberra Customer Service Officers who speak multiple languages also wear language badges that enable customers to easily identify which languages they speak, further supporting customers.

In 2023–24, Access Canberra:

- completed 462,008 transactions through Service Centres
- answered 347,150 customer calls through the Contact Centre
- resolved 22,102 requests for regulatory assistance
- offered 800 types of digital transactions.

Business and occupational licence support

Apprenticeships

Access Canberra introduced a new triaging policy that prioritises licences for applicants who have recently completed their electrical or plumbing apprenticeships. The policy commits to processing licence applications from apprentices within 21 days, if submitted within 14 days of receiving their certificate and transcript. The policy supports people who have finalised their apprenticeship to receive a pay increase in those cases where such an increase is not received until they are issued with their tradespersons licence. This also assists the community by having more licensed skilled labour in the marketplace.

Automatic Mutual Recognition

The Automatic Mutual Recognition (AMR) scheme was introduced by the Commonwealth in 2022 to increase labour mobility by removing barriers to occupational registration across jurisdictions. In 2023–24, Access Canberra processed 610 AMR notifications.

Community Services

The ACT Government's Children, Youth and Families Division (CYF) begun an ambitious multi-year program of legislative and practice reform. In 2023–24 the division restructured to support a shift to a family support model. The restructure placed more resources into teams providing early support response rather than a child protection statutory response. By investing in earlier support, the goal is to reduce the number of children who come into care.

The restructure and practice reform aligns with changes in legislation to the *Children and Young People Act 2008* which included the term 'at risk of abuse and neglect' being replaced with the concept of 'risk of significant harm'. Risk of significant harm better captures a child's risk environment and experiences, rather than focusing on a single event of abuse or neglect. CYF is working with the community sector to develop and deliver services that will support families how and when they need help. This will broaden the responses available to children, adolescents and their families outside a statutory child protection or youth justice response.

Commissioning for Outcomes

The ACT Government engages in commissioning to design, fund and deliver services and programs to meet the ACT community's needs, particularly those experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. The ACT Government has a range of active Commissioning cycles, including in the Community Services Directorate, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and the ACT Health Directorate.

Commissioning for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) is a priority for the ACT Government and in the homelessness sector, a Community Participation Approach and Implementation Framework was co-developed. A community consultation guide was developed to assist commissioners and commissioning teams to better engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community in planning, design and consultation activities.

Complexities and challenges of commissioning were identified through consultation and engagement with sector partners, peak bodies, advocacy groups and within government. The ACT Government's goal of continuous improvement was demonstrated through the Community Services Directorate and ACT Health Directorate partnering with ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) to develop the 2023 Listening Report and Improvement Action Plan. The findings of this 2023 Listening Report are assisting to refine the methodology and build further capability in commissioning.

Best Start

The ACT Government is committed to providing supports to all families, in all their diversity across their journey in the first 1000 days. In 2023–24 implementation of the Phase One Action Plan of the *Best Start for Canberra's Children: The First 1000 Days Strategy* (Best Start) continued. The work delivered under Best Start compliments work happening across government and the community sector to support children and families in their early years and to empower parents as first educators and carers.

Best Start is being delivered alongside other strategic frameworks in the ACT Government, to compliment efforts and achieve aligned outcomes, knowing that equitable access to services and resources is a powerful way to support children's learning, wellbeing and development, and to set them up for success into the future.

Reducing Homelessness

In 2023–24 the ACT Government invested additional funding to address identified service gaps for the homelessness sector. This investment draws on the findings from commissioning engagements that aim to ensure the delivery of a sustainable and responsive service system for all Canberrans experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. This additional investment includes:

- An extension of the community sector funding boost, ensuring specialist homelessness services in the ACT can continue their vital work in an environment of increased cost pressures
- Additional funding for food services to respond to increased client demand and service costs, allowing the Early Morning Centre (EMC) to continue to operate 7 days a week. EMC provides community assistance through the provision of support services that include free breakfasts, showering facilities and information and referral to relevant services. The service provided over 10,000 meals and food packs from July to December 2023
- Funding for the continuation of short-term hotel brokerage managed through the central intake service (OneLink) as well as specific hotel brokerage for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. In 2023–24, OneLink provided hotel accommodation support to 179 individuals and families including 75 accompanying children.

Strengthening Social Housing Assistance

The ACT Government is continuing to implement the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program, which supports the work of the ACT Housing Strategy and its goal to strengthen social housing assistance by delivering safe and affordable housing to support low income and disadvantaged Canberrans. The program sets targets to renew 1,000 properties and grow the portfolio by at least 400 homes by 2026–27.

In year 5 of the program, 257 new dwellings were added to the public housing portfolio through construction and purchase. This was offset by the sale of 95 dwellings and the demolition of 51 dwellings for redevelopment. As of 30 June 2024, 482 dwellings were in the construction pipeline made up of 242 dwellings under construction, 240 dwellings in pre-construction phases.

Economic Development

Increase economic diversification

The ACT Government continued to foster innovation and support business through the delivery of initiatives under the Future Jobs Fund, including support for the Canberra Innovation Network and its expansion at 1 Moore Street, the first ACT Social Enterprise Grants Program, the first CBR Small Business Expo and the release of the ACT Small Business Strategy 2023–2026.

The Canberra Business Advice and Support Service is funded to provide cost-free general business advice to the Canberra small business community. During 2023–24 more than 250 unique businesses engaged with the program, with just under half being women-owned businesses or intenders.

Developing a skilled workforce

Negotiations for the National Skills Agreement were finalised and the agreement commenced on 1 January 2024. The ACT was the first jurisdiction to announce a TAFE Centre of Excellence under the Agreement, in partnership with the Australian Government, with the Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence to be developed at CIT.

In 2023–24 there were 749 ACT Government-funded places released under the Skilled Capital initiative which provides Canberrans support and access to training in areas with skill shortages and other priority industries identified by the government. Subsidies for Certificate III in Electrotechnology were increased to 90 per cent to support the ACT's energy transition.

The ACT Government delivered two grant programs: the Skilled to Succeed Innovation Grants – to support projects related to critical skills in priority industry sectors; and Adult Community Education Grants to support the accessible and inclusive delivery of foundation skills training.

Education

The ACT Government delivers quality public school and early childhood education and care to shape every child's future and to lay the foundation for lifelong development and learning. The Government celebrated many achievements in relation to education during 2023–24, with key highlights including:

- launch of *Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools 2024–2034*, a 10-year strategy to strengthen inclusive education so that all students can participate in education on the same basis as their peers

- delivering universal access to free 3-year-old preschool on 1 January 2024 providing an average saving of $1,329 per eligible child for thousands of Canberra families
- rollout of the Parent Portal across 67 ACT public schools enabling parents to view student timetables, monitor attendance and explain absences, receive school newsletters, view academic reports, message teachers and access parent-teacher interviews
- delivering the *Valuing Educators, Values Children: A Workforce Strategy for the ACT Early Childhood Education and Care Profession 2023–25* which includes a range of supports for the workforce specific to the needs of the ACT context
- delivering an ACT-wide approach to effective transitions to support a consistent approach to transitions for children aged birth to 5 years-old across early childhood settings and including a suite of resources for educators and families.

Strong Foundations

In November 2023, the ACT Government established the Literacy and Numeracy Expert Panel to conduct an independent inquiry into literacy and numeracy education support and performance in the ACT. The expert panel's final report was released in May 2024, and included 8 recommendations and 14 findings based on the best-available evidence in relation to literacy and numeracy education.

The ACT Government accepted all recommendations and tasked the Education Directorate to work with school principals and key stakeholders to develop a new program of supports to ACT public schools, delivered through a 4 year implementation plan, commencing in 2025. Strong Foundation has been developed as a new program that will give children and young people at ACT public schools, a high-quality and consistent start to their literacy and numeracy education. Strong Foundations is founded on evidence-based, practical suggestions that will strengthen the education system by working together as one system, delivering better learning outcomes for students, and better workloads for teachers and school leaders. This includes:

- support for evidence-informed and consistent teaching practices in every classroom
- common assessments, including a year 1 phonics test
- advice and resources for parents, to support their children with literacy and numeracy
- multitiered systems of support for students in every public school.

Justice and Community Safety

The ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) implemented a new frontline emergency operations roster in April 2024. The new roster increases ambulance resources for the peak workload demand, improving staff wellbeing by reducing fatigue and having regular access to meal breaks and the unique element of professional development during a shift. ACTAS recruited 18 graduate paramedic interns and an additional nine paramedics through lateral recruitment processes in the 2023–24 financial year.

The ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) welcomed 14 new firefighters from college 49 in December 2023. Another 18 recruits commenced training in February 2024 as part of Recruit College 50. The ACTF&R took delivery of Australia's first zero emissions electric breathing apparatus (BA) fire truck in November 2023 and procured new chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNe) detectors and identifiers.

ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) held two major exercises in the last quarter of 2023–24 to share knowledge among its members and prepare for the 2024–25 fire season. ACTRFS successfully ran two recruitment programs in 2023–24 in which an additional 72 volunteers were recruited.

The ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) ran a successful recruitment program where 58 additional volunteers were recruited. In addition, the service received two new replacement storm response vehicles, which provide enhanced equipment storage and safety features for volunteer members to operate from.

Transport and City Services

MyWay+ Ticketing System

Transport Canberra progressed the design and commenced testing of the new MyWay+ next generation ticketing and passenger information system for Canberra's public transport network. This will be reported on in more detail in the 2024–25 report.

Zero Emission Transport Plan for Transport Canberra

During 2023–24 Transport Canberra progressed the implementation of the Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra, including continued procurement of battery electric buses, construction work on a new depot at Woden which can accommodate housing and charging of electric buses, training for employees and delivering power supply and associated infrastructure to charge buses at Tuggeranong Depot.

Active Travel Plan

The Active Travel Plan 2024–30 and design guide were launched during 2023–24, providing guidance on future investment in Canberra's active travel network and infrastructure standards.

Transport Canberra also conducted a targeted campaign called Rethink your routine through until June 2024, encouraging Canberrans to mode shift from cars to public transport while the major infrastructure projects like Raising London Circuit and Light Rail Stage 2A are being implemented, to assist combating congestion and to promote public transport.

Strategic Road Maintenance and Renewal Program

The Strategic Road Maintenance and Renewal Program commenced in 2023–24 and aims to prevent pavement defects to extend the life of this important community asset. More than 1.28 million square metres of roads were resurfaced in 2023–24 by utilising three resurfacing treatments: Bitumen Spray Seal (resealing); Micro surfacing and Asphalt resurfacing.

Road and Path Maintenance

The ACT Government is continuing to trial several innovative materials, which are being used to inform updates to specifications. This includes a variety of recycled materials in asphalt applications; use of recycled plastic fibres as a replacement for steel reinforcement in concrete paths; and use of recycled concrete aggregates as a replacement of subbase material under concrete paths.

Construction of the upgrades for Tuggeranong foreshore were completed in June 2024, including improvements along length of the Town Centre foreshore and to the foreshore walking and cycling path. A first for Canberra is the low carbon footprint pavement along a section of the path which was made by reusing 540 old tyres.

Libraries ACT

The Lil' Greenies program re-commenced in January 2024 and aims to inspire, educate and activate the next generation in sustainable practices, by running environmentally friendly activities for primary school aged children and their families. The program has been very successful, with sessions fully subscribed, and will continue to run monthly throughout 2024. Topics have included 'Science in the kitchen', 'Upcycling with No Waste ACT', 'Decorating library bags' and 'Seed planting'.

Urban Wood Reuse Strategy

Work was undertaken during 2023–24 to develop an Urban Wood Reuse Strategy to repurpose wood waste material after trees reach their end of life and are removed. The Strategy will outline a plan for the reuse of high value timber and lower value urban wood waste produced by City Services in line with the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan.

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) pilot expansion and new facility

The residential food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection pilot continued in 2023–24 with over 5,300 households participating, diverting over 1,202 tonnes of organics from landfill. Construction of a new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing facility reached a milestone with the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released for public comment, while the pilot of the FOGO collection service continued for over 5,000 households in Canberra's north.

Expansion of landfill gas to energy plant

During 2023–24 the ACT Government expanded the landfill gas to energy plant at the Mugga Lane landfill. The expansion project will include additional generators, battery storage and a 20-megawatt grid connection which will provide enough energy to power up to 10,800 homes in the ACT each year.

Streetlighting

The ACT Government continued recycling of luminaires (lighting units), lamps and copper cable recovered from streetlight maintenance and upgrade works and ensured continued independent auditing and verification of the quantity of recycled materials.

The Government will continue to upgrade luminaires as part of the ongoing LED upgrade program to provide additional energy savings, with particular interest on upgrades to low powered luminaires on residential streets. In 2023–24, a total of 20,823 MWh was saved as result of the replacement program. This represents a 49 per cent energy consumption saving compared to the baseline.

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

Community Services

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

The ACT Government commenced the construction of a purpose-built youth services facility for Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation. The Project will provide a fit for purpose, culturally designed facility to enable Gugan Gulwan to enhance delivery of services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and young people in ACT and beyond.

The Project reflects the ACT Governments commitment to support the growth of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled sector and providing Gugan Gulwan a suitable facility to deliver critical programs and support to children and families of the Canberra community.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Support (DFSV)

Through 2023–24 the ACT Government continued the implementation of initiatives in response to recommendations made in the We Don't Shoot Our Wounded report. As at 30 June 2024, partial progress had been made against 10 of the 12 recommendations.

The ACT Government recognises significantly more work is needed to fully deliver these recommendations, including further measures to ensure sustainable funding for DFSV Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and improve the cultural safety of mainstream services. We continue to focus on Priority Reform 2 (Strengthening the community-controlled sector) of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, with ongoing work to strengthen and build sustainable domestic, family, and sexual violence specialist ACCOs in the ACT. In 2023–24 the ACT Government continued investment in:

- Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation
- Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation
- Yhurwun Bullan
- WhISPers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
- Yeddung Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corporation.

The ACT Government seeks to centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in its work and acknowledges the significant over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with experiences of domestic and sexual violence.

We are also committed to doing more work to achieve formal partnerships and shared decision making. Through 2023–34 the ACT Government continued to work closely with ACCOs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders, and the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group. The Expert Reference Group provides advice on how we can prevent and reduce domestic, family and sexual violence perpetrated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through self-determined responses.

The ACT Government also clearly heard messages from the community about the need to take meaningful action to reduce consultation fatigue. We acknowledge the burden placed on the community to participate in fragmented government consultations and are committed to improving our ways of working and partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities.

As a result, during 2023–24 the ACT Government undertook consultation with a broad range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders on four key DFSV reform areas concurrently, rather than running four separate consultation efforts. To ensure a culturally responsive and safe environment for participating stakeholders, the consultations were facilitated by Curijo Pty Ltd, a 100% Aboriginal female owned and led business. Stakeholders reflected positively on this approach to consultation and recommended this approach be taken whenever possible and appropriate. The ACT Government is considering the outcomes and recommendations from this work and how they can be implemented to ensure reforms, services and projects are community-led and culturally responsive.

Housing

The ACT Government is committed to, in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the establishment of an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation for housing. There are currently three ACCOs registered as Housing providers operating in the ACT. The ACT Government is investigating opportunities to support these ACCOs to further build their housing stock, through public housing, social housing and community housing.

The ACT Government is also supporting new and emerging ACCOs in the ACT with aspirations and community led approaches to deliver housing services in the ACT including regulatory registration processes. A mixed mode approach is being explored as it is unlikely that one ACCO can provide all the different service types to meet Community needs across the housing continuum.

ACCO Establishment and Expansion Fund

The ACT Government has committed funding over four years through the 2024–25 ACT Budget to establish the ACCO Establishment and Expansion Fund (AEEF). The AEEF responds to what we have heard from the community-controlled sector and enables government to provide an alternative funding source for ACCOs focused on supporting establishment, capacity and capability building activities.

The AEEF will open in quarter 1 2025 and is designed to support the growth and sustainability of local ACCOs, consistent with the ACT Government commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028. By supporting ACCOs to build organisational capacity and capability, we collectively work to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Canberra.

Aboriginal Service Development Branch

The Aboriginal Service Development Branch was established in 2023 within the Community Services Directorate to support and work in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, new and existing ACCOs and government partners to deliver on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector.

The Aboriginal Service Development Branch works closely with new and existing ACCOs supporting their operational capability and capacity to meet community goals to deliver across the entire human services system. This includes holistic and culturally safe wraparound services that are not siloed by Government processes and responds to individual ACCOs needs and bring partners together to collaboratively address challenges and explore opportunities.

Economic Development

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Support

The ACT Government has delivered dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business support programs since 2017. Badji, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Support Program, was established following an independent review into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business growth and viability undertaken in 2020. Baji provides culturally appropriate and concierge-led business support and referrals, coaching and mentoring services, and access to incubator and accelerator programs for Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses. Since its commencement in June 2022 to June 2024 the Badji program has:

- supported 49 unique local Indigenous businesses across a range of industries including Healthcare, Arts and recreation, Administration and support, Consultancy, Construction, Education and training, and Cultural services. Many of these businesses also receive ongoing assistance through the Program's concierge servicing
- provided support and assistance around marketing activity, administration, recruitment, funding opportunities and grants assistance
- referred local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to a range of ecosystem support providers, including the CBR Innovation Network, the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service, artsACT, Indigenous Business Australia, the Australian Taxation Office, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and the Australian National University
- implemented a calendar of promotional activity for the Badji Program across website activity, social media, e-newsletters, attendance at trade fairs, and participation at Canberra Business Advice and Support Service events.

Education

Early Childhood Education

Koori Preschool is a program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 to 5 years and provides culturally safe and relevant early learning through rich, play-based experiences. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are reflected across the program, which is aligned to the Early Years Framework.

As part of the Koori Preschool expansion, from the beginning of the 2024 school year, Narrabundah, Ngunnawal and Richardson Koori Preschool sites expanded their Koori Preschool program to include an additional class, totalling eight Koori Preschool classes across the five sites. This meant an additional 66 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children could access Koori Preschool, increasing available places from 110 to 176.

In 2023, the ACT Government continued to support embedding of the Koori Preschool Curriculum and Koori Pre Cultural Safety Framework along with induction for staff and educators in Koori Preschool settings. This process included consultation with current Koori Preschool staff on what supports they needed to improve outcomes for students. The result was an induction guide for staff new to Koori Preschool. The guide provides clear information on the roles and responsibilities of educators and the leadership team in supporting families at Koori Preschool. It includes a range of practical resources to strengthen cultural competence and connections with community.

Tertiary Scholarships

Tertiary scholarships of up to $10,000 per annum for 3 years are available each year for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students undertaking a teaching qualification at an ACT university. The 2024 Scholarship Program also provides one-year scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students undertaking full-time study in any course at an ACT university. These one-year scholarships are valued at up to $10,000 depending on the volume and quality of applications.

In 2023–24, one one-off scholarship was awarded to a student undertaking a health-related degree. There are an additional two ongoing teaching scholarships that were awarded in previous years, totalling three tertiary scholarships administered by the Education Directorate throughout 2023–24.

Secondary Scholarships

Secondary scholarships of up to $4,000 are available annually to senior secondary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to support year 12 completion and pathways to further education and training. Ten secondary scholarships were awarded for the 2024 school year and there were nine scholarships continuing from 2023.

The Mura Awards

The Mura Awards is an annual program providing bursaries of $400 each to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in key transition years (years 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11) who demonstrate high engagement with learning, leadership within their school community or improved achievement. Mura Awards were awarded to 46 students for the 2023 school year and 66 students for the 2024 school year.

Health Services

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services

The ACT Government is dedicated to establishing the ACT's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation service. The 2023–24 ACT Budget provided capital funding for Winnunga Nimmityjah to construct the facility. Development Application stamped plans to support demolition commencement were received on 8 November 2023, with construction stamped plans expected by early 2025.

Delivered through Service Funding Agreements and Healthy Canberra Grants, Winnunga was able to provide access to a range of primary health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT, including harm reduction, mental health nurses, facilitating access to specialist services and coordinated services into the Alexander Maconochie Centre. The Government will continue to work in partnership with Winnunga to deliver a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation service as part of the Watson Health Precinct redevelopment.

Thirrili

Thirrili delivers targeted, culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT. It supports suicide prevention, intervention, postvention and aftercare. The service has an early intervention focus that works towards a reduction in the causes, prevalence, and impact of suicide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, their families, and communities.

Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF)

The NBHF, funded recurrently by the ACT Government, provides programs that use a multi-modal therapeutic community approach, traditional healing concepts, cultural programs, and life skills training to tackle underlying social and emotional issues. The NBHF works with a range of services including health, social, community, educational, government and non-government to ensure community can access assistance based on individual needs. 2023–24 saw significant uplift and growth in day-service utilisation and participant outcomes, and self-determined progress towards Community-control stemming from an external review of governance supporting the project.

Gugan-Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation (Gugan)

Through Service Funding Agreements, Gugan provides a range of health and wellbeing services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT and surrounding region. It delivers health and wellbeing programs such as Early Intervention, Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, Parenting Programs, a Youth Outreach Program, support for Alcohol and Other Drugs and Mental Health Nurse.

In 2023–24 the ACT Health Directorate and other ACT Government directorates who fund Gugan worked closely with the service to refine data and reporting requirements ensuring a greater focus on service needs, reporting of impact for Communities, and overall reduction in administrative burden. Progress on construction of Gugan's new facility in Wanniassa is also on track for completion in early 2025, and will enable expanded services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families in the ACT and region.

Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation

In 2023, Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation commenced delivery of the Yawarj Mara – Strong Pathways program, that aims to facilitate empowerment and provide northside Aboriginal youth with opportunities to learn about their culture through song, dance, sport, mentoring, life-skills education and referral pathways which will assist in improving their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. This program will be delivered through to December 2024.

Cultural Integrity Plan

In 2023–24, the ACT Health Directorate reinvigorated its commitment to developing and implementing a Cultural Integrity Plan by December 2024 as part of its Phase Two Focus Area Action Plan for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028. Work on the Cultural Integrity Plan, which is now in the drafting stage, aligns with the Whole of Government Cultural Integrity Framework. The Plan will strengthen the cultural integrity of staff and create a strong understanding of First Nations culture and history. This will inform both a culturally appropriate and respectful workplace, and culturally appropriate and respectful services, initiatives, and programs.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap (NAoCtG) Priority Reforms

In line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (NAoCtG) Priority Reforms 1 and 3, in 2023–24 the ACT Government undertook a range of initiatives founded on investing in trusting relationships, self-determination and changing the way the government does business. This included Community design sessions enabling analysis and mapping of the perinatal mental health service landscape identifying gaps in the existing perinatal mental health service system.

The analysis and mapping identified a need for greater perinatal mental health support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers. Additionally, in collaboration with senior ACT and region Aboriginal women, work has started on the design of a Birthing on Country Model of Care for the ACT and region to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, children and families the best start in life. Furthermore, the ACT Government has continued to work in partnership with Curijo, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise, to facilitate a culturally safe and strengths-based community engagement about preventive health.

In line with the NAoCtG Priority Reform 4, the ACT Government designed and publicly released in partnership with ACT and region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Demographic Profile ACT and Surrounds*. Also in line with this Priority Reform, the ACT Government engaged Maiam Nayri Wingara to undertake a Community-driven Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance project.

ACT Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan 2023–2030 (CACSP)

The CACSP was released in September 2023 and sets out a roadmap for holistic children's health services funded by the ACT Government. This plan builds on work across the ACT's health and early childhood systems to improve and strengthen existing services and programs for children, adolescents, and their families. While many actions in the CACSP will support children to meet their developmental goals, a specific action for First Nations children is the implementation of the *Together, Forward 2023–2025 Action Plan and Next Steps for Our Kids 2022–2030* related to First Nations children.

Justice and Community Safety

The ACT Government provided funding for seven programs during 2023–24 and provided contract management support to the Community organisations delivering the programs. These programs are:

- Yarrabi Bamirr – support for First Nations families to reduce or prevent contact with the justice system and consequently, improve life outcomes
- Galambany Circle Sentencing Court Support – This Court gives eligible First Nations adults who have committed an offence a culturally relevant sentencing option, in consultation with local Elders
- Extended Throughcare – a client-centred program designed to enable First Nations clients to succeed as they transition from prison to living back in the community
- Yarning Circles – a series of yarning circles that focus on helping ex-detainees to stay in the community and rebuild their lives. The program supports re-establishing links to community and culture, restoring relationships with family, friends and peers and supporting and enabling clients to manage their own lives
- Ngurrambai – court-based bail support, outreach bail support, Alexander Maconochie Centre support and after-hours bail support – designed to reduce the number of First Nations people on remand, and help First Nations people to apply for, gain and stick to their bail conditions
- Front Up – provided by the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT to support First Nations people who have an outstanding warrant(s) or have breached bail or a community-based sentence. The program helps them to present to Court and negotiate on their behalf to have the matter resolved, where possible, without a period in custody

- Yurwan Ghuda – (strong child) (Facilitated by FNJB with day to day management by EPSDD and delivery through a senior Aboriginal service provider) an On-Country program that commenced in February 2024 – to address over-representation by supporting 9–12 year olds who come into, or are at risk of coming into, contact with the criminal justice system with the opportunity to participate in On-Country activities.

Corrective Services

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) released the *Be the Change We Seek* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Framework in October 2023. The Framework builds on ACTCS' commitment to addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT criminal justice system. The Framework outlines factors that support providing culturally appropriate programs and services and culturally capable staff to build towards an environment of correctional services that promote healing, rehabilitation, and successful reintegration into the community. Development of the Framework was undertaken in consultation with community stakeholders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience of corrective services.

ACTCS continued to provide Alternative Reporting sites for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attend for the purpose of meeting requirements of their community-based corrections orders and hence reduce the risk of non-compliance and promote successful completion of these orders. The sites aim to increase access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Community Corrections and foster linkages with other culturally appropriate services; increase cultural awareness and culturally appropriate practice for ACTCS Community Corrections staff; and help to develop stronger working partnerships with Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations serve the community.

Restorative Justice

The Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate has a dedicated First Nations Guidance Partner and a First Nations Convenor position. These positions support the provision of culturally relevant information and guidance for participant(s) and Convenors to support the delivery of culturally respectful and appropriate restorative justice processes. They also work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and support networks to build relationships and understanding of restorative justice in the ACT.

Transport and City Services

Koori Pre-School charter

In 2023, the ACT Government introduced a Koori Pre-School Charter Service program. This program aims to address a need raised by community through provision of transport to enable excursions for school children and community to ensure connection to their land. Throughout the reporting period, a total of 29 charters were provided at the request of the schools. The program will continue until the end of the 2024 calendar year. An evaluation of the service will be conducted, with a view to extend the program into the 2025 calendar year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Bus

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community bus services provide transport to those in the community who are unable to access standard transport services. The service enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders' groups, juvenile and justice support groups, family groups and individuals to access medical appointments, significant cultural events, such as funerals, and social and sporting events. The program provided 2,988 passenger movements in the 2023–24 financial year.

Boomanulla Oval

The ACT Government is working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body to determine a pathway to progressively increase community involvement in the ongoing management of the Boomanulla Oval site and facilities. In 2023–24, the ACT Government continued working with the Elected Body to develop a governance model that will re-engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community with the management of Boomanulla Oval, with a long-term objective of transitioning it back to being a community facility operated by a community group.

Following refurbishment works completed in 2018, the ACT Government has continued to complete additional improvements in 2023–24 including repainting of the main and rear access gates; installation of new Australian rules football posts; new hinged rugby posts for quick assembly and disassembly to allow multipurpose use of the sportsground; and new mobile soccer goals to allow soccer usage of the sportsground. These improvements have led to increased utilisation of Boomanulla Oval across sporting codes in the community.

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learner drivers

The Learner Driver mentor program, funded through the ACT Road Safety Fund and delivered by the Salvation Army, supports disadvantaged young learner drivers to gain their provisional licence. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible for this program which provides access to ACT Accredited Driving Instructors, the Vulnerable Road User program and the Safer Driver Course and matches learner drivers to volunteer driver mentors to assist them to gain the driving hours required to be eligible for an ACT provisional car licence.

Multi-year playground upgrades

The ACT Government is working with Bagariin Ngunnawal Cultural Consulting to enable Indigenous cultural themes to be integrated into the design of the equipment, artwork and signage at playgrounds in the ACT. Playground upgrades were completed at Chisholm, Aranda and Ngunnawal and partially at Gordon. The Ngunnawal cultural themes for these upgrades were developed in consultation with Bagariin Ngunnawal Cultural Consulting.

The Lyons and Kaleen playground upgrade designs are complete and construction will commence in late 2024. The Ngunnawal theme for Kaleen is the fresh water eco system inspired by the nearby stormwater and old creek system. The Ngunnawal theme for Lyons is the autumn forest.

Artwork in sport and recreation facilities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art has and will continue to be installed across sport and recreation facilities. In 2023–24 this included the installation of art works at Ngunnawal District Playing Fields.

Culturally appropriate memorial parks

A portion of the Gungahlin Cemetery, developed in consultation with local elders, has been set aside for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. During the year ACT Government officials met with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives to discuss improving the portion and raising awareness of interment options. Significant consultation was also undertaken in relation to the design of stage 1 Southern Memorial Park.

Deregulation and legislative change

Access Canberra

Compulsory Conciliation – Improvements to resolving fair training disputes

In 2024, in response to high rates of trader non-attendance at compulsory conciliation conferences, the *Fair Trading (Australian Consumer Law) Act 1992* (ACT) was amended to give the Commissioner for Fair Trading the power to issue infringement notices to businesses that fail to attend a scheduled conciliation. The penalty for non-attendance is $960 for individuals and $4800 for corporations. The amendments came into effect on 16 July 2024.

The Compulsory Conciliation function covers cases up to and including $5000.

- If the negotiation is unsuccessful, either through early resolution or Compulsory Conciliation, then the Administrative Appeals Tribunal or a court are the only bodies that can order a particular remedy or compensation for the consumer
- If an agreement is reached in a conciliation, and the trader then fails to comply with that agreement, it still needs to be enforced by the consumer through a court or tribunal decision
- The trader will not have committed an offence if they have attended Compulsory Conciliation but fail to come to an agreement with the consumer during conciliation.

In 2023–24, Access Canberra conducted four proactive regulatory programs covering Fair Trading, which included 188 inspections of the Risk Assessment Management Plans of licenced venues, Australian Consumer Law requirements, Working with Vulnerable People registration for Summer Sports, tobacco licensing and compliance, liquor licence compliance including off premises licences, egg labelling, and inspections conducted at major events across the ACT.

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, Access Canberra supported 266 businesses to understand requirements around approvals, both new and existing. In addition, 25 businesses engaged with Access Canberra via the in-person appointment service that was introduced in June 2023.

Better Regulation

In 2023–24, the ACT Government implemented a number of reforms under the Better Regulation Agenda: a two-year work program detailed in Better Regulation – a report on how we are improving business regulation in the ACT released in 2021–22. The Agenda was comprised of two key reform streams progressed in parallel:

- Stream 1: Policy and Legislation – continual improvements to rules, regulations, and processes
- Stream 2: Business Experience and Regulator Practice – making government-to-business interactions better, faster, and simpler.

Developing a Regulatory Quality Framework

The Better Regulation Agenda included a reform measure to 'develop options to better measure and benchmark regulatory burden.' In 2023–24, the ACT Government collaborated with the Australian National University's (ANU) School of Global Governance and Regulation (RegNet) to develop and pilot a new methodology to understand and measure not only the burden of existing regulatory frameworks – but also the value of regulation. ANU plans to publish the tool and guidance for its use in 2025.

Night-time economy liquor reforms

In 2024, the ACT Government introduced a raft of reforms under the *Liquor Act 2010* designed to support business, increase regulatory flexibility and responsiveness, and encourage community engagement with arts and culture.

On 1 January 2024, the government commenced significantly reduced liquor licence fees for small restaurants and cafés and removed the requirement for general licences to have separate areas for on-premises and off-premises liquor consumption. These reforms support smaller venues to start up and stay open longer and reduce burden on business.

In March 2024, the ACT Government introduced the *Liquor (Night-Time Economy) Amendment Bill 2024* to remove regulatory barriers and assist licensed businesses to increase their participation in the night-time economy, as well as increase support for local musicians and artists. As a result of these reforms, licensed businesses can now apply for more free authorisations for extended trading and changed floor plans to support licensee events throughout the year, the Head of Access Canberra can declare Special Events of significance to the Territory, and eligible venues that host events and showcase artists and creatives can apply for a significant reduction on their annual liquor licence fee.

Introducing new Noise Standards for entertainment noise in the City Centre

In 2024, the ACT Government introduced new fit-for-purpose Noise Standards for entertainment noise in the City Centre Entertainment Precinct (CCEP) to protect, nurture and future proof entertainment venues and uses in the city centre. The precinct is comprised of a Core that supports a higher concentration of noise emitting entertainment venues and a Frame that makes up the remainder of the precinct and contains a variety of venues but also acts as a buffer that prevents the highest noise levels from impacting nearby residential and commercial accommodation. This design ensures that entertainment uses are protected while also respecting the health and wellbeing of the community. Existing noise settings will continue to apply to any other noise emissions in the CCEP such as construction noise, mechanical plant noise, machinery and residential noise. The changes were informed by rigorous consultation with businesses, peak bodies, industry associations, residents, and the community.

Improving existing regulatory arrangements on the employment agents licensing framework

In 2023, the ACT Government undertook public consultation and developed recommendations to improve the employment agents licensing framework. Following consultation with the sector and consideration by government, legislation was passed in June 2024 to remove the requirement for employment agents in the ACT to be licensed for this low-risk industry. The framework continues to prohibit employment agents from charging fees to job seekers for services rendered.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme

The Loose Fill Asbestos Coordination team (LFAC) commenced operation on 1 July 2022, following the closure of the Asbestos Response Taskforce on 30 June 2022. LFAC has continued the work of the Taskforce in now administers rating the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme. The Scheme has been in operation since 2014, and the past nine years have seen tremendous work progressed in eradicating loose fill insulation from the homes of Canberra. The vast majority of 1029 affected properties have been eradicated from the Canberra community. As of 19 November 2024, 1,012 of the known 1,029 residential properties identified as affected by loose fill asbestos insulation have been demolished.

Planning System reform

In November 2023, the ACT's new outcomes-focused planning system commenced. With a growing population expected to reach 700,000 by 2050, it is important for Canberra to have a contemporary planning system that delivers high-quality and fit-for-purpose development. The new planning system was informed by a 4-year Planning System Review and Reform Project (PSRRP) led by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Key features of the ACT's reformed planning system include:

- The *Planning Act* 2023, which is the legal foundation of the planning system. It establishes a framework to enhance the ACT's liveability and prosperity, protect its natural environment, and promote the wellbeing of residents by creating an effective, efficient and accessible planning system. It also introduces principles of good planning and principles of good consultation, which influence decision-making and public participation on planning matters
- The introduction of district strategies, a new level of strategic spatial planning in the ACT. District strategies will guide how different parts of Canberra will change and grow towards 2038 and beyond to 2050. The district strategies show areas that could be suitable for change, to manage growth in a way that is sustainable and gives Canberrans access to services, transport, employment, health, education and nature
- The *Territory Plan* 2023, the statutory document that makes sure future development provides Canberrans with an attractive, safe and efficient environment in which to live, work and play. The Territory Plan is accompanied by new supporting documents, including design guides and planning technical specifications. The design guides provide clear and easy to understand qualitative guidance to identify design possibilities and encourage innovation. Design guides also identify where flexibility in design can be considered and matters that must be addressed by proponents.

Building Reform

The ACT has introduced Australia's first Developer Licensing and Regulation Scheme aimed at protecting consumers and improving building quality and safety by bringing Property Developers into the chain of accountability. The *Property Developers Act 2024* commenced in July 2024 with licensing provisions expected to commence in the second half of 2025. The ACT Government during this period:

- Introduced new licensing requirements for electricians undertaking electrical wiring work on a declared distributed energy resource, such as the installation of rooftop solar, inverters and batteries

- Introduced new powers of the regulator to take action in relation to electrical equipment or electrical installations that are becoming a source of danger
- Introduced a new regulatory framework for medical gas systems to address safety risks with the installation, testing and maintenance of medical gas systems
- Introduced reforms to provide timely payment to contractors for construction work undertaken
- Commenced implementation of the findings of the review of residential building work insurance settings to improve consumer protection. This includes progressing regulation changes in the second half of 2024 to increase the minimum prescribed insurance amount and time limits to lodge a claim from 1 January 2025
- Commenced the Professional Engineers Registration Scheme on 6 March 2024 with applications being processed in a phased manner. From 6 March 2025, all engineers providing professional engineering services in a prescribed area of engineering will be required to be registered and will be subject to compliance and enforcement activity. A dedicated page on this site has been established to provide information to the community about the scheme
- Developed and implemented new requirements when reconnecting electrical installations that have sat idle for 6 months or longer.

Individual cold water metering for new unit titled developments

In 2023–24, reforms were implemented to the way water costs are allocated in new medium and high rise developments, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water billing. Currently, occupants of residential, commercial and mixed-use unit titled development in the ACT do not pay water bills for their individual water consumption, instead each owner pays for a fixed supply charge for their water and sewage connection regardless of how much water they use. Under this system, unit occupants with lower water consumption compared to their neighbours end up paying higher costs to effectively subsidise their neighbours' water usage. This scenario can be exacerbated when there are commercial units, for example a restaurant or other hospitality business, in a mixed-use development where all water use is centrally metered.

The changes were enacted through updates to the Water and Sewerage Technical Code, made under the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*. The Code commenced on 1 July 2024.

The transition to individual metering for cold water supply to unit titled residential and mixed-use developments will commence in 2025, with the full rollout complete by 1 July 2028. The new requirements will apply to all development applications lodged after these dates. Canberra's water utility, Icon Water has developed technical standards to support these new arrangements.

Biosecurity and Invasive Species

Protecting the ACT's environment from the threat of biosecurity incidents and invasive species was a considerable focus in 2023–24. Key achievements included the completion of a strategic risk assessment of the biosecurity threat pathways into the ACT; continued delivery of the invasive plant management program, with 10,790 hectares treated; and continued delivery of the invasive pest animal management program across an area of 133,572 hectares including national parks, nature reserves and some rural lands, resulting in a reduction of more than 900 feral animals with the help of thermal-assisted aerial feral animal control program.

In response to the detection of Avian Influenza in the ACT in June 2024, the ACT Government activated the Biosecurity Emergency Sub-Plan under the *Emergencies Act 2014* and an Incident Management Team (IMT) was formed. A strategic risk assessment of the biosecurity threat pathways into the ACT was completed. The ACT Government proactively led the response to the emergency animal disease outbreak risk.

Improving Air Quality

The ACT Government's air quality initiatives over the decades have been at the forefront nationally and have collectively resulted in improvements to the ACT's air quality, as evident in the Annual Air Quality Report released by the Environment Protection Authority.

Through the Wood Heater Removal Program and the Sustainable Household Scheme, the government offers incentives and support for Canberrans to replace wood heaters that do not meet the current emissions standards with electric alternatives. Approximately 1,320 wood heaters have been removed since the wood heater program commenced in 2004, with a projected public health cost benefit of more than $6 million.

Reviews of Nature Conservation Legislation and Strategy

The ACT Government has been strengthening strategic environment management and supporting policies through a review of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act) and the *Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23*. The Nature Conservation Strategy describes the strategic objectives for nature conservation and guides the coordinated and integrated approach to nature conservation in the ACT. Following cross-government consultation on the NC Act in late 2023, and a targeted consultation with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee and broader Ngunnawal community, a discussion paper was released for public consultation in May 2024. A listening report will be released, followed by the presentation of the NC Act Review Paper to the Legislative Assembly in early 2025.

Climate Change and Energy

In support of the ACT's goal to reach net zero fossil fuel gas emissions by 2045, the ACT Government introduced a regulation in December 2023 preventing new fossil-fuel gas network connections in residential, commercial and community land-use zones. The regulation restricts the gas distributor, Evoenergy, from providing new fossil fuel gas (or natural gas) network connections in prescribed circumstances, stopping the majority of new sources of emissions from fossil fuel gas use within the Territory. The Regulation includes requirements for the gas distributor to report compliance to the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission. The gas distributor must also report annual gas connection and demand figures to the Australian Energy Regulator.

ACT Integrated Energy Plan 2024–30

In June 2024, the ACT Government launched the first Integrated Energy Plan 2024–30, outlining the approach to phasing out fossil fuel energy while ensuring an affordable, secure and reliable energy supply. The Integrated Energy Plan establishes priority areas and commitments for action over the period 2024–2030. As part of the Integrated Energy Plan, the ACT Government committed to deliver a two-year trial that will support 350 private homeowners in extreme financial hardship by fully funding upgrades to electrify and insulate their homes through the Access to Electric Program. This program reforms the previous Chronic Health Conditions pilot with expanded eligibility and a wider scope while still reaching those in need. This has reduced the administrative and resourcing demands of the program by using trusted community organisations to refer and assess applicants who intimately understand the needs of the community which results in better targeted and more efficient and effective service delivery.

The Integrated Energy Plan also committed to the electrification of all ACT Government owned and operated buildings where possible by 2040. The Electrification of Government Gas Assets (EoGGA) program is a centralised whole-of-government program that is essential for delivering against these commitments. It will comprise of gas asset replacement works and the coordination of associated electricity network upgrades for over 1,000 gas assets in government owned facilities.

Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards – Ceiling insulation

The ACT Government continued implementation of a regulation for a minimum energy efficiency standard for ceiling insulation in rental homes through 2023–24. The regulation requires that rental homes with no insulation or insulation under R2 (where R value is a measure of the effectiveness of the insulation) must be upgraded to R5 (the R value typically installed in new builds in the ACT). The requirement to meet the standard will continue to be phased in over time, with all existing rental properties anticipated to be compliant by 30 November 2026 (unless they have a valid exemption).

Monitoring and evaluation of the first year of implementation has shown no observable impacts of the regulation on rental prices and volumes in the market. Findings have also shown that landlord disclosure of compliance with the standard has been high. The introduction of a minimum energy efficiency standard for rental homes is helping to improve home energy performance, increase thermal comfort, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to the climate change resilience of ACT renters.

Transport and City Services

Road Safety

The *Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, was passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly on 15 May 2024. The Bill increased and equalised, where possible, penalties for drink and drug driving offences, created a new offence for combined drug and alcohol driving and expanded roadside drug testing to include cocaine.

The *Road Transport (Road Rules) Amendment Regulation 2023* came into effect in late December 2023 to support implementation of the mobile device detection camera rollout across the ACT. The amendments combined previous mobile phone offences into a singular offence and introduced definitions and other associated technical amendments to support the framework.

Amendments to the *Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulation 2017* and *Road Transport (Offences) Regulation 2005* were finalised as part of the *Electoral and Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2023* which was passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly on 31 October 2023. The amendments introduced a new offence for parking a vehicle in a declared place with advertising or electoral matter attached to a vehicle.

The *Road Safety Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024* came into effect in late June 2024 to amend various pieces of road transport legislation to support the issuing of immediate suspension notices by the Road Transport Authority, remove administrative barriers for National Heavy Vehicle Regulator officers administering the legislation, improve electric vehicle signage, and make administrative amendments to allow for unregistered vehicle permits to expire when required.

The ACT Government also developed the 2024–25 ACT Road Safety Action Plan to continue to align the strategic aims with the ACT Road Safety Strategy 2020–25 and the national road safety framework. The Action Plan strengthens a focus on dangerous driving, protecting vulnerable road users and building a shared responsibility for road safety amongst the community.

Circular Economy

In August 2023, the ACT Government released the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023– 2030 which outlines actions and opportunities to build a circular economy for the ACT. The Strategy and Action Plan is underpinned by three strategic objectives, which are to:

1. Grow extended producer responsibility
2. Grow markets for recovered materials, goods and circular business models
3. Create high-value jobs and attract innovative new enterprises.

The *Circular Economy Act 2023* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in October 2023. The Act introduced a power for the Minister to create waste reduction requirements and waste processing requirements for businesses which provides a legislative framework to reduce waste and retain the value of resources.

B14 Report from the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)

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

In 2023–24, local government non-financial assets including roads, community infrastructure such as buildings, facilities, airports, water, and sewerage (in some states) including land, was valued at $634.9 billion [ABS Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2023–24].

Many of these assets have been accumulated over decades, sometimes with state/territory or federal capital assistance without regard to life-cycle costs.

Local government taxation revenue in 2023–24 was in the order of $23.1 billion [ABS Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2023–24]. However, depreciation expenses were in the order of $11.1 billion.

Given the significant level of assets under management, councils face considerable difficulties in maintaining and renewing these assets at the same time as providing the other services that are expected by local and regional communities and other levels of government.

To monitor and improve the performance and management of the infrastructure portfolio owned and operated by Australia's 537 councils, ALGA established its National State of the Assets project in 2012. The latest National State of the Assets Report was published in 2024.

Successive National State of the Assets reports have highlighted the importance of continuous improvement in systems to support communities for the future – including helping councils invest in asset management training, technology and software enhancements, skills development, and information sharing.

The Report showed that, as of 30 June 2023, 65 per cent of all local government infrastructure assets are in good condition, 27 per cent are in fair condition and 8% are in poor condition. The combined estimated replacement cost of local government infrastructure reported in poor condition (8 per cent of total assets) is $55 billion. This figure for infrastructure in poor condition is broken down by:

- 9% of sealed roads and 13% of unsealed roads – replacement cost ~$23.1 billion
- 6% of concrete bridges and 18% of timber bridges – replacement costs ~$2.1 billion
- 8% of buildings and facilities – replacement cost ~$8.3 billion
- 9% of parks and recreation sites – replacement cost ~$2.9 billion
- 6% of stormwater infrastructure – replacement cost ~$7.9 billion
- 10% of water and wastewater infrastructure – replacement cost ~$9.5 billion
- 12% of airports and aerodromes – replacement cost ~$437 million
- 6% of footpaths and cycleways – replacement cost ~$1.4 billion.

While not all poor and fair infrastructure needs immediate replacement, it is important that each item of infrastructure be continually assessed to fully understand the risks and implications of fair and poor condition infrastructure. Of particular concern are potential safety risks, limitations on service levels to meet population growth and the productivity of businesses and Australian industry.

The 2024 National State of the Assets Reports shows local roads make up around 77 percent of the national road network (by length). Local roads also make up 38% of total local government infrastructure assets.

ALGA continues to work with the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meetings, federal transport organisations and all jurisdictions on road reform including Heavy Vehicle National Law, National Heavy Vehicle Access Framework, Road Safety, National Service Level Standards, Land Transport Market Reform and Asset Management.

The local road network is a critical component of the nation's road and transport system. Some of the challenges confronting the local road network under local government management, include:

- first and last mile capacity for efficient delivery of freight
- road safety, especially for regional, rural and remote roads
- the relatively rapid growth of total government road-related expenditure costs
- the reliance on intergovernmental transfers for road funding
- the competing funding pressures from other government services
- the need for road investment to reflect whole-of-life costs and road-user needs more clearly, particularly to accommodate the larger and heavier, high productivity heavy vehicles.

Highlighting these challenges, the Grattan Institute's November 2023 report titled "Potholes and Pitfalls: How to Fix Local Roads" presents an analysis of the Australian local road network highlighting a chronic underfunding of maintenance. The report found that councils are underspending by at least $1 billion per year, or about 25% below the level needed to merely maintain the network in its current state.

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

At the national level there are no overarching systems in place to collect, analyse and compare performance measures across the 537 local councils in Australia. State and territory governments have established performance measures but often use different approaches and metrics. For example, in South Australia, comparisons between councils on a wide range of data are facilitated by the annual publication of annual "database reports" by the SA Local Government Grants Commission. These reports are available at: https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/grants-commission.

ALGA supports the availability of accurate, timely and consistent data to enable evidence-based research, planning and outcomes for local government policy and funding and, where possible, advocates for this approach in line with recommendations from Parliamentary research reports over many years.

As flagged in previous correspondence, ALGA is concerned at the prospect of local government being left behind in a data-driven decision-making environment, and that many councils will need assistance to lift their capability to be able to input, access and use data, as well as protect the data for which they are responsible.

Reforms undertaken during 2023–24 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery

ALGA and its state and territory associations strongly support collaboration and engagement between local governments – and between all levels of government – to enable better service delivery outcomes for all communities.

ALGA aims to maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities. To do this, ALGA:

- Advocates for sustainable funding for councils that will deliver long term certainty for communities
- Leads national dialogue and policy development on critical local issues including roads, infrastructure, emergency management, climate change and the environment
- Represents local government across Ministerial Councils and Forums, and as a signatory to major national agreements such as the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the National Housing Accord, and the National Disability Strategy
- Hosts the National General Assembly – the largest annual local government gathering in Australia
- Acts as a conduit between the Commonwealth and councils, ensuring alignment and collaboration across all tiers of government
- Commissions research and provides national submissions on issues that impact on councils and their communities.

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

As a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, ALGA advances its goals through a dedicated implementation plan by:

a. promoting awareness and adoption of the agreement among local governments
b. supporting collaboration between state, territory, and local governments
c. strengthening local-level shared decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

As a member of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap, ALGA advocates on behalf of all local governments to State and Federal Ministers, highlighting their role in representing Indigenous leaders and communities in rural and remote areas, and in leading local reconciliation efforts.

With the recent creation of the new the Groote Archipelago Regional Council in the NT, and more than half of the Northern Territory's 17 councils having majority Indigenous elected members, four of which have entirely Indigenous elected members, the number of indigenous members of local governments continue to grow. Of note:

- There are 17 specifically First Nations councils in Queensland
- Over 60 percent of all local government elected members in the NT are Indigenous
- Just under 90 percent of NT Regional Council elected members are Indigenous
- Of the 154 elected members in the NT, 92 identify as Indigenous

All First Nations councils are delivering services in regional and remote areas – such as aged care and childcare, and facilitating new services through supports such as administrative support, use of council properties, and "peppercorn" leases to help ACCOs become established in their communities.

ALGA's member Queensland and Western Australian local government peak bodies also hold yearly forums specifically for their First Nations Mayors, Councillors and CEOs to strengthen their role as a voice to state and federal government.

Local governments are a key stakeholder in the five Closing the Gap Place Based Partnerships (PBP) across Australia, helping establish mechanisms for local decision making, priority setting, and giving a voice to the local people and aboriginal community controlled services.

As a one of the PBP communities throughout 2023–24, Tamworth Regional Council has taken a leading role by developing a local Closing the Gap agreement in partnership with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, which have come together as the Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Coalition (TACCO)[1]. Working together they have recently signed an MOU to continue moving forward with community consultation to inform development plans that guide local action and intergovernmental efforts into 2025.[2]

Across Australia, all councils deliver vital services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in urban, regional, and remote areas. A number of councils have worked with Reconciliation Australia to develop Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) as a framework to engage with their local ATSI communities, develop local consultation groups, and bring the community together through cultural events and education. These plans also give councils a framework to develop better internal policies and practices to address culturally safe practices and policies.[3]

ALGA supports these efforts by partnering with Reconciliation Australia to simplify the RAP process, making it more accessible for smaller councils.

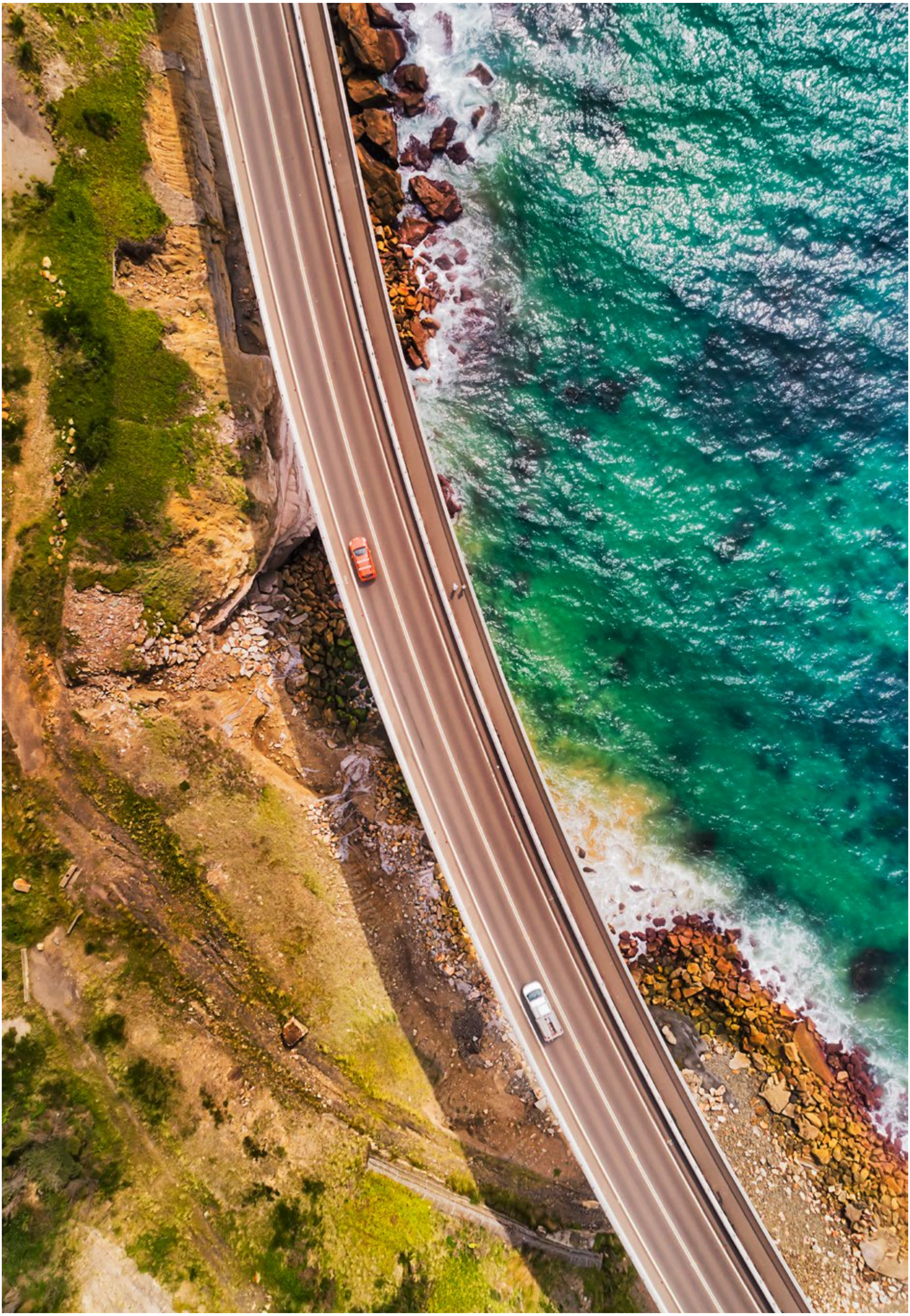
Local councils play a vital role in supporting Aboriginal communities by helping establish local custodian groups that inform council and regional decision-making. They also deliver programs that support skills development and employment in remote areas, enhance regional community resilience, and provide essential services such as childcare, aged care, and health outreach— particularly for maternal and child health.

Councils run community justice initiatives, night patrols, and safety programs, while supporting education through culturally relevant programs that reconnect children with school. They also manage land in alignment with cultural practices, advocate for improved digital and telecommunications access, and promote cultural understanding through events and education.

1 https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/tamworth-aboriginal-community-organisations-unite-to-close-gap-on-a-local-level

2 https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-09/tamworth-counicl-historic-capo-agreement/105273876?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=abc_newsmail_am-pm_sfmc&utm_term=&utm_id=2551716&sfmc_id=341825169

3 https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-action-plans/who-has-a-rap/#who-has-rap-results



Appendix C
Comparison of distribution models

Local Government Grants Commissions (commissions) in each state and the Northern Territory use distribution models to determine the grant they will recommend be allocated to councils in their jurisdiction. They use one model for allocating the general purpose funding among councils and a separate model for allocating the local road funding. This appendix provides a comparison of the approaches the grant commissions used for determining 2023–24 allocations.

C1 General purpose component

In allocating the general purpose funding between councils within a jurisdiction, commissions are required under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)* (the Act) to comply with agreed National Principles (refer to 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 3-step procedure to determine the general purpose allocations.

Step 1 Commissions determine an allocation of the general purpose funding 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 2, 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 funding for the jurisdiction has been completely allocated. More details on the approaches grant commissions use for Steps 1 and 3 are provided in the following pages.

Allocating on a horizontal equalisation basis

An allocation on a horizontal equalisation basis is defined in section 6 of the Act. More specifically, according to subsection 6(3), horizontal equalisation:

a. ensures that each local governing body in a State [or Northern 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 Northern Territory]

b. 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 actually 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 grant it requires to balance its assessed costs and assessed revenues.

When determining grant allocations on a horizontal equalisation basis, Local Government Grants Commissions use one of 2 distribution models:

- balanced budget – based on the approach of assessing the overall level of disadvantage for a council using a notional budget for the council
- direct assessment – based on the approach of assessing the level of disadvantage for a council in each area of expenditure and revenue.

Table 39 shows the type of distribution model used by each commission.

Table 39 Distribution models used for general purpose grant allocations for 2023–24

State	Model used
NSW	Direct assessment model
Vic	Balanced budget model
Qld	Balanced budget model
WA	Balanced budget model
SA	Direct assessment model (for local governing bodies outside the incorporated areas [the Outback Communities Authority and 5 Aboriginal Communities] allocations are made on a per capita basis)
Tas	Balanced budget model
NT	Balanced budget model

Source notes: Information provided by Local Government Grants Commissions.

The balanced budget model

Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory use the balanced budget approach. Their models are based on making an assessment of each council's costs of providing services and its capacity to raise revenue, including its capacity to obtain other grant assistance.

The balanced budget model can be summarised as:

General purpose allocation to a council equals

- assessed costs of providing services
- plus assessed average operating surplus/deficit
- less assessed revenue
- less actual receipt of other grant assistance.

The direct assessment model

New South Wales and South Australia use the direct assessment approach. Their models are based on assessing the level of advantage or disadvantage in each area of expenditure and revenue and summing these assessments over all areas of expenditure and revenue for all councils.

In each area of expenditure or revenue, an individual council's assessment is compared to the average council. The direct assessment model calculates an individual council's level of disadvantage or advantage for each area of expenditure and revenue, including for other grant assistance.

The direct assessment model can be summarised as:

General purpose allocation to a council equals

- an equal per capita share of the general purpose pool
- plus expenditure needs
- plus revenue needs
- plus 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 40 shows the differences in the scope of equalisation of the commissions.

Table 40 Scope of equalisation in commissions' models for general purpose grants

Expenditure function	***NSW***	***Vic***	***Qld***	***WA***	***SA***	***Tas***	***NT***
Administration	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Law, order and public safety	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education, health and welfare	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community amenities	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreation and culture	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transport – local roads	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transport – airports	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Transport – public transport	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Transport – other transport	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building control	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Garbage	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water	No	No	Yes	No	No	N/A	No
Sewerage	No	No	Yes	No	No	N/A	No
Electricity	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Capital	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Depreciation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Debt servicing	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Entrepreneurial activity	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Agency arrangements	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Revenue function	***NSW***	***Vic***	***Qld***	***WA***	***SA***	***Tas***	***NT***
Rate revenue	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operation subsidies	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garbage charges	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water charges	No	No	Yes	No	No	N/A	No
Sewerage charges	No	No	Yes	No	No	N/A	No
Airport charges	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Parking fees and fines	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Other user charges	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Notes: Functions for which a 'Yes' is provided above are not necessarily separately assessed by the relevant Local Government Grants Commission, but may be included as part of another assessed function. For example, depreciation might be included as a cost under the category for which the relevant asset is provided. Similarly, revenue functions might be included as reductions in the associated expenditure function.

N/A = not applicable.

Source: Information provided by Local Government Grants Commissions in each state and the Northern Territory.

Revenue assessments

Sources of revenue for local government include rates, user charges and government grants. The treatment of revenue assessments is discussed in this section.

New South Wales undertakes an assessment of a council's relative capacity to raise revenue and uses revenue allowances to attempt to compensate councils for their relative lack of revenue-raising capacity. Property values are used as the basis for assessing revenue-raising capacity, as rates, based on property values, are the principal source of council income. Property values also indicate the relative economic strength of local areas. In the revenue allowance calculation, councils with low values per property are assessed as being disadvantaged and are brought up to the average (positive allowances), while councils with high values per property are assessed as being advantaged and are brought down to the average (negative allowances). Separate calculations are made for urban and non-urban properties.

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.

For each council, **Victoria** calculates a raw grant, which is determined by subtracting the council's standardised revenue from its standardised expenditure. A council's standardised revenue is intended to reflect its capacity to raise revenue from its community and, in the case of standardised rates revenue, is calculated for each council by multiplying its valuation base (on a capital improved value basis) by the average rate across all Victorian councils over 3 years. The payments in lieu of rates received by some councils for major facilities, such as power generating plants and airports, have been added to their standardised revenue to ensure that all councils are treated on an equitable basis. Rate-revenue-raising capacity is calculated separately for each of the 3 major property classes (residential, commercial/industrial/other and farm) using a 4-year average of valuation data.

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

A council's relative capacity to raise revenue from user fees and charges, or standardised fees and charges revenue, also forms part of the calculation of standardised revenue. The assessed capacity to generate user fees and charges for each council is added to its standardised rate revenue to produce total standardised revenue.

Queensland's revised methodology uses the fiscal capacity model which calculates the potential revenue a council could raise if it experienced the same set of underlying conditions as the average Local Government Area (LGA). The potential revenue is compared against the capacity of an LGA to raise revenue. The difference between the potential and capacity is the fiscal gap which determines how much of the grant pool should be allocated to each LGA. The potential revenue model uses the revenue categories of: rates; water and wastewater; user fees and charges; and other grants.

In **Western Australia**, calculation of assessed revenue capacity is based on a standardised mathematical formula 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 5 land use categories: residential, commercial, industrial, rural, and other. Its Commission estimates each council's component revenue grant by applying the state average rate in the dollar to the difference between the council's improved capital values per capita multiplied by a revenue relativity index for the council, and those for the state as a whole, and multiplying this back by the council's population. To overcome fluctuations in the base data, valuations, rate revenue and population are averaged over 3 years.

In **Tasmania**, revenue capacity is calculated as the 3-year average of:

- the revenue a council would raise by applying the state-wide average rate to the adjusted assessed annual value of all its properties subject to rates and charges (standardised revenue) plus
- the council's per capita grant allocation plus
- other financial support receipts that meet the criteria for inclusion.

In the **Northern Territory,** the methodology calculates standards by applying cost adjustors and average weightings to assess the revenue-raising capacity and expenditure need of each council. The assessment is the Northern Territory Grants Commission's measure of the ability of each council to function at the average standard in accordance with the National Principles. For most local governments, the assessed expenditure needs exceed the assessed revenue capacity, meaning there is an assessed need.

As the ownership of the land on which many communities are located across the Northern Territory is vested in land trusts established pursuant to the *Aboriginal Lands Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*, it is not 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 Commission's annual returns enabled a number of revenue categories to be introduced, including municipal and regional and shire 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, library and local roads grants are recognised in the revenue component of the methodology. In the case of recipients of the Roads to Recovery grants, 50% of the grant was included. Recipients of library grants and local roads grants have the total amount of the grant included.

Other grant support – National Principle

The fourth National Principle for the general purpose grant (National Principle A4) 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.*

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 grant received and the expenditure it funds should be included in the allocation process.

Table 41 provides details on the grants included by commissions in allocating the general purpose component in 2023–24.

Table 41 Grants treated by inclusion for 2023–24 by jurisdiction

State	Grants treated by inclusion in general purpose allocations
NSW	Expenditure allowances for services are discounted, where appropriate, to recognise the contribution of specific purpose grants.
Vic	Net standardised expenditure has been obtained for each function by subtracting standardised grant support (calculated on an average per unit basis) from gross standardised expenditure. This ensures that other grant support is treated on an 'inclusion' basis. Net standardised expenditure for the Local Roads and Bridges expenditure function for each council is calculated by subtracting other grant support (based on the actual identified local roads grant and a proportion of Roads to Recovery grants) from gross standardised expenditure.
Qld	Other grant revenue is considered on an 'inclusion basis' and includes a five-year average of total operating grant revenue.
WA	Other grants are included with other revenues and are netted from expenditure. This reduces the expenditure total of each function by the total amount of available grants. Consistent with natural weighting, Western Australia's assessments are scaled to the actual amount of total revenue and total expenditure.
SA	Subsidies that are of the type that most councils receive and are not dependent upon their own special effort – 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.
Tas	All revenues are included except where a case is made for its exclusion. Other Financial Support include revenues and grants that are received from sources where the council has no influence over what revenue or grant is derived.
NT	Other grant support to local governing bodies includes 50 per cent of the Roads to Recovery grant and 100 per cent of both the library and local roads grant.

Source notes: 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 next section.

New South Wales has calculated expenditure allowances for each council for 6 council services. An additional allowance is calculated for councils outside the Sydney statistical division that recognises their isolation. A pensioner rebate allowance is calculated which recognises that a council's share of pensioner rebates is a compulsory 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.

Generally, for each expenditure function, an allowance will be determined using recurrent cost.

Disability factors are also considered among the expenditure categories. A disability factor is the estimate of the additional cost of providing a standard service, due to inherent characteristics beyond the control of a council.

The Commission considered many external factors and has retained the 0 per cent floor or lower limit on decreases in allocations to councils. The Commission continues to consult with the sector about resuming the lower limit to minus 5 per cent.

In **Victoria**, the standardised expenditure is calculated for each council on the basis of nine expenditure functions. Between them, these expenditure functions include all council recurrent expenditure. The Victorian model ensures that the gross standardised expenditure for each function equals aggregate actual expenditure by councils, thus ensuring that the relative importance of each of the nine expenditure functions in the model matches the pattern of actual council expenditure.

For each function, with the exception of Local Roads and Bridges, *gross standardised expenditure* is obtained by multiplying the relevant major cost driver by:

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

Net standardised expenditure has been obtained for each function by subtracting standardised grant support (calculated on an average per unit basis) from gross standardised expenditure.

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

Queensland applies a series of multipliers to the revenue potential calculation to adjust the fiscal gap, including a population segment uplift multiplier and a set of cost factors. The segment level uplift captures a broad array of factors that can be difficult to quantify and assists in addressing the divergence between operating revenue and expenditure depending on population. The cost factors are unique to each council and attempt to reflect how different circumstances impact expenses in the operating environments of councils.

In **Western Australia**, assessed expenditure need is based on a standardised mathematical formula updated annually, involving the assessment of each local government's operating expenditures in the provision of core services and facilities under the following 'standard' categories: governance; law, order and public safety; education, health and welfare; community amenities; recreation and culture; and transport. The standardised assessments for each local government are attuned by cost adjustors which recognise the additional costs that individual local governments experience in the provision of services due to a range of causes.

In **South Australia**, component expenditure grants compensate or penalise councils according to whether the costs of providing a standard range of local government services can be expected to be greater than or less than the average cost for the state as a whole due to factors outside the control of councils. The 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 uses 20 expenditure categories including the local road categories.

Component grants for all revenue categories and expenditure functions are calculated for each council and aggregated to give each council's total raw calculation figure.

Tasmania calculates its standard expenditure for each council by adopting a two pool approach. Firstly, 30 per cent of the General Purpose Grant is allocated to councils according to their share of the State's total population (this is referred to as the per capita grant). The remaining 70 per cent is allocated on a relative needs or equalisation basis.

Annual revenue raising capacity and expenditure requirements for providing core services to a common standard are estimated based on state-wide averages. Councils are assessed as having hypothecated annual surpluses or deficits.

Councils with a surplus are regarded as having sufficient capacity and assessed as minimum grant councils. The remaining councils with deficits, do not have sufficient capability to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other Tasmanian councils and therefore require additional support. The deficits of these councils are aggregated and the relative needs pool is allocated among these councils equal to the share of the aggregated deficit attributable to that council.

Tasmania's cost adjustors include: absentee population; climate; dispersion; isolation; population decline; service industry employment; scale (admin); scale (other); tourism; worker influx; and Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas – Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage.

In the **Northern Territory**, the assessment of standard expenditure is based on the Territory's average per capita expenditure within the expenditure functions to which cost adjustors reflecting the assessed disadvantage of each local government are applied. The Northern Territory Grants Commission currently uses nine expenditure functions in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Local Government Purpose Classifications. The assessment model ensures that the gross standard expenditure for each function equals the total actual identified expenditure of councils.

Assessing local road expenditure needs under the general purpose grant

As part of the expenditure needs assessment to determine the general purpose allocation, commissions also assess each council's local road needs. The main features of the models that the commissions use to assess local road needs and determine the general purpose allocations in 2023–24 are discussed here.

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

In **Victoria**, the methodology for allocating the local road grant is designed to reflect the relative needs of Victorian councils in relation to local roads funding in accordance with the national principle relating to the allocation of local roads funding. It 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 series of 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.

Under the new methodology in **Queensland** two data inputs are used. A councils self-reported roads length (5-year average); and a Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) supplied cost relativity index. Funding under the local roads pool is split into 2 pools for minimum grant and non-minimum grant councils, based on the inverse proportion of population in both groups. The length of roads is then multiplied by the cost relativity index, and this amount determines the share of the relevant funding pool.

Western Australia calculates the local road component using the asset preservation model, which has been in place since 1992. The model assesses the average annual costs of maintaining each local government's road network and has the capacity to equalise road standards through the application of minimum standards. These standards help local governments that have not been able to develop their road systems to the same standard as more affluent local governments.

In **South Australia,** the identified local road grants pool is divided into formula grants (85%) and special local road grants (15%). The formula component is divided between metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils. Metropolitan council allocations are determined by an equal weighting of road length and population, while non-metropolitan council allocations are determined on an equal weighting of road length, population and the area of each council. Distribution of the special local road grants are based on recommendations from the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel.

In **Tasmania**, the Commission estimates the annualised cost for preserving council road, bridge, and culvert assets in the state. 3 road types are used in the assessment being urban sealed, rural sealed and unsealed roads. Council bridge and culvert asset preservation requirements are also accounted for. Cost adjustors and allowances are then applied to account for advantages or disadvantages faced by councils in maintaining their roads.

Assessed annualised cost for each council to preserve its road network are aggregated and grant recommendations are calculated so that each council's share of the road funding pool is equal to its share of the aggregated road costs.

To determine the local road grant, the **Northern Territory** applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are: 27.0 for sealed, 12.0 for gravel, 10.0 for cycle paths, 7.0 for formed roads and 1.0 for unformed roads. The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.

Needs of Indigenous communities

The fifth National Principle for distribution of the general purpose grant (National Principle A5) 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.*

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 here.

In **New South Wales**, services to Aboriginal communities are considered as part of the expenditure allowances through the use of a cost adjustor for Indigeneity. The methodology also considers the needs of Aboriginal communities with regard to their access and internal local roads needs in the distribution of the local road component.

Victoria includes a cost adjustor that reflects the Indigenous population when calculating the general purpose component of allocations to councils.

Queensland applies cost adjustors in the general purpose calculation for: Remoteness, Indigenous population, SEIFA (Advantage and Disadvantage) and Dispersion. The Indigenous population cost adjustor recognises the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local government area, utilising Census data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by local government area, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Western Australia applies an Indigenous factor as a cost adjustor for most of its expenditure standards in its calculation of general purpose grants and considers Indigenous population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics when calculating the cost adjustors applied to the expenditure standard.

In **South Australia**, an expenditure function, named Other Needs Assessments, comprises commission determined relative expenditure needs of councils with respect to, among other things, Aboriginal people. For local governing bodies outside the incorporated areas (the Outback Communities Authority and 5 Aboriginal communities) allocations are made on a per capita basis due to the lack of comparable data.

In **Tasmania,** no additional adjustments are needed to account for the different needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders across municipalities in Tasmania. This is based on both the Index of Relative Indigenous Socioeconomic Outcomes and advice provided by those councils with the highest proportion of their populations recognising as having indigenous origin.

The **Northern Territory** applies a cost adjustor, based on the proportion of the population that is Indigenous, to its expenditure assessments for certain expenditure categories. The majority of shire service delivery in the Northern Territory is to remote communities whose population is almost entirely Indigenous Australian.

Council amalgamation – National Principle

A sixth National Principle for the general purpose grant applies to councils that amalgamate. The amalgamation principle (National Principle A6) took effect on 1 July 2006 and states:

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

In addition to complying with the other National Principles for the general purpose grant, 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.

No amalgamations occurred during 2023–24.

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, the difference being each council's raw general purpose grant.

There are 2 situations that require commissions to apply a 'factoring back' process. The first situation is when the total raw grant does not equal the available grant for the jurisdiction. This can occur when the commission has not:

- assessed all revenue and expenditure categories for councils in the jurisdiction
- ensured that the total assessed revenue and expenditure across all councils in the jurisdiction equals the total actual revenue and expenditure for all councils
- used a budget result term for each council when applying the balanced budget approach.

The use of a consistent approach for allocating grants would address this issue.

The second situation occurs when the raw grant allocation for a council does not comply with the minimum grant National Principle. National Principle A3 requires:

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

Grants to councils with raw grant allocations below the minimum grant (including negative grant) are increased to comply with the minimum grant National Principle. This requires grants to other councils in the jurisdiction to be reduced through a factoring back process.

Should the grant to one or more councils following the initial factoring back process reduce their grant below the minimum grant, the factoring back process would be repeated. This process would have to be repeated until both the minimum grant and available grant constraints are simultaneously met.

Two approaches are used by commissions for factoring back the raw grant:

- proportional method – each raw grant for a council is reduced by the same proportion so that the total of the grant equals the available grant
- equalisation ratio method – each grant for a council is reduced such that all councils can afford to fund the same proportion of their expenditure needs with their total income (assessed revenue capacity plus other grant support and general purpose grant).

In Western Australia, the Commission changed its phasing policy for the 2018–19 grant determinations. It had become apparent that, due to the limited funding pool growth in recent years, the Commission was unable to provide the desired increases in grants to local governments that were receiving significantly less than their general purpose equalisation need. As a result, in recent years, the Commission has been transitioning local governments to a common scaleback to ensure equity between local government grants. This method continues to be used.

The amount of cash that finally ends up being paid in a financial year to a council for general purpose needs is its actual grant for that financial year for general purpose needs.

Most jurisdictions apply floors and ceilings (that is, limits) to the increases or decreases, in general purpose funding, which councils are granted in any one financial year over the previous financial year(s). This too can result in the need for some positive or negative feedback into the calculations of the final actual general purpose grants paid to councils within a particular jurisdiction in a particular financial year.

C2 Local road component

The National Principles require the local road grant to be allocated so that, as far as practicable, the grant is allocated to councils (National Principle B1):

> *… on the basis of the relative needs of each council for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. In assessing road needs, relevant considerations include length, type and usage of roads in each council area.*

For the local road needs assessment, the models are either relatively simple constructs or more complex asset preservation models.

New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland 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. Queensland's methodology changes have seen them move from an asset preservation model to a more simplified use of road length, cost relativity index and separation of councils into minimum grant and non-minimum grant pools. To determine the local road grant, the Northern Territory applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type.

Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania use asset preservation models to allocate the local road grant. The asset preservation model attempts to measure the annual cost of maintaining a road network. It takes into account recurrent maintenance costs and the cost of reconstruction at the end of the road's useful life. It can also take other factors into account such as the:

- costs associated with different types of roads (sealed, gravel and formed roads)
- impact of weather, soil types and materials availability on-costs
- impact of traffic volume on the cost of maintaining these roads.

Prior to applying their grant allocation methodologies, Western Australia and South Australia quarantine 7 per cent and 15 per cent respectively for funding special road projects. Expert committees provide advice on the projects to be funded.

Table 42 summarises the main features of the models used by the commissions for allocating local road grants in 2023–24.

Table 42 Allocating local road grants in 2023–24

State	***Features of the distribution model for allocating local road grants***
NSW	Initially, 27.54 per cent is distributed to local roads in urban areas and 72.46 per cent to local roads in rural areas. In urban areas, 5 per cent is distributed to individual councils on the basis of bridge length and the remaining 95 per cent is distributed to councils on the basis of road length and population. In rural areas, 7 per cent is distributed to individual councils on the basis of bridge length and 93 per cent is distributed to councils on the basis of road length and population.
Vic	Victoria's formula for allocating local roads grants is based on each council's road length (for all surface types) and traffic volumes, using average annual preservation costs for given traffic volume ranges. The methodology also includes a series of 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 commission calculates a total network cost for each council's local roads. The actual local roads grant is calculated by applying the available funds in proportion to each council's calculated network cost.
Qld	Queensland's revised local road model allocations are based on length of roads (5-year average) and a Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) supplied cost relativity index. The local road pool is split in two being minimum grant and non-minimum grant councils. The length of roads is multiplied by the cost relativity index, and this amount determines the share of the relevant funding pool.
WA	Western Australia recommends the distribution of the local road component using its asset preservation model. Under the arrangements approved for Western Australia, 7 per cent of the Commonwealth funds provided for local roads are allocated for special projects (one-third for roads servicing remote Indigenous communities and two-thirds for bridges). The remaining 93 per cent is distributed in accordance with road preservation needs as determined by the 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.
SA	In South Australia, the identified local road grant 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. The Panel is responsible for assessing submissions from the metropolitan local government group and regional associations on local road projects of regional significance.
Tas	The Commission estimates the annualised cost for preserving council road, bridge, and culvert assets in Tasmania. 3 standard road characteristics are used to categorise roads, as well as average costs to construct and maintain these roads over their typical lifetime. This is used to calculate the state average cost per kilometre, per year, for councils to maintain their road networks. The 3 road types used in the assessment are Urban Sealed, Rural Sealed and Unsealed Roads. Cost adjustors and allowances are applied to account for relative cost advantages or disadvantages faced by councils in maintaining their roads. The road cost adjustors are rainfall, terrain, traffic and remoteness. An urbanisation allowance is also applied to eligible road lengths in recognised urban areas. An assessed, annualised cost for each council to preserve its road network is calculated and the road grant is distributed to councils based on their share of the total state-wide assessed annual asset preservation costs.
NT	To determine the local road grant, the Northern Territory applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are: 27.0 for sealed, 12.0 for gravel, 10.0 for cycle paths, 7.0 for formed roads and 1.0 for unformed roads. The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.

Source notes: Information provided by Local Government Grants Commissions.

Appendix D
Local governing body distribution in 2023–24

Appendix D shows the distribution of funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program and some basic information such as population, area in square kilometres and road length in kilometres for each local governing body in Australia.

The tables in this appendix show the actual total grant entitlement for 2023–24, which includes the bring forward from 2023–24 paid to councils in June 2023. The components of the Financial Assistance Grant program, including the general purpose grant and the local road grant, are also provided.

The councils are listed alphabetically by state and the Northern Territory. The Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG) category for each council is listed in the second column. An explanation of the ACLG is given in Appendix F.

To facilitate comparison, the general purpose grant per capita and the local road grant per kilometre are provided for 2023–24. These per capita and per kilometre amounts are for comparative reporting only. They are not the basis of the formula used by Local Government Grant Commissions to allocate the general purpose grant or local road grant to each council within a state or territory. Details of each jurisdiction's methodology can be found in Appendix B.

Councils receiving the minimum per capita grant in 2023–24 are indicated with a 'Yes' 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 and the Local Government Grants Commissions. 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.

Local governing bodies that are recipients of 'Special Works' funding in South Australia and Western Australia are identified by a superscript abbreviation (SW). Special Works funding is included in the total local road funding.

The source of the data is the relevant state or territory Local Government Grants Commission.

Table 43 Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in New South Wales

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Albury City Council	URM	56,598	306	555	5,840,939	1,850,390	7,691,329	103.20	No	3,334.04
Armidale Regional Council	URM	29,317	7,809	1,728	5,404,944	2,899,637	8,304,581	184.36	No	1,678.03
Ballina Shire Council	URM	46,760	485	666	3,899,107	1,840,463	5,739,570	83.39	No	2,763.46
Balranald Shire Council	RAM	2,198	21,691	1,326	3,988,043	1,659,813	5,647,856	1,814.40	No	1,251.74
Bathurst Regional Council	URM	44,074	3,818	1,172	5,255,750	2,513,233	7,768,983	119.25	No	2,144.40
Bayside Council	UDV	177,629	51	343	4,437,143	1,459,988	5,897,131	24.98	Yes	4,256.52
Bega Valley Shire Council	URM	35,972	6,279	1,283	6,429,845	2,619,228	9,049,073	178.75	No	2,041.49
Bellingen Shire Council	RAV	13,219	1,600	573	3,796,767	1,195,371	4,992,138	287.22	No	2,086.16
Berrigan Shire Council	RAL	8,657	2,066	1,278	4,383,725	1,753,596	6,137,321	506.38	No	1,372.14
Blacktown City Council	UDV	410,419	239	1,436	14,692,565	4,619,025	19,311,590	35.80	No	3,216.59
Bland Shire Council	RAL	5,487	8,558	2,982	6,107,175	3,778,157	9,885,332	1,113.03	No	1,266.99
Blayney Shire Council	RAL	7,588	1,525	686	2,440,396	1,080,572	3,520,968	321.61	No	1,575.18
Blue Mountains City Council	UFL	77,905	1,431	728	8,702,959	1,663,814	10,366,773	111.71	No	2,285.46
Bogan Shire Council	RAM	2,455	14,600	1,372	3,908,476	1,815,254	5,723,730	1,592.05	No	1,323.07
Bourke Shire Council	RAM	2,350	41,598	1,883	5,913,338	2,412,373	8,325,711	2,516.31	No	1,281.13
Brewarrina Shire Council	RAS	1,438	19,162	1,272	4,516,456	1,639,276	6,155,732	3,140.79	No	1,288.74
Burwood Council	UDM	40,747	7	86	1,082,390	342,072	1,424,462	26.56	No	3,977.58
Byron Shire Council	URM	36,398	566	568	2,570,915	1,527,747	4,098,662	70.63	No	2,689.70
Cabonne Shire Council	RAV	13,825	6,022	1,713	3,802,577	2,578,475	6,381,052	275.05	No	1,505.24
Campbelltown City Council	UFV	180,231	311	751	9,007,713	2,326,956	11,334,669	49.98	No	3,098.48
Canterbury-Bankstown Council	UDV	371,726	110	858	9,285,655	3,278,389	12,564,044	24.98	Yes	3,820.97
Carrathool Shire Council	RAM	2,824	18,935	2,275	5,116,264	2,926,739	8,043,003	1,811.71	No	1,286.48
Central Coast Council (NSW)	UFV	348,930	1,681	2,068	24,933,909	5,499,449	30,433,358	71.46	No	2,659.31
Central Darling Shire Council	RTM	1,745	53,492	1,603	5,833,616	2,000,713	7,834,329	3,343.05	No	1,248.11

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Cessnock City Council	URM	65,780	1,965	966	6,481,329	2,322,819	8,804,148	98.53	No	2,404.57
City of Canada Bay Council	UDL	89,139	20	191	2,293,703	761,452	3,055,155	25.73	No	3,986.66
City of Lithgow Council	URS	20,810	4,512	890	4,508,805	1,573,625	6,082,430	216.67	No	1,768.12
City of Parramatta Council	UDV	259,878	84	614	8,021,566	2,458,833	10,480,399	30.87	No	4,004.61
Clarence Valley Council	URM	54,580	10,429	2,062	9,034,089	4,120,973	13,155,062	165.52	No	1,998.53
Cobar Shire Council	RTL	4,052	45,575	1,693	5,502,978	2,154,520	7,657,498	1,358.09	No	1,272.60
Coffs Harbour City Council	URL	79,598	1,174	810	6,212,973	2,817,601	9,030,574	78.05	No	3,478.52
Coolamon Shire Council	RAM	4,463	2,431	1,253	3,203,406	1,617,664	4,821,070	717.77	No	1,291.03
Coonamble Shire Council	RAM	3,823	9,916	1,560	3,720,741	2,054,059	5,774,800	973.25	No	1,316.70
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	RAV	11,394	3,981	1,265	4,706,721	1,963,991	6,670,712	413.09	No	1,552.56
Council of the City of Broken Hill	URS	17,567	170	211	5,963,119	605,572	6,568,691	339.45	No	2,870.01
Council of the City of Ryde	UDV	130,953	41	310	3,271,185	1,175,119	4,446,304	24.98	Yes	3,790.71
Council of the City of Shellharbour	URL	78,256	147	468	5,012,062	1,292,695	6,304,757	64.05	No	2,762.17
Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	UDM	53,487	12	140	1,398,427	506,829	1,905,256	26.15	No	3,620.21
Cowra Shire Council	RAV	12,690	2,809	1,199	4,220,183	1,818,465	6,038,648	332.56	No	1,516.65
Cumberland Council	UDV	237,129	73	565	7,008,512	2,202,754	9,211,266	29.56	No	3,898.68
Dubbo Regional Council	URM	55,843	7,535	2,518	9,482,914	4,291,004	13,773,918	169.81	No	1,704.13
Dungog Shire Council	RAL	9,707	2,250	607	2,290,918	1,163,141	3,454,059	236.01	No	1,916.21
Edward River Council	RAL	8,454	8,883	1,398	5,118,688	1,900,884	7,019,572	605.48	No	1,359.72
Eurobodalla Shire Council	URM	40,732	3,428	955	6,551,543	2,113,384	8,664,927	160.85	No	2,212.97
Fairfield City Council	UDV	206,644	102	616	8,123,788	2,096,798	10,220,586	39.31	No	3,403.89
Federation Council	RAV	12,852	5,685	2,031	5,725,086	2,811,810	8,536,896	445.46	No	1,384.45
Forbes Shire Council	RAL	9,342	4,710	1,745	4,566,454	2,426,601	6,993,055	488.81	No	1,390.60
Georges River Council	UDV	153,055	38	370	3,823,289	1,360,392	5,183,681	24.98	Yes	3,676.74

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Gilgandra Council	RAM	4,300	4,832	1,236	3,480,954	1,685,095	5,166,049	809.52	No	1,363.35
Glen Innes Severn Council	RAL	8,935	5,480	1,089	3,758,022	1,722,091	5,480,113	420.60	No	1,581.35
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	URM	32,394	3,220	1,140	4,298,578	2,260,803	6,559,381	132.70	No	1,983.16
Greater Hume Shire Council	RAV	11,238	5,749	1,793	4,261,415	2,634,416	6,895,831	379.20	No	1,469.28
Griffith City Council	URS	26,994	1,639	1,164	5,152,240	1,954,406	7,106,646	190.87	No	1,679.04
Gunnedah Shire Council	RAV	13,125	4,987	1,366	3,928,914	2,020,280	5,949,194	299.35	No	1,478.98
Gwydir Shire Council	RAL	4,915	9,260	2,062	3,830,129	2,732,917	6,563,046	779.27	No	1,325.37
Hawkesbury City Council	UFM	67,815	2,775	924	2,965,680	2,101,291	5,066,971	43.73	No	2,274.12
Hay Shire Council	RAM	2,828	11,326	778	3,236,491	1,013,232	4,249,723	1,144.45	No	1,302.35
Hilltops Council	RAV	19,228	7,141	2,448	6,587,553	3,517,668	10,105,221	342.60	No	1,436.96
Hornsby Shire Council	UFV	151,713	455	560	3,789,804	1,753,879	5,543,683	24.98	Yes	3,131.93
Hunter's Hill Council	UDS	13,416	6	48	420,201	149,279	569,480	31.32	No	3,109.98
Inner West Council	UDV	182,886	35	425	4,776,819	1,605,559	6,382,378	26.12	No	3,777.79
Inverell Shire Council	RAV	17,943	9,405	1,875	5,179,248	2,781,875	7,961,123	288.65	No	1,483.67
Junee Shire Council	RAL	6,453	2,030	825	2,583,472	1,149,558	3,733,030	400.35	No	1,393.40
Kempsey Shire Council	URS	31,118	3,376	1,111	5,435,565	2,376,871	7,812,436	174.68	No	2,139.40
Kiama Municipal Council	URS	22,925	258	228	1,563,794	614,389	2,178,183	68.21	No	2,694.69
Ku-Ring-Gai Council	UDV	124,108	85	444	3,100,198	1,387,012	4,487,210	24.98	Yes	3,123.90
Kyogle Council	RAL	9,418	3,584	1,064	3,821,667	2,004,389	5,826,056	405.78	No	1,883.82
Lachlan Council	RAL	6,131	14,968	3,339	7,635,200	4,251,143	11,886,343	1,245.34	No	1,273.18
Lake Macquarie City Council	URV	216,428	649	1,344	15,751,730	3,510,275	19,262,005	72.78	No	2,611.81
Lane Cove Municipal Council	UDM	40,028	11	93	1,064,621	354,223	1,418,844	26.60	No	3,808.85
Leeton Shire Council	RAV	11,434	1,167	878	4,477,698	1,311,591	5,789,289	391.61	No	1,493.84
Lismore City Council	URM	44,202	1,288	1,096	5,308,743	2,447,355	7,756,098	120.10	No	2,232.99
Liverpool City Council	UDV	239,430	306	931	7,134,981	2,968,088	10,103,069	29.80	No	3,188.06
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	RAL	7,655	5,082	1,195	3,245,942	1,720,975	4,966,917	424.03	No	1,440.15

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Lockhart Shire Council	RAM	3,365	2,896	1,218	2,962,008	1,691,522	4,653,530	880.24	No	1,388.77
Lord Howe Island Board	RTX	445	-	-	332,447	-	332,447	747.07	No	-
Maitland City Council	URL	93,497	392	721	6,580,654	1,832,313	8,412,967	70.38	No	2,541.35
Mid-Coast Council	URL	97,090	10,054	3,273	15,055,326	6,807,347	21,862,673	155.07	No	2,079.85
Mid-Western Regional Council	URS	25,760	8,752	1,932	5,346,842	3,087,241	8,434,083	207.56	No	1,597.95
Moree Plains Shire Council	RAV	12,850	17,903	2,602	6,394,230	3,616,979	10,011,209	497.61	No	1,390.08
Mosman Municipal Council	UDM	28,100	9	85	826,264	279,547	1,105,811	29.40	No	3,288.79
Murray River Council	RAV	13,007	11,863	2,527	6,814,385	3,693,240	10,507,625	523.90	No	1,461.51
Murrumbidgee Council	RAM	3,559	6,881	1,591	3,896,168	2,046,590	5,942,758	1,094.74	No	1,286.35
Muswellbrook Shire Council	RAV	16,516	3,405	562	3,436,890	1,129,704	4,566,594	208.09	No	2,010.15
Nambucca Valley Council	RAV	20,571	1,491	691	3,657,760	1,554,876	5,212,636	177.81	No	2,250.18
Narrabri Shire Council	RAV	12,692	13,015	2,138	6,184,715	2,939,755	9,124,470	487.29	No	1,375.00
Narrandera Shire Council	RAL	5,702	4,116	1,479	4,193,080	1,984,672	6,177,752	735.37	No	1,341.90
Narromine Shire Council	RAL	6,425	5,262	1,372	3,811,101	1,814,932	5,626,033	593.17	No	1,322.84
Newcastle City Council	URV	171,316	187	751	12,102,054	2,224,281	14,326,335	70.64	No	2,961.76
North Sydney Council	UDL	69,256	11	143	1,762,669	572,948	2,335,617	25.45	No	4,006.63
Northern Beaches Council	UDV	263,090	254	800	6,571,957	2,684,647	9,256,604	24.98	Yes	3,355.81
Oberon Council	RAL	5,569	3,625	872	2,426,989	1,210,359	3,637,348	435.80	No	1,388.03
Orange City Council	URM	43,906	284	482	4,351,361	1,502,695	5,854,056	99.11	No	3,117.62
Parkes Shire Council	RAV	14,342	5,958	1,936	5,432,179	2,663,949	8,096,128	378.76	No	1,376.01
Penrith City Council	UFV	220,786	405	1,152	9,317,945	3,221,668	12,539,613	42.20	No	2,796.59
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	URL	88,145	3,682	1,275	7,431,670	3,767,124	11,198,794	84.31	No	2,954.61
Port Stephens Council	URL	76,540	858	675	6,356,656	1,565,530	7,922,186	83.05	No	2,319.30
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	URM	64,189	5,319	1,434	4,301,132	3,217,299	7,518,431	67.01	No	2,243.58
Randwick City Council	UDV	135,742	36	278	3,670,585	1,148,766	4,819,351	27.04	No	4,132.25

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Richmond Valley Council	URS	23,671	3,047	997	4,511,089	1,973,551	6,484,640	190.57	No	1,979.49
Shoalhaven City Council	URL	109,418	4,567	1,659	10,427,140	4,435,579	14,862,719	95.30	No	2,673.65
Silverton Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	35	-	-	41,914	-	41,914	1,197.54	No	-
Singleton Council	URS	25,075	4,893	814	3,200,104	1,695,942	4,896,046	127.62	No	2,083.47
Snowy Monaro Regional Council	URS	21,791	15,165	2,346	8,353,973	3,494,111	11,848,084	383.37	No	1,489.39
Snowy Valleys Council	RAV	14,884	8,959	1,027	5,560,668	1,744,179	7,304,847	373.60	No	1,698.32
Strathfield Municipal Council	UDM	46,129	14	86	1,189,293	370,787	1,560,080	25.78	No	4,311.48
Sutherland Shire Council	UDV	231,723	334	804	5,788,403	2,513,025	8,301,428	24.98	Yes	3,125.65
Tamworth Regional Council	URM	64,459	9,884	2,972	7,577,865	5,371,191	12,949,056	117.56	No	1,807.26
Temora Shire Council	RAL	5,993	2,802	1,234	3,127,494	1,641,650	4,769,144	521.86	No	1,330.35
Tenterfield Shire Council	RAL	6,877	7,324	1,449	4,272,166	2,084,208	6,356,374	621.23	No	1,438.38
The Council of Camden	UFL	127,637	202	744	3,188,353	2,181,333	5,369,686	24.98	Yes	2,931.90
The Council of the City of Sydney	UCC	217,748	27	300	5,792,592	1,635,108	7,427,700	26.60	No	5,450.36
The Hills Shire Council	UFV	199,056	386	927	4,972,401	2,645,034	7,617,435	24.98	Yes	2,853.33
Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	95	-	-	94,122	-	94,122	990.76	No	-
Tweed Shire Council	URL	97,718	1,308	1,097	9,125,666	3,613,382	12,739,048	93.39	No	3,293.88
Upper Hunter Shire Council	RAV	14,292	8,096	1,582	4,106,864	2,448,163	6,555,027	287.35	No	1,547.51
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	RAL	8,539	7,127	1,651	3,775,193	2,392,922	6,168,115	442.11	No	1,449.38
Uralla Shire Council	RAL	5,980	3,227	780	2,219,828	1,167,625	3,387,453	371.21	No	1,496.96
Wagga Wagga City Council	URM	68,227	4,825	2,124	8,250,261	4,131,409	12,381,670	120.92	No	1,945.11
Walcha Council	RAM	2,999	6,261	822	2,120,414	1,183,340	3,303,754	707.04	No	1,439.59
Walgett Shire Council	RAL	5,513	22,308	1,814	6,045,902	2,450,447	8,496,349	1,096.66	No	1,350.85
Warren Shire Council	RAM	2,577	10,754	964	2,594,063	1,303,339	3,897,402	1,006.62	No	1,352.01
Warrumbungle Shire Council	RAL	9,244	12,372	2,276	6,007,587	3,080,180	9,087,767	649.89	No	1,353.33
Waverley Council	UDL	69,218	9	113	1,739,497	520,423	2,259,920	25.13	No	4,605.51

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Weddin Shire Council	RAM	3,604	3,415	957	2,475,215	1,271,452	3,746,667	686.80	No	1,328.58
Wentworth Shire Council	RAL	7,555	26,256	1,651	5,235,519	2,191,264	7,426,783	692.99	No	1,327.23
Willoughby City Council	UDL	75,409	22	200	1,902,416	707,452	2,609,868	25.23	No	3,537.26
Wingecarribee Shire Council	URM	52,779	2,689	1,084	3,806,181	2,434,115	6,240,296	72.12	No	2,245.49
Wollondilly Shire Council	UFM	55,811	2,555	758	2,804,633	1,731,898	4,536,531	50.25	No	2,284.83
Wollongong City Council	URV	216,290	684	998	18,905,719	3,076,530	21,982,249	87.41	No	3,082.70
Yass Valley Council	RAV	17,377	3,995	1,086	2,303,019	1,752,806	4,055,825	132.53	No	1,614.00

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body

Table 44 Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in Victoria

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Alpine Shire	RAV	13,578	4,788	685	3,342,108	1,346,927	4,689,035	246.14	No	1,966.32
Ararat Rural City Council	RAV	11,741	4,211	2,437	4,529,459	2,923,134	7,452,593	385.78	No	1,199.48
Ballarat City Council	URL	115,847	739	1,473	14,270,429	3,126,274	17,396,703	123.18	No	2,122.39
Banyule City Council	UDV	127,268	63	545	3,174,483	1,176,811	4,351,294	24.94	Yes	2,159.29
Bass Coast Shire Council	UFM	41,741	866	968	6,665,860	1,809,363	8,475,223	159.70	No	1,869.18
Baw Baw Shire Council	URM	59,326	4,028	2,045	8,532,032	3,580,767	12,112,799	143.82	No	1,750.99
Bayside City Council	UDL	102,101	37	356	2,546,735	637,198	3,183,933	24.94	Yes	1,789.88
Benalla Rural City Council	RAV	14,450	2,353	1,330	3,428,302	1,820,990	5,249,292	237.25	No	1,369.17
Borough of Queenscliffe	UFS	3,206	9	43	370,098	73,035	443,133	115.44	No	1,698.49
Brimbank City Council	UDV	193,146	123	894	13,401,847	2,160,685	15,562,532	69.39	No	2,416.87
Buloke Shire Council	RAL	6,110	7,998	5,381	4,844,187	3,104,337	7,948,524	792.83	No	576.91
Campaspe Shire Council	URM	38,506	4,519	4,014	9,566,509	4,997,417	14,563,926	248.44	No	1,245.00
Cardinia Shire Council	UFL	123,020	1,283	1,600	11,759,128	3,299,943	15,059,071	95.59	No	2,062.46
Casey City Council	UDV	378,472	409	1,875	23,518,243	3,538,117	27,056,360	62.14	No	1,887.00
Central Goldfields Shire Council	RAV	13,501	1,533	1,296	3,544,653	1,575,161	5,119,814	262.55	No	1,215.40
City of Boroondara	UDV	169,411	60	567	4,225,668	1,144,701	5,370,369	24.94	Yes	2,018.87
City of Darebin	UDV	150,325	53	514	3,749,600	1,103,342	4,852,942	24.94	Yes	2,146.58
City of Glen Eira	UDV	151,548	39	483	3,780,106	804,544	4,584,650	24.94	Yes	1,665.72
City of Greater Dandenong	UDV	159,021	130	695	10,995,205	1,955,043	12,950,248	69.14	No	2,813.01
City of Greater Geelong	URV	276,116	1,248	2,402	22,368,473	4,512,951	26,881,424	81.01	No	1,878.83
City of Knox	UDV	159,404	114	725	7,196,833	1,438,450	8,635,283	45.15	No	1,984.07
City of Maribyrnong	UDL	87,393	31	308	2,381,418	740,362	3,121,780	27.25	No	2,403.77
City of Port Phillip	UDL	103,836	21	215	2,590,011	526,996	3,117,007	24.94	Yes	2,451.14
City of Whittlesea	UFV	236,764	490	1,385	15,194,539	2,978,621	18,173,160	64.18	No	2,150.63

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Colac Otway Shire	URS	22,177	3,437	1,623	5,185,358	3,266,581	8,451,939	233.82	No	2,012.68
Corangamite Shire Council	RAV	15,977	4,407	2,369	5,279,774	4,327,752	9,607,526	330.46	No	1,826.83
East Gippsland Shire Council	URM	48,887	20,940	2,980	13,831,240	5,835,026	19,666,266	282.92	No	1,958.06
Frankston City Council	UDV	141,002	130	703	8,619,930	1,376,054	9,995,984	61.13	No	1,957.40
Gannawarra Shire Council	RAV	10,528	3,738	2,257	4,356,845	2,474,130	6,830,975	413.83	No	1,096.20
Glenelg Shire Council	RAV	20,016	6,219	2,629	6,223,666	4,279,277	10,502,943	310.93	No	1,627.72
Golden Plains Shire Council	UFS	25,296	2,703	1,739	4,681,868	2,649,094	7,330,962	185.08	No	1,523.34
Greater Bendigo City Council	URL	122,551	3,000	3,149	16,947,201	4,377,032	21,324,233	138.29	No	1,389.98
Greater Shepparton City Council	URM	68,873	2,422	2,545	12,448,729	3,903,637	16,352,366	180.75	No	1,533.85
Hepburn Shire Council	RAV	16,555	1,473	1,147	4,160,994	1,921,839	6,082,833	251.34	No	1,675.54
Hindmarsh Shire Council	RAL	5,602	7,524	3,025	3,391,176	1,803,113	5,194,289	605.35	No	596.07
Hobsons Bay City Council	UDL	91,736	64	431	2,288,198	918,827	3,207,025	24.94	Yes	2,131.85
Horsham Rural City Council	RAV	20,327	4,267	2,984	4,900,975	2,726,549	7,627,524	241.11	No	913.72
Hume City Council	UFV	252,723	504	1,448	17,414,819	3,422,800	20,837,619	68.91	No	2,363.81
Indigo Shire Council	RAV	17,407	2,040	1,571	3,933,735	2,097,803	6,031,538	225.99	No	1,335.33
Kingston City Council	UDV	159,908	91	604	3,988,632	1,305,514	5,294,146	24.94	Yes	2,161.45
Latrobe City Council	URL	77,606	1,426	1,648	12,331,426	3,203,031	15,534,457	158.90	No	1,943.59
Loddon Shire Council	RAL	7,729	6,696	4,745	6,246,710	4,530,974	10,777,684	808.22	No	954.89
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	URM	52,132	1,748	1,648	6,670,148	2,731,380	9,401,528	127.95	No	1,657.39
Manningham City Council	UDV	126,373	113	607	3,152,158	1,051,601	4,203,759	24.94	Yes	1,732.46
Mansfield Shire Council	RAL	10,665	3,844	825	2,750,823	1,151,875	3,902,698	257.93	No	1,396.21
Maroondah City Council	UDL	115,645	61	474	4,409,491	969,479	5,378,970	38.13	No	2,045.31
Melbourne City Council (City of Melbourne)	UCC	159,813	38	243	3,986,262	896,173	4,882,435	24.94	Yes	3,687.95
Melton City Council	UFV	192,865	528	1,388	20,387,747	3,203,140	23,590,887	105.71	No	2,307.74
Merri-bek City Council	UDV	174,502	51	521	4,353,351	1,159,101	5,512,452	24.95	Yes	2,224.76

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Mildura Rural City Council	URM	57,156	22,082	5,228	13,556,596	5,164,126	18,720,722	237.19	No	987.78
Mitchell Shire Council	URM	51,569	2,862	1,551	7,983,185	2,535,203	10,518,388	154.81	No	1,634.56
Moira Shire Council	URS	30,540	4,046	3,654	8,682,388	4,811,538	13,493,926	284.30	No	1,316.79
Monash City Council	UDV	194,707	81	736	4,858,263	1,532,748	6,391,011	24.95	Yes	2,082.54
Moonee Valley City Council	UDV	122,961	43	411	3,067,814	877,095	3,944,909	24.95	Yes	2,134.05
Moorabool Shire Council	URM	38,484	2,111	1,535	5,989,242	2,446,362	8,435,604	155.63	No	1,593.72
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	UFV	169,600	724	1,709	4,230,382	3,093,320	7,323,702	24.94	Yes	1,810.02
Mount Alexander Shire Council	RAV	20,292	1,530	1,426	4,119,634	2,217,700	6,337,334	203.02	No	1,555.19
Murrindindi Shire Council	RAV	15,345	3,880	1,204	3,708,410	2,039,916	5,748,326	241.67	No	1,694.28
Nillumbik Shire Council	UFM	63,030	432	776	2,087,630	1,440,214	3,527,844	33.12	No	1,855.95
Northern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	11,864	5,730	3,374	5,766,005	3,588,404	9,354,409	486.01	No	1,063.55
Pyrenees Shire Council	RAL	7,645	3,435	2,036	4,053,796	2,640,432	6,694,228	530.25	No	1,296.87
Shire of Moyne	RAV	17,458	5,482	2,746	5,327,244	5,148,066	10,475,310	305.15	No	1,874.75
Shire of Strathbogie	RAV	11,498	3,303	2,213	3,980,189	2,733,964	6,714,153	346.16	No	1,235.41
Shire of Towong	RAL	6,187	6,675	1,181	3,677,533	2,220,100	5,897,633	594.40	No	1,879.85
South Gippsland Shire Council	URS	30,680	3,296	2,114	7,493,599	4,619,008	12,112,607	244.25	No	2,184.96
Southern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	16,374	6,654	2,986	5,316,853	3,810,969	9,127,822	324.71	No	1,276.28
Stonnington City Council	UDL	106,310	26	256	2,651,721	558,859	3,210,580	24.94	Yes	2,183.04
Surf Coast Shire	UFM	38,610	1,553	1,129	3,466,169	2,035,684	5,501,853	89.77	No	1,803.09
Swan Hill Rural City Council	URS	21,207	6,116	3,441	5,803,781	2,829,623	8,633,404	273.67	No	822.33
Wangaratta Rural City Council	URS	29,882	3,645	1,892	6,019,078	2,999,699	9,018,777	201.43	No	1,585.46
Warrnambool City Council	URM	35,520	121	342	4,394,547	818,898	5,213,445	123.72	No	2,394.44
Wellington Shire Council	URM	45,754	10,817	3,036	11,183,285	5,984,052	17,167,337	244.42	No	1,971.03
West Wimmera Shire Council	RAM	3,938	9,109	2,822	4,223,741	2,886,895	7,110,636	1,072.56	No	1,023.00

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Whitehorse City Council	UDV	172,316	64	637	4,298,128	1,326,293	5,624,421	24.94	Yes	2,082.09
Wodonga City Council	URM	43,635	433	512	5,898,710	1,016,231	6,914,941	135.18	No	1,984.83
Wyndham City Council	UFV	308,623	542	1,743	21,398,510	3,355,435	24,753,945	69.34	No	1,925.09
Yarra City Council	UDL	92,118	20	227	2,297,726	498,075	2,795,801	24.94	Yes	2,194.16
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	UFV	157,339	2,468	1,761	12,827,710	4,082,928	16,910,638	81.53	No	2,318.53
Yarriambiack Shire Council	RAL	6,435	7,324	4,823	4,119,811	2,573,707	6,693,518	640.22	No	533.63

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body.

Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in Queensland

e	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)
e Council*	RTM	1,131	7,424	125	3,596,615	104,448	3,701,063	3,180.03	No
e Council	RAM	4,362	31,104	2,483	7,721,075	3,002,320	10,723,395	1,770.08	No
e Council	RAV	14,794	28,550	3,860	7,437,731	4,980,255	12,417,986	502.75	No
egional Council	RTM	2,864	53,383	2,935	8,351,371	3,044,472	11,395,843	2,915.98	No
Council	RTX	318	61,830	1,650	4,896,522	1,365,248	6,261,770	15,397.87	No
oo Regional Council	RTM	1,935	30,537	1,869	5,754,750	1,966,023	7,720,773	2,974.03	No
Council	RTS	477	60,907	1,329	5,412,148	1,161,665	6,573,813	11,346.22	No
Council	UCC	1,284,698	1,343	5,735	32,064,040	12,746,760	44,810,800	24.96	Yes
Council	RTX	343	73,722	1,962	6,789,393	1,721,326	8,510,719	19,794.15	No
egional Council	URL	102,189	6,431	3,078	3,973,079	1,454,090	5,427,169	38.88	No
re Council	RAV	16,890	5,044	1,145	5,566,374	1,684,940	7,251,314	329.57	No
Council	RTX	432	39,681	592	5,423,745	929,022	6,352,767	12,554.97	No
nal Council	URV	172,272	1,689	1,303	4,299,637	1,352,429	5,652,066	24.96	Yes
Shire Council	RTM	2,177	64,121	1,665	7,060,820	1,671,387	8,732,207	3,243.37	No
oast Regional	URS	29,651	4,688	1,208	3,303,042	2,313,233	5,616,275	111.40	No
ands Regional	URS	28,583	59,835	4,582	4,551,772	5,458,773	10,010,545	159.25	No
ers Regional	RAV	12,004	68,382	3,809	6,241,319	4,494,366	10,735,685	519.94	No
original Shire	RTM	1,227	32	71	2,184,919	63,019	2,247,938	1,780.70	No
re Council	RTL	3,793	47,971	1,551	7,291,836	1,808,043	9,099,879	1,922.45	No
ouncil	RTL	4,679	105,718	2,932	10,270,281	3,506,714	13,776,995	2,194.97	No
e Council	RTX	269	29,498	1,088	4,903,642	1,254,628	6,158,270	18,229.15	No
Shire Council	RTX	268	94,722	1,061	5,353,340	753,095	6,106,435	19,975.15	No

e	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)
Aboriginal Shire	RTM	1,445	1,828	113	3,469,216	97,977	3,567,193	2,400.84	No
e Council	RAV	12,693	2,428	445	3,450,178	932,656	4,382,834	271.82	No
re Council	RTS	724	39,199	1,753	5,771,841	1,753,852	7,525,693	7,972.16	No
Council	RTM	1,540	41,200	1,999	7,102,697	2,341,936	9,444,633	4,612.14	No
Regional Council	URL	115,173	7,105	2,642	4,007,650	1,319,412	5,327,062	34.80	No
egional Council	URM	65,431	10,484	2,617	4,520,580	5,030,010	9,550,590	69.09	No
ity Council	URV	647,824	1,333	3,274	16,168,667	5,810,063	21,978,730	24.96	Yes
Regional Council	RAV	10,449	19,266	2,484	5,499,873	2,879,420	8,379,293	526.35	No
onal Council	URM	55,170	6,884	2,301	3,077,968	4,121,403	7,199,371	55.79	No
Shire Council	RAV	11,090	2,807	693	4,000,054	1,106,453	5,106,507	360.69	No
original Shire	RTM	1,006	1,112	132	3,083,627	111,850	3,195,477	3,065.24	No
Council	URV	242,884	1,094	1,993	6,062,002	2,126,424	8,188,426	24.96	Yes
al Council	URS	22,770	58,708	3,318	6,180,929	3,725,355	9,906,284	271.45	No
Aboriginal Shire	RTS	1,143	2,555	350	3,378,075	290,332	3,668,407	2,955.45	No
hire Council	UFM	40,952	11,758	1,414	2,180,215	2,320,187	4,500,402	53.24	No
er Aboriginal Shire	RTS	659	3,577	176	3,774,866	146,301	3,921,167	5,728.17	No
y Regional Council	URM	42,663	2,269	1,532	2,192,587	4,612,010	6,804,597	51.39	No
ouncil	URV	363,301	958	2,591	9,067,421	4,121,327	13,188,748	24.96	Yes
egional Council	RTL	3,726	40,572	2,748	9,068,854	2,822,567	11,891,421	2,433.94	No
onal Council	URL	125,162	7,613	2,465	3,301,359	1,384,580	4,685,939	26.38	No
riginal Shire	RTX	452	537	58	3,072,426	48,244	3,120,670	6,797.40	No
ional Council	RAV	13,106	58,719	5,828	9,945,240	7,047,983	16,993,223	758.83	No
e Council	URS	23,372	53,491	2,304	6,272,807	2,581,666	8,854,473	268.39	No

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Mckinlay Shire Council	RTS	848	40,737	1,633	5,755,418	2,036,275	7,791,693	6,787.05	No	1,246.95
Moreton Bay Regional Council	URV	497,154	2,042	3,680	12,408,181	4,458,415	16,866,596	24.96	Yes	1,211.53
Mornington Shire Council*	RTM	1,067	1,248	158	4,006,469	133,348	4,139,817	3,754.89	No	843.97
Mount Isa City Council	RTL	19,092	43,715	2,033	6,655,385	2,411,239	9,066,624	348.60	No	1,186.05
Murweh Shire Council	RTL	3,970	40,700	2,782	7,200,109	3,393,547	10,593,656	1,813.63	No	1,219.82
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council*	RTM	910	2,004	173	3,261,082	145,016	3,406,098	3,583.61	No	838.24
Noosa Shire Council	URM	57,397	870	876	1,432,538	575,781	2,008,319	24.96	Yes	657.28
North Burnett Regional Council	RAV	10,220	19,670	4,203	7,676,573	4,680,299	12,356,872	751.13	No	1,113.56
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council*	RTL	2,896	1,052	363	5,537,260	307,944	5,845,204	1,912.04	No	848.33
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council*	RTM	2,197	72	43	4,140,306	45,936	4,186,242	1,884.53	No	1,068.28
Paroo Shire Council	RTM	1,722	47,615	2,358	6,641,841	2,351,408	8,993,249	3,857.05	No	997.20
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council*	RTS	633	4,395	454	3,565,436	388,138	3,953,574	5,632.60	No	854.93
Quilpie Shire Council	RTS	705	67,415	2,061	6,115,152	1,772,263	7,887,415	8,673.97	No	859.90
Redland City Council	URV	163,866	537	1,218	4,089,838	1,384,102	5,473,940	24.96	Yes	1,136.37
Richmond Shire Council	RTS	778	26,581	1,297	5,086,853	1,636,702	6,723,555	6,538.37	No	1,261.91
Rockhampton Regional Council	URL	83,723	6,570	2,042	3,914,355	1,061,294	4,975,649	46.75	No	519.73
Scenic Rim Regional Council	UFM	44,374	4,243	1,822	1,523,232	3,070,871	4,594,103	34.33	No	1,685.44
Somerset Regional Council	UFS	25,733	5,373	1,867	1,610,805	2,897,418	4,508,223	62.60	No	1,551.91
South Burnett Regional Council	URM	33,831	8,382	2,995	3,429,648	3,713,637	7,143,285	101.38	No	1,239.95
Southern Downs Regional Council	URM	37,040	7,106	3,113	2,934,981	4,281,702	7,216,683	79.24	No	1,375.43
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	URV	356,059	2,254	2,971	8,886,672	2,845,878	11,732,550	24.96	Yes	957.89
Tablelands Regional Council	URS	26,844	11,293	1,848	2,976,562	2,974,238	5,950,800	110.88	No	1,609.44
Toowoomba Regional Council	URV	178,590	12,957	6,661	6,084,239	2,903,605	8,987,844	34.07	No	435.91

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Torres Shire Council	RTL	3,527	884	299	6,943,839	514,768	7,458,607	1,968.77	No	1,721.63
Torres Strait Island Regional Council*	RTL	4,295	490	187	15,164,286	240,365	15,404,651	3,530.68	No	1,285.37
Townsville City Council	URV	198,577	3,731	1,832	4,956,169	1,800,209	6,756,378	24.96	Yes	982.65
Western Downs Regional Council	URM	34,584	37,923	7,465	6,807,719	8,817,033	15,624,752	196.85	No	1,181.12
Whitsunday Regional Council	URM	38,580	23,819	1,752	3,374,341	2,470,861	5,845,202	87.46	No	1,410.31
Winton Shire Council	RTM	1,133	53,814	2,488	5,697,680	2,794,528	8,492,208	5,028.84	No	1,123.20
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council*	RTM	1,060	391	56	2,698,393	49,711	2,748,104	2,545.65	No	887.70
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council*	RTX	286	12	18	2,569,136	15,892	2,585,028	8,982.99	No	882.89
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council*	RTM	2,624	157	59	2,555,169	60,157	2,615,326	973.77	No	1,019.61

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body.

Table 46 Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in Western Australia

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
City of Albany[sw]	URM	40,434	4,309	1,602	3,451,595	3,137,984	6,589,579	85.36	No	1,958.79
City of Armadale	UFM	100,737	560	783	2,569,678	1,866,391	4,436,069	25.51	No	2,383.64
City of Bayswater	UDM	72,145	35	352	1,791,702	995,058	2,786,760	24.83	Yes	2,826.87
City of Belmont[#]	UDM	44,258	40	228	1,102,550	687,666	1,790,216	24.91	Yes	3,016.08
City of Bunbury	URM	34,396	65	320	854,216	1,085,161	1,939,377	24.83	Yes	3,391.13
City of Busselton	URM	42,888	1,454	1,086	1,065,113	1,793,381	2,858,494	24.83	Yes	1,651.36
City of Canning	UDL	99,510	65	577	2,471,305	1,653,888	4,125,193	24.83	Yes	2,866.36
City of Cockburn	UDL	125,031	168	875	3,105,113	2,582,577	5,687,690	24.83	Yes	2,951.52
City of Fremantle	UDM	33,711	19	176	837,204	484,785	1,321,989	24.83	Yes	2,754.46
City of Gosnells	UDV	132,845	127	784	3,299,170	2,101,690	5,400,860	24.83	Yes	2,680.73
City of Greater Geraldton	URM	41,514	9,909	2,084	4,987,009	2,512,041	7,499,050	120.13	No	1,205.39
City of Joondalup[#]	UDV	165,512	99	1,014	4,137,083	2,719,363	6,856,446	25.00	Yes	2,681.82
City of Kalamunda[#]	UFM	61,229	324	610	1,531,255	1,448,010	2,979,265	25.01	Yes	2,373.79
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder[sw]	URM	30,697	95,500	1,552	1,830,121	2,255,417	4,085,538	59.62	No	1,453.23
City of Karratha	URS	23,778	15,238	625	1,424,429	1,504,341	2,928,770	59.91	No	2,406.95
City of Kwinana[#]	UFM	49,457	120	436	1,242,112	986,929	2,229,041	25.11	Yes	2,263.60
City of Mandurah	UFL	95,509	175	696	2,371,941	1,651,739	4,023,680	24.83	Yes	2,373.19
City of Melville[#]	UDL	107,311	53	527	2,665,469	1,379,484	4,044,953	24.84	Yes	2,617.62
City of Nedlands[#]	UDS	22,977	20	136	583,596	365,183	948,779	25.40	Yes	2,685.17
City of Perth[#]	UCC	30,364	14	106	804,853	461,203	1,266,056	26.51	Yes	4,350.97
City of Rockingham[#]	UFV	143,560	258	1,101	3,630,674	2,642,865	6,273,539	25.29	Yes	2,400.42
City of South Perth[#]	UDM	45,106	20	191	1,124,965	505,469	1,630,434	24.94	Yes	2,646.43
City of Stirling	UDV	235,845	105	1,033	5,857,149	2,702,449	8,559,598	24.83	Yes	2,616.12
City of Subiaco	UDS	17,967	6	77	446,206	236,796	683,002	24.83	Yes	3,075.27

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
City of Swan[sw]	UFV	163,699	1,043	1,479	4,065,422	4,086,157	8,151,579	24.83	Yes	2,762.78
City of Vincent	UDS	38,433	11	146	954,473	456,553	1,411,026	24.83	Yes	3,127.08
City of Wanneroo[#]	UFV	220,932	683	1,588	5,561,780	3,967,866	9,529,646	25.17	Yes	2,498.66
Shire of Ashburton	RTL	7,832	100,817	1,544	2,534,908	1,128,642	3,663,550	323.66	No	730.99
Shire of Augusta Margaret River	RSG	17,889	2,122	907	633,704	1,275,928	1,909,632	35.42	No	1,406.76
Shire of Beverley	RAS	1,738	2,371	705	839,167	591,459	1,430,626	482.83	No	838.95
Shire of Boddington[#]	RAS	1,758	1,905	259	83,412	260,770	344,182	47.45	Yes	1,006.83
Shire of Boyup Brook[sw]	RAS	1,938	2,827	1,020	996,873	2,174,238	3,171,111	514.38	No	2,131.61
Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	RAM	5,527	1,337	685	1,177,237	836,310	2,013,547	213.00	No	1,220.89
Shire of Brookton	RAS	955	1,601	537	932,302	440,546	1,372,848	976.23	No	820.38
Shire of Broome	RTL	18,361	54,402	356	1,963,016	679,030	2,642,046	106.91	No	1,907.39
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	RAS	1,093	2,610	972	1,228,356	807,566	2,035,922	1,123.84	No	830.83
Shire of Bruce Rock[sw]	RAS	1,019	2,725	1,173	1,937,038	1,135,800	3,072,838	1,900.92	No	968.29
Shire of Capel	URS	19,021	558	503	1,807,762	793,282	2,601,044	95.04	No	1,577.10
Shire of Carnamah	RAS	572	2,871	671	1,202,486	591,456	1,793,942	2,102.25	No	881.45
Shire of Carnarvon	RAL	5,531	46,575	1,530	4,323,303	1,705,247	6,028,550	781.65	No	1,114.54
Shire of Chapman Valley	RAS	1,649	3,981	866	634,419	663,796	1,298,215	384.73	No	766.51
Shire of Chittering	RAL	6,301	1,220	439	1,234,228	584,483	1,818,711	195.88	No	1,331.40
Shire of Collie	RAL	9,147	1,710	390	1,485,615	609,334	2,094,949	162.42	No	1,562.39
Shire of Coolgardie	RTL	3,642	30,298	848	692,600	646,934	1,339,534	190.17	No	762.89
Shire of Coorow	RAS	1,091	4,190	857	1,729,554	685,861	2,415,415	1,585.29	No	800.30
Shire of Corrigin	RAS	1,022	2,681	1,058	1,505,752	851,091	2,356,843	1,473.34	No	804.43
Shire of Cranbrook	RAS	1,141	3,276	1,015	1,138,424	804,768	1,943,192	997.74	No	792.87
Shire of Cuballing	RAS	931	1,195	555	620,573	420,709	1,041,282	666.57	No	758.03
Shire of Cue	RTX	230	13,582	729	1,876,246	620,095	2,496,341	8,157.59	No	850.61

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Shire of Cunderdin	RAS	1,342	1,862	783	1,133,113	643,633	1,776,746	844.35	No	822.01
Shire of Dalwallinu	RAS	1,429	7,224	1,912	2,304,090	1,444,446	3,748,536	1,612.38	No	755.46
Shire of Dandaragan	RAM	3,559	6,712	1,292	985,226	1,283,092	2,268,318	276.83	No	993.11
Shire of Dardanup[sw]	RAV	15,373	526	432	1,005,391	849,727	1,855,118	65.40	No	1,966.96
Shire of Denmark	RAL	6,534	1,860	624	595,439	604,398	1,199,837	91.13	No	968.59
Shire of Derby West Kimberley[sw]	RTL	8,411	119,731	1,740	5,622,725	1,712,058	7,334,783	668.50	No	983.94
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup[sw]	RAL	6,400	1,560	670	1,455,764	1,382,092	2,837,856	227.46	No	2,062.82
Shire of Dowerin	RAS	732	1,863	932	1,048,418	689,084	1,737,502	1,432.27	No	739.36
Shire of Dumbleyung	RAS	693	2,539	994	1,333,546	776,662	2,110,208	1,924.31	No	781.35
Shire of Dundas	RTS	697	92,886	632	1,278,690	487,184	1,765,874	1,834.56	No	770.86
Shire of East Pilbara[sw]	RTL	10,307	372,296	3,110	3,315,788	3,274,312	6,590,100	321.70	No	1,052.83
Shire of Esperance	RAV	14,500	44,798	4,341	3,836,391	3,782,841	7,619,232	264.58	No	871.42
Shire of Exmouth	RTM	3,313	6,488	277	1,511,286	515,551	2,026,837	456.17	No	1,861.19
Shire of Gingin	RAL	5,892	3,208	875	1,131,927	1,091,664	2,223,591	192.11	No	1,247.62
Shire of Gnowangerup	RAS	1,262	4,265	1,026	1,135,663	814,995	1,950,658	899.89	No	794.34
Shire of Goomalling	RAS	985	1,835	583	582,638	463,644	1,046,282	591.51	No	795.27
Shire of Halls Creek[sw]	RTL	4,102	133,046	1,420	3,834,144	1,223,854	5,057,998	934.70	No	861.87
Shire of Harvey	URS	30,141	1,728	840	2,789,172	1,247,379	4,036,551	92.54	No	1,484.98
Shire of Irwin	RAM	3,795	2,369	446	395,739	418,042	813,781	104.28	No	937.31
Shire of Jerramungup	RAS	1,196	6,511	1,057	944,350	785,722	1,730,072	789.59	No	743.35
Shire of Katanning	RAM	4,233	1,518	692	1,977,071	626,824	2,603,895	467.06	No	905.82
Shire of Kellerberrin	RAS	1,178	1,915	935	1,851,773	725,956	2,577,729	1,571.96	No	776.42
Shire of Kent	RAS	506	5,625	1,324	1,468,052	915,629	2,383,681	2,901.29	No	691.56
Shire of Kojonup[sw]	RAS	1,972	2,931	1,111	913,733	1,273,080	2,186,813	463.35	No	1,145.89
Shire of Kondinin	RAS	866	7,441	1,337	1,867,483	990,971	2,858,454	2,156.45	No	741.19
Shire of Koorda	RAS	373	2,832	1,067	1,515,030	803,916	2,318,946	4,061.74	No	753.44

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Shire of Kulin	RAS	784	4,719	1,432	1,712,460	1,092,598	2,805,058	2,184.26	No	762.99
Shire of Lake Grace	RAS	1,290	11,886	2,276	2,059,070	1,611,855	3,670,925	1,596.18	No	708.20
Shire of Laverton[sw]	RTM	1,433	179,994	4,191	1,920,228	1,319,417	3,239,645	1,340.01	No	314.82
Shire of Leonora	RTM	1,720	31,915	1,299	557,810	833,010	1,390,820	324.31	No	641.27
Shire of Manjimup[sw]	RAL	9,416	7,030	1,308	3,119,249	1,854,910	4,974,159	331.27	No	1,418.13
Shire of Meekatharra	RTM	1,293	100,189	2,431	2,982,540	1,801,282	4,783,822	2,306.68	No	740.96
Shire of Menzies[sw]	RTS	570	124,115	1,301	1,750,088	1,133,806	2,883,894	3,070.33	No	871.49
Shire of Merredin	RAM	3,228	3,294	1,291	1,961,368	1,047,536	3,008,904	607.61	No	811.41
Shire of Mingenew	RAS	423	1,935	452	437,620	410,273	847,893	1,034.56	No	907.68
Shire of Moora	RAM	2,371	3,763	934	1,207,192	917,889	2,125,081	509.15	No	982.75
Shire of Morawa	RAS	668	3,511	971	1,431,811	723,303	2,155,114	2,143.43	No	744.91
Shire of Mount Magnet	RTS	701	13,858	661	1,861,814	417,897	2,279,711	2,655.94	No	632.22
Shire of Mount Marshall	RAS	463	10,185	1,676	1,901,856	1,097,120	2,998,976	4,107.68	No	654.61
Shire of Mukinbudin	RAS	587	3,427	905	1,251,405	676,834	1,928,239	2,131.87	No	747.88
Shire of Mundaring	UFM	40,506	643	616	1,799,325	1,305,486	3,104,811	44.42	No	2,119.30
Shire of Murchison	RTX	108	45,046	1,646	3,578,943	1,103,110	4,682,053	33,138.36	No	670.18
Shire of Murray[sw]	RAV	19,104	1,704	709	1,183,717	2,455,921	3,639,638	61.96	No	3,463.92
Shire of Nannup	RAS	1,586	3,054	490	1,032,933	603,936	1,636,869	651.28	No	1,232.52
Shire of Narembeen	RAS	821	3,809	1,409	1,543,848	1,019,785	2,563,633	1,880.45	No	723.77
Shire of Narrogin	RAL	4,953	1,631	800	1,772,668	738,505	2,511,173	357.90	No	923.13
Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku[*sw]	RTM	1,478	159,816	1,328	3,828,601	1,798,965	5,627,566	2,590.39	No	1,354.64
Shire of Northam	RAV	11,940	1,431	763	2,734,031	1,008,120	3,742,151	228.98	No	1,321.26
Shire of Northampton	RAM	3,332	12,544	1,073	1,591,178	904,068	2,495,246	477.54	No	842.56
Shire of Nungarin	RAS	261	1,166	509	1,160,815	394,020	1,554,835	4,447.57	No	774.11
Shire of Peppermint Grove[#]	UDS	1,644	1	9	45,267	25,213	70,480	27.53	Yes	2,801.44
Shire of Perenjori	RAS	651	8,301	1,472	1,694,728	1,116,907	2,811,635	2,603.27	No	758.77

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Shire of Pingelly	RAS	1,067	1,295	568	1,172,084	461,961	1,634,045	1,098.49	No	813.31
Shire of Plantagenet	RAL	5,590	4,877	1,320	1,456,558	1,117,685	2,574,243	260.56	No	846.73
Shire of Quairading	RAS	983	2,017	863	1,491,290	713,408	2,204,698	1,517.08	No	826.66
Shire of Ravensthorpe	RAS	2,190	9,842	1,218	1,472,124	934,575	2,406,699	672.20	No	767.30
Shire of Sandstone	RTX	117	32,605	914	1,888,259	591,885	2,480,144	16,138.97	No	647.58
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	UFS	34,770	901	623	1,698,318	1,298,388	2,996,706	48.84	No	2,084.09
Shire of Shark Bay	RTS	1,076	24,202	585	1,696,565	579,879	2,276,444	1,576.73	No	991.25
Shire of Tammin	RAS	402	1,102	495	939,372	364,239	1,303,611	2,336.75	No	735.84
Shire of Three Springs	RAS	587	2,657	693	971,290	581,310	1,552,600	1,654.67	No	838.83
Shire of Toodyay	RAM	4,812	1,692	634	999,110	709,911	1,709,021	207.63	No	1,119.73
Shire of Trayning	RAS	304	1,651	752	1,602,184	580,486	2,182,670	5,270.34	No	771.92
Shire of Upper Gascoyne[sw]	RTX	187	57,810	1,881	3,683,987	1,455,247	5,139,234	19,700.47	No	773.66
Shire of Victoria Plains	RAS	827	2,551	806	749,555	694,806	1,444,361	906.35	No	862.04
Shire of Wagin	RAS	1,811	1,946	782	1,175,206	619,977	1,795,183	648.93	No	792.81
Shire of Wandering[sw]	RAS	548	1,904	356	366,932	680,656	1,047,588	669.58	No	1,911.96
Shire of Waroona	RAM	4,405	832	341	1,100,594	492,356	1,592,950	249.85	No	1,443.86
Shire of West Arthur	RAS	799	2,832	852	731,275	647,379	1,378,654	915.24	No	759.83
Shire of Westonia	RAS	252	3,319	880	1,175,045	647,655	1,822,700	4,662.88	No	735.97
Shire of Wickepin	RAS	706	2,041	868	1,153,828	654,041	1,807,869	1,634.32	No	753.50
Shire of Williams	RAS	1,055	2,305	460	381,034	429,260	810,294	361.17	No	933.17
Shire of Wiluna[sw]	RTS	572	181,297	1,908	2,279,700	1,193,798	3,473,498	3,985.49	No	625.68
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	RAS	1,339	3,365	1,321	1,662,662	1,017,153	2,679,815	1,241.72	No	769.99
Shire of Woodanilling[sw]	RAS	469	1,129	522	602,920	706,845	1,309,765	1,285.54	No	1,354.11
Shire of Wyalkatchem	RAS	484	1,595	725	1,508,162	563,759	2,071,921	3,116.04	No	777.60
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley[sw]	RTL	8,058	112,066	825	3,070,339	2,108,440	5,178,779	381.03	No	2,555.68

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Shire of Yalgoo	RTX	365	27,950	1,134	2,058,189	745,492	2,803,681	5,638.87	No	657.40
Shire of Yilgarn	RAS	1,196	30,429	2,731	2,591,506	1,822,771	4,414,277	2,166.81	No	667.44
Shire of York	RAM	3,565	2,132	665	1,055,051	782,359	1,837,410	295.95	No	1,176.48
Town of Bassendean[#]	UDS	16,601	10	97	413,016	266,507	679,523	24.88	Yes	2,747.49
Town of Cambridge[#]	UDS	30,116	22	193	752,991	519,575	1,272,566	25.00	Yes	2,692.10
Town of Claremont	UDS	11,715	5	48	290,939	131,441	422,380	24.83	Yes	2,738.35
Town of Cottesloe[#]	UDS	8,297	4	43	213,348	113,853	327,201	25.71	Yes	2,647.74
Town of East Fremantle[#]	UDS	8,060	3	37	203,352	91,946	295,298	25.23	Yes	2,485.03
Town of Mosman Park	UDS	9,585	4	43	238,041	104,954	342,995	24.83	Yes	2,440.79
Town of Port Hedland[sw#]	RTL	16,987	18,417	459	678,667	1,025,338	1,704,005	39.95	Yes	2,233.85
Town of Victoria Park[#]	UDM	38,631	18	164	967,958	464,269	1,432,227	25.06	Yes	2,830.91

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body.

sw – special works included in local roads totals.

– Minimum grant councils as identified in the WA Local Government Grants Commission Annual Report for 2023–24. Amounts differ due to overpayments as a result of multiple significant bring forwards.

Table 47 Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in South Australia

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Adelaide Hills Council[sw]	UFM	41,448	794	1,017	1,038,598	1,460,273	2,498,871	25.07	Yes	1,435.86
Adelaide Plains Council	RAL	10,461	1,048	979	1,560,985	363,520	1,924,505	149.22	No	371.32
Alexandrina Council	UFS	29,780	1,828	1,390	1,819,177	815,375	2,634,552	61.09	No	586.60
Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc*	RTM	2,595	102,361	3,184	1,534,227	198,329	1,732,556	591.22	No	62.29
Barunga West Council	RAM	2,676	1,721	928	197,800	263,568	461,368	73.92	No	284.02
Berri Barmera Council	RAV	10,713	509	465	2,784,617	271,216	3,055,833	259.93	No	583.26
City of Burnside	UDM	46,692	27	236	1,170,001	620,892	1,790,893	25.07	Yes	2,630.90
City of Charles Sturt	UDL	124,906	56	587	3,129,875	1,604,904	4,734,779	25.07	Yes	2,734.08
City of Holdfast Bay	UDM	38,061	14	172	953,726	480,540	1,434,266	25.07	Yes	2,793.84
City of Mitcham	UDM	68,403	76	408	1,714,031	983,562	2,697,593	25.07	Yes	2,410.69
City of Mount Gambier	URS	27,771	34	231	3,747,077	516,882	4,263,959	134.93	No	2,237.58
City of Onkaparinga[sw]	UFV	178,546	520	1,524	6,930,820	3,933,713	10,864,533	38.82	No	2,581.18
City of Playford[sw]	UFL	103,420	358	911	13,862,651	2,749,373	16,612,024	134.04	No	3,017.97
City of Port Adelaide Enfield[sw]	UDV	135,844	94	699	3,403,958	2,094,337	5,498,295	25.07	Yes	2,996.19
City of Port Lincoln	URS	14,947	32	160	1,827,385	282,275	2,109,660	122.26	No	1,764.22
City of Prospect	UDS	22,741	8	87	569,840	268,366	838,206	25.07	Yes	3,084.67
City of Salisbury	UDV	148,003	167	837	8,358,625	2,071,965	10,430,590	56.48	No	2,475.47
Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully	UDL	102,666	95	595	2,572,588	1,450,006	4,022,594	25.07	Yes	2,436.98
City of Victor Harbor	URS	16,720	386	397	418,967	368,841	787,808	25.07	Yes	929.07
City of West Torrens	UDM	63,105	37	290	1,581,275	803,748	2,385,023	25.07	Yes	2,771.54
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	RAL	9,393	1,892	1,835	1,346,008	508,999	1,855,007	143.30	No	277.38
Coorong District Council[sw]	RAL	5,569	8,866	1,890	2,312,098	884,130	3,196,228	415.17	No	467.79
Copper Coast Council[sw]	RAV	15,652	795	910	2,286,358	827,448	3,113,806	146.07	No	909.28

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	UDM	56,013	24	255	1,403,566	710,473	2,114,039	25.07	Yes	2,786.17
Corporation of the City of Marion[sw]	UDL	96,658	56	481	2,422,041	1,623,319	4,045,360	25.07	Yes	3,374.88
Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	38,001	15	160	952,223	466,517	1,418,740	25.07	Yes	2,915.73
Corporation of the City of Port Augusta[sw]	URS	14,456	1,282	411	3,406,426	980,716	4,387,142	235.64	No	2,386.17
Corporation of the City of Unley	UDM	39,085	14	163	979,386	477,597	1,456,983	25.07	Yes	2,930.04
Corporation of the City of Whyalla[sw]	URS	21,894	1,117	283	5,254,023	656,263	5,910,286	239.98	No	2,318.95
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	UDS	8,179	4	35	204,948	101,530	306,478	25.07	Yes	2,900.86
District Council of Ceduna	RAM	3,650	5,490	1,716	2,167,559	582,613	2,750,172	593.85	No	339.52
District Council of Cleve	RAS	1,765	5,019	1,548	1,302,898	519,927	1,822,825	738.19	No	335.87
District Council of Coober Pedy	URS	1,576	78	439	1,022,486	58,061	1,080,547	648.79	No	132.26
District Council of Elliston	RAS	1,037	6,712	1,154	893,285	541,060	1,434,345	861.41	No	468.86
District Council of Franklin Harbour[sw]	RAS	1,323	2,793	787	1,163,763	1,058,387	2,222,150	879.64	No	1,344.84
District Council of Grant[sw]	RAL	8,925	1,903	1,569	1,787,231	886,587	2,673,818	200.25	No	565.07
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	RAS	1,028	4,419	1,299	1,383,475	446,970	1,830,445	1,345.79	No	344.09
District Council of Kimba	RAS	1,057	3,984	1,715	1,222,187	398,305	1,620,492	1,156.28	No	232.25
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula[sw]	RAL	6,100	4,776	1,345	688,526	1,496,512	2,185,038	112.87	No	1,112.65
District Council of Loxton Waikerie[sw]	RAV	11,928	7,990	2,306	4,370,595	963,010	5,333,605	366.41	No	417.61
District Council of Mount Remarkable	RAM	2,915	3,509	2,069	1,905,936	485,346	2,391,282	653.84	No	234.58

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	RAS	890	3,322	1,628	1,111,043	336,666	1,447,709	1,248.36	No	206.80
District Council of Peterborough	RAS	1,670	3,020	1,231	1,447,261	320,869	1,768,130	866.62	No	260.66
District Council of Robe	RAS	1,583	1,093	435	39,666	143,859	183,525	25.07	Yes	330.71
District Council of Streaky Bay	RAM	2,254	6,321	1,736	1,784,370	612,169	2,396,539	791.65	No	352.63
District Council of Tumby Bay	RAM	2,889	2,678	1,081	486,168	343,017	829,185	168.28	No	317.31
District Council of Yankalilla	RSG	5,998	754	545	239,195	218,523	457,718	39.88	No	400.96
Gerard Community Council Aboriginal Corporation*	RTX	263	-	-	59,877	26,423	86,300	227.67	No	-
Kangaroo Island Council[sw]	RAM	5,084	4,423	1,402	2,287,672	1,230,644	3,518,316	449.97	No	877.78
Kingston District Council[sw]	RAM	2,389	3,343	711	261,537	823,850	1,085,387	109.48	No	1,158.72
Light Regional Council	RAV	16,332	1,277	1,458	1,219,100	559,230	1,778,330	74.64	No	383.56
Maralinga Tjarutja*	RTX	102	105,768	-	121,685	70,957	192,642	1,192.99	No	-
Mid Murray Council	RAL	9,415	6,271	3,383	4,072,607	864,767	4,937,374	432.57	No	255.62
District Council of Mount Barker	URM	41,059	595	810	1,168,369	858,239	2,026,608	28.46	No	1,059.55
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	URS	4,105	111	40	420,901	16,767	437,668	102.53	No	419.18
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	RAL	8,928	4,519	1,618	2,860,708	637,965	3,498,673	320.42	No	394.29
Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corporation*	RTX	86	-	-	38,409	26,308	64,717	446.62	No	-
Northern Areas Council	RAM	4,671	2,987	2,203	1,723,257	529,202	2,252,459	368.93	No	240.22
Outback Communities Authority	RTM	2,353	-	-	1,938,958	-	1,938,958	824.04	No	-
Port Pirie Regional Council	RAV	17,648	1,963	1,367	5,018,300	609,478	5,627,778	284.36	No	445.85
Regional Council of Goyder	RAM	4,134	6,715	3,010	2,524,184	769,599	3,293,783	610.59	No	255.68
Renmark Paringa Council	RAL	10,044	903	477	2,804,134	288,470	3,092,604	279.18	No	604.76
Rural City of Murray Bridge	URS	22,554	1,828	981	4,262,245	632,799	4,895,044	188.98	No	645.06
Southern Mallee District Council	RAM	2,013	5,710	1,332	1,311,559	526,843	1,838,402	651.54	No	395.53

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Tatiara District Council[sw]	RAL	7,040	6,522	1,917	3,245,841	1,092,368	4,338,209	461.06	No	569.83
The Barossa Council	UFS	25,878	894	985	1,546,962	631,904	2,178,866	59.78	No	641.53
The Corporation of the City of Adelaide	UCC	26,120	15	120	654,511	332,473	986,984	25.07	Yes	2,770.61
The Flinders Ranges Council	RAS	1,682	4,127	1,263	1,360,179	394,663	1,754,842	808.67	No	312.48
Town of Gawler[sw]	UFS	26,123	41	214	2,127,208	506,770	2,633,978	81.43	No	2,368.08
Wakefield Regional Council	RAL	6,958	3,522	2,686	2,235,918	697,083	2,933,001	321.34	No	259.52
Wattle Range Council	RAV	12,163	3,929	2,442	3,298,608	706,885	4,005,493	271.20	No	289.47
Wudinna District Council	RAS	1,164	5,393	1,687	1,522,154	520,539	2,042,693	1,307.69	No	308.56
Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation*	RTX	321	-	64	215,518	57,129	272,647	671.40	No	892.64
Yorke Peninsula Council	RAV	11,922	6,011	3,900	1,146,020	1,076,719	2,222,739	96.13	No	276.08

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body.

sw – special works included in local roads totals.

Table 48 Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in Tasmania

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Break O'Day Council	RAL	7,010	3,521	543	1,669,135	1,961,149	3,630,284	238.11	No	3,611.69
Brighton Council	UFS	19,688	171	189	1,770,783	766,894	2,537,677	89.94	No	4,057.64
Burnie City Council	URS	20,470	610	350	1,804,913	1,537,744	3,342,657	88.17	No	4,393.55
Central Coast Council	URS	23,342	931	680	3,128,242	2,506,826	5,635,068	134.02	No	3,686.51
Central Highlands Council	RAM	2,586	7,976	739	1,228,031	1,858,813	3,086,844	474.88	No	2,515.31
Circular Head Council	RAL	8,368	4,891	764	1,646,103	2,367,451	4,013,554	196.71	No	3,098.76
Clarence City Council	UFM	63,084	377	497	1,596,763	2,219,058	3,815,821	25.31	Yes	4,464.91
Derwent Valley Council	RAV	11,235	4,103	309	1,698,354	1,074,704	2,773,058	151.17	No	3,478.01
Devonport City Council	URS	26,935	111	258	1,742,901	1,368,864	3,111,765	64.71	No	5,305.67
Dorset Council	RAL	7,022	3,223	696	1,665,874	2,387,772	4,053,646	237.24	No	3,430.71
Flinders Council	RAS	931	1,994	350	909,040	945,195	1,854,235	976.41	No	2,700.56
George Town Council	RAL	7,267	653	274	1,516,569	1,080,664	2,597,233	208.69	No	3,944.03
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	RAM	5,188	2,587	381	238,696	1,301,719	1,540,415	46.01	No	3,416.59
Glenorchy City Council	UFM	51,012	121	322	1,276,319	1,825,498	3,101,817	25.31	Yes	5,669.25
Hobart City Council	UCC	56,018	78	305	1,417,330	1,975,630	3,392,960	25.31	Yes	6,477.48
Huon Valley Council	RAV	19,215	5,497	713	2,454,528	2,096,007	4,550,535	127.74	No	2,939.70
Kentish Council	RAL	6,805	1,155	471	1,822,521	1,487,947	3,310,468	267.82	No	3,159.12
King Island Council	RAS	1,675	1,094	432	927,333	1,300,582	2,227,915	553.63	No	3,010.61
Kingborough Council	UFM	40,937	719	551	1,036,361	1,976,269	3,012,630	25.32	Yes	3,586.70
Latrobe Council	RAV	12,921	600	294	1,337,019	1,018,295	2,355,314	103.48	No	3,463.59
Launceston City Council	URM	71,889	1,411	742	1,820,378	3,521,327	5,341,705	25.32	Yes	4,745.72
Meander Valley Council	RAV	21,354	3,320	828	2,702,206	2,758,994	5,461,200	126.54	No	3,332.12
Northern Midlands Council	RAV	14,137	5,126	960	1,514,455	3,023,622	4,538,077	107.13	No	3,149.61
Sorell Council	RAV	17,429	583	342	1,585,390	1,246,983	2,832,373	90.96	No	3,646.15

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Southern Midlands Council	RAL	6,887	2,611	814	2,202,820	2,096,836	4,299,656	319.85	No	2,575.97
Tasman Council	RAM	2,676	659	205	666,087	709,655	1,375,742	248.91	No	3,461.73
Waratah/Wynyard Council	RAV	14,688	3,526	539	2,174,169	1,798,951	3,973,120	148.02	No	3,337.57
West Coast Council	RAM	4,351	9,574	191	1,738,655	944,153	2,682,808	399.60	No	4,943.21
West Tamar Council	UFS	25,931	690	473	2,889,947	1,696,550	4,586,497	111.45	No	3,586.79

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body.

Table 49 Distribution of 2023–24 actual entitlement to councils in the Northern Territory

Council name	Classification	Population Number	Council area in sq km	Road length in km	General purpose in dollars	Local road in dollars	Total in dollars	General purpose in dollars per capita	Minimum grant (Yes or No)	Local road in dollars per km
Alice Springs Town Council	URS	28,856	327	253	810,432	1,201,968	2,012,400	28.09	No	4,750.86
Barkly Regional Council*	RTL	7,223	322,693	444	2,077,631	554,797	2,632,428	287.64	No	1,249.54
Belyuen Community Government Council*	RTX	165	42	84	25,799	40,467	66,266	156.36	No	481.75
Central Desert Regional Council*	RTL	4,105	282,090	1,769	1,238,870	1,427,855	2,666,725	301.80	No	807.15
City of Darwin	UCC	84,964	142	567	2,217,707	2,425,238	4,642,945	26.10	Yes	4,277.32
City of Palmerston	URM	40,354	56	345	1,053,308	1,307,832	2,361,140	26.10	Yes	3,790.82
Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM	1,396	1,512	202	36,438	632,979	669,417	26.10	Yes	3,133.56
East Arnhem Regional Council*	RTL	10,073	33,302	963	4,106,291	1,556,433	5,662,724	407.65	No	1,616.23
Katherine Town Council	URS	10,777	7,421	175	458,319	759,051	1,217,370	42.53	No	4,337.43
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	N/A	-	-	1,908	-	2,020,106	2,020,106	-	No	1,058.76
Litchfield Council	UFS	23,156	3,072	727	604,411	3,225,868	3,830,279	26.10	Yes	4,437.23
MacDonnell Regional Council*	RTL	6,625	268,784	1,565	2,443,828	1,261,169	3,704,997	368.88	No	805.86
Roper Gulf Regional Council*	RTL	7,469	185,176	943	2,520,918	1,335,906	3,856,824	337.52	No	1,416.66
Tiwi Islands Regional Council*	RTM	2,739	7,501	845	478,502	1,196,717	1,675,219	174.70	No	1,416.23
Victoria Daly Regional Council*	RTL	3,258	153,475	341	630,690	874,054	1,504,744	193.58	No	2,563.21
Wagait Shire Council*	RTS	464	6	17	14,506	67,806	82,312	31.26	No	3,988.59
West Arnhem Regional Council*	RTL	7,232	49,698	1,167	1,757,931	1,411,156	3,169,087	243.08	No	1,209.22
West Daly Regional Council*	RTL	3,431	14,100	849	603,663	1,180,086	1,783,749	175.94	No	1,389.97

Notes: a – population estimates provided by the Local Government Grants Commission in each state and the Northern Territory.

* – Indigenous local governing body.

Appendix E

Ranking of local governing bodies in 2023–24

In this appendix, the grant per capita is used as the basis for comparing relative need for the general purpose grant. For local road grant, the allocation of grant for each council is divided by their length of local roads to obtain a relative expenditure needs measure. In Tables 51 to 64 below, councils within a state are sorted on the value of the general purpose grant per capita and, separately, on the value of the local road grant per kilometre. For each council, its jurisdiction's table gives the ranking obtained for both grants.

The Australian Classification of Local Government category for each council is also provided (see Appendix F). For each state and the Northern Territory, the positions of the average general purpose grant per capita and the average local road grant per kilometre are also shown at the top of the ranking of councils.

Table 50 Key to symbols used in tables in Appendices E and F

Symbol	*Full symbol name*
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 51 2023–24 New South Wales councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

The state average general purpose grant per capita for New South Wales in 2023–24 is **$83.27**.

Rank	*Council name*	*Classification*	*$ per capita*
1	Central Darling Shire Council	RTM	3,343.05
2	Brewarrina Shire Council	RAS	3,140.79
3	Bourke Shire Council	RAM	2,516.31
4	Balranald Shire Council	RAM	1,814.40
5	Carrathool Shire Council	RAM	1,811.71
6	Bogan Shire Council	RAM	1,592.05
7	Cobar Shire Council	RTL	1,358.09
8	Lachlan Council	RAL	1,245.34
9	Silverton Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	1,197.54
10	Hay Shire Council	RAM	1,144.45
11	Bland Shire Council	RAL	1,113.03
12	Walgett Shire Council	RAL	1,096.66
13	Murrumbidgee Council	RAM	1,094.74
14	Warren Shire Council	RAM	1,006.62
15	Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	990.76
16	Coonamble Shire Council	RAM	973.25
17	Lockhart Shire Council	RAM	880.24
18	Gilgandra Council	RAM	809.52
19	Gwydir Shire Council	RAL	779.27
20	Lord Howe Island Board	RTX	747.07
21	Narrandera Shire Council	RAL	735.37
22	Coolamon Shire Council	RAM	717.77
23	Walcha Council	RAM	707.04
24	Wentworth Shire Council	RAL	692.99
25	Weddin Shire Council	RAM	686.80
26	Warrumbungle Shire Council	RAL	649.89
27	Tenterfield Shire Council	RAL	621.23
28	Edward River Council	RAL	605.48
29	Narromine Shire Council	RAL	593.17
30	Murray River Council	RAV	523.90
31	Temora Shire Council	RAL	521.86
32	Berrigan Shire Council	RAL	506.38
33	Moree Plains Shire Council	RAV	497.61
34	Forbes Shire Council	RAL	488.81
35	Narrabri Shire Council	RAV	487.29
36	Federation Council	RAV	445.46
37	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	RAL	442.11
38	Oberon Council	RAL	435.80
39	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	RAL	424.03
40	Glen Innes Severn Council	RAL	420.60
41	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	RAV	413.09
42	Kyogle Council	RAL	405.78
43	Junee Shire Council	RAL	400.35
44	Leeton Shire Council	RAV	391.61
45	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	URS	383.37
46	Greater Hume Shire Council	RAV	379.20
47	Parkes Shire Council	RAV	378.76
48	Snowy Valleys Council	RAV	373.60
49	Uralla Shire Council	RAL	371.21
50	Hilltops Council	RAV	342.60
51	Council of the City of Broken Hill	URS	339.45
52	Cowra Shire Council	RAV	332.56
53	Blayney Shire Council	RAL	321.61
54	Gunnedah Shire Council	RAV	299.35
55	Inverell Shire Council	RAV	288.65
56	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RAV	287.35
57	Bellingen Shire Council	RAV	287.22
58	Cabonne Shire Council	RAV	275.05
59	Dungog Shire Council	RAL	236.01
60	City of Lithgow Council	URS	216.67
61	Muswellbrook Shire Council	RAV	208.09
62	Mid-Western Regional Council	URS	207.56
63	Griffith City Council	URS	190.87
64	Richmond Valley Council	URS	190.57
65	Armidale Regional Council	URM	184.36
66	Bega Valley Shire Council	URM	178.75
67	Nambucca Valley Council	RAV	177.81
68	Kempsey Shire Council	URS	174.68
69	Dubbo Regional Council	URM	169.81
70	Clarence Valley Council	URM	165.52
71	Eurobodalla Shire Council	URM	160.85
72	Mid-Coast Council	URL	155.07
73	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	URM	132.70
74	Yass Valley Council	RAV	132.53
75	Singleton Council	URS	127.62
76	Wagga Wagga City Council	URM	120.92
77	Lismore City Council	URM	120.10

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
78	Bathurst Regional Council	URM	119.25
79	Tamworth Regional Council	URM	117.56
80	Blue Mountains City Council	UFL	111.71
81	Albury City Council	URM	103.20
82	Orange City Council	URM	99.11
83	Cessnock City Council	URM	98.53
84	Shoalhaven City Council	URL	95.30
85	Tweed Shire Council	URL	93.39
86	Wollongong City Council	URV	87.41
87	Port Macquarie Hastings Council	URL	84.31
88	Ballina Shire Council	URM	83.39
89	Port Stephens Council	URL	83.05
90	Coffs Harbour City Council	URL	78.05
91	Lake Macquarie City Council	URV	72.78
92	Wingecarribee Shire Council	URM	72.12
93	Central Coast Council (NSW)	UFV	71.46
94	Newcastle City Council	URV	70.64
95	Byron Shire Council	URM	70.63
96	Maitland City Council	URL	70.38
97	Kiama Municipal Council	URS	68.21
98	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	URM	67.01
99	Council of the City of Shellharbour	URL	64.05
100	Wollondilly Shire Council	UFM	50.25
101	Campbelltown City Council	UFV	49.98
102	Hawkesbury City Council	UFM	43.73
103	Penrith City Council	UFV	42.20
104	Fairfield City Council	UDV	39.31
105	Blacktown City Council	UDV	35.80
106	Hunter's Hill Council	UDS	31.32
107	City of Parramatta Council	UDV	30.87
108	Liverpool City Council	UDV	29.80
109	Cumberland Council	UDV	29.56
110	Mosman Municipal Council	UDM	29.40
111	Randwick City Council	UDV	27.04
112	Lane Cove Municipal Council	UDM	26.60
112	The Council of the City of Sydney	UCC	26.60
114	Burwood Council	UDM	26.56

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
115	Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	UDM	26.15
116	Inner West Council	UDV	26.12
117	Strathfield Municipal Council	UDM	25.78
118	City of Canada Bay Council	UDL	25.73
119	North Sydney Council	UDL	25.45
120	Willoughby City Council	UDL	25.23
121	Waverley Council	UDL	25.13
122	Bayside Council	UDV	24.98
122	Canterbury-Bankstown Council	UDV	24.98
122	Council of the City of Ryde	UDV	24.98
122	Georges River Council	UDV	24.98
122	Hornsby Shire Council	UFV	24.98
122	Ku-Ring-Gai Council	UDV	24.98
122	Northern Beaches Council	UDV	24.98
122	Sutherland Shire Council	UDV	24.98
122	The Council of Camden	UFL	24.98
122	The Hills Shire Council	UFV	24.98

Table 52 2023–24 New South Wales councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for New South Wales in 2023–24 is **$1,876.11**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	The Council of the City of Sydney	UCC	5,450.36
2	Waverley Council	UDL	4,605.51
3	Strathfield Municipal Council	UDM	4,311.48
4	Bayside Council	UDV	4,256.52
5	Randwick City Council	UDV	4,132.25
6	North Sydney Council	UDL	4,006.63
7	City of Parramatta Council	UDV	4,004.61
8	City of Canada Bay Council	UDL	3,986.66
9	Burwood Council	UDM	3,977.58
10	Cumberland Council	UDV	3,898.68
11	Canterbury-Bankstown Council	UDV	3,820.97
12	Lane Cove Municipal Council	UDM	3,808.85
13	Council of the City of Ryde	UDV	3,790.71
14	Inner West Council	UDV	3,777.79
15	Georges River Council	UDV	3,676.74
16	Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	UDM	3,620.21
17	Willoughby City Council	UDL	3,537.26
18	Coffs Harbour City Council	URL	3,478.52
19	Fairfield City Council	UDV	3,403.89
20	Northern Beaches Council	UDV	3,355.81
21	Albury City Council	URM	3,334.04
22	Tweed Shire Council	URL	3,293.88
23	Mosman Municipal Council	UDM	3,288.79
24	Blacktown City Council	UDV	3,216.59
25	Liverpool City Council	UDV	3,188.06
26	Hornsby Shire Council	UFV	3,131.93
27	Sutherland Shire Council	UDV	3,125.65
28	Ku-Ring-Gai Council	UDV	3,123.90
29	Orange City Council	URM	3,117.62
30	Hunter's Hill Council	UDS	3,109.98
31	Campbelltown City Council	UFV	3,098.48
32	Wollongong City Council	URV	3,082.70
33	Newcastle City Council	URV	2,961.76
34	Port Macquarie Hastings Council	URL	2,954.61
35	The Council of Camden	UFL	2,931.90
36	Council of the City of Broken Hill	URS	2,870.01
37	The Hills Shire Council	UFV	2,853.33
38	Penrith City Council	UFV	2,796.59
39	Ballina Shire Council	URM	2,763.46
40	Council of the City of Shellharbour	URL	2,762.17
41	Kiama Municipal Council	URS	2,694.69
42	Byron Shire Council	URM	2,689.70
43	Shoalhaven City Council	URL	2,673.65
44	Central Coast Council (NSW)	UFV	2,659.31
45	Lake Macquarie City Council	URV	2,611.81
46	Maitland City Council	URL	2,541.35
47	Cessnock City Council	URM	2,404.57
48	Port Stephens Council	URL	2,319.30
49	Blue Mountains City Council	UFL	2,285.46
50	Wollondilly Shire Council	UFM	2,284.83
51	Hawkesbury City Council	UFM	2,274.12
52	Nambucca Valley Council	RAV	2,250.18
53	Wingecarribee Shire Council	URM	2,245.49
54	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	URM	2,243.58
55	Lismore City Council	URM	2,232.99
56	Eurobodalla Shire Council	URM	2,212.97
57	Bathurst Regional Council	URM	2,144.40
58	Kempsey Shire Council	URS	2,139.40
59	Bellingen Shire Council	RAV	2,086.16
60	Singleton Council	URS	2,083.47
61	Mid-Coast Council	URL	2,079.85
62	Bega Valley Shire Council	URM	2,041.49
63	Muswellbrook Shire Council	RAV	2,010.15
64	Clarence Valley Council	URM	1,998.53
65	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	URM	1,983.16
66	Richmond Valley Council	URS	1,979.49
67	Wagga Wagga City Council	URM	1,945.11
68	Dungog Shire Council	RAL	1,916.21

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
69	Kyogle Council	RAL	1,883.82
70	Tamworth Regional Council	URM	1,807.26
71	City of Lithgow Council	URS	1,768.12
72	Dubbo Regional Council	URM	1,704.13
73	Snowy Valleys Council	RAV	1,698.32
74	Griffith City Council	URS	1,679.04
75	Armidale Regional Council	URM	1,678.03
76	Yass Valley Council	RAV	1,614.00
77	Mid-Western Regional Council	URS	1,597.95
78	Glen Innes Severn Council	RAL	1,581.35
79	Blayney Shire Council	RAL	1,575.18
80	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	RAV	1,552.56
81	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RAV	1,547.51
82	Cowra Shire Council	RAV	1,516.65
83	Cabonne Shire Council	RAV	1,505.24
84	Uralla Shire Council	RAL	1,496.96
85	Leeton Shire Council	RAV	1,493.84
86	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	URS	1,489.39
87	Inverell Shire Council	RAV	1,483.67
88	Gunnedah Shire Council	RAV	1,478.98
89	Greater Hume Shire Council	RAV	1,469.28
90	Murray River Council	RAV	1,461.51
91	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	RAL	1,449.38
92	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	RAL	1,440.15
93	Walcha Council	RAM	1,439.59
94	Tenterfield Shire Council	RAL	1,438.38
95	Hilltops Council	RAV	1,436.96
96	Junee Shire Council	RAL	1,393.40
97	Forbes Shire Council	RAL	1,390.60
98	Moree Plains Shire Council	RAV	1,390.08
99	Lockhart Shire Council	RAM	1,388.77
100	Oberon Council	RAL	1,388.03
101	Federation Council	RAV	1,384.45
102	Parkes Shire Council	RAV	1,376.01

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
103	Narrabri Shire Council	RAV	1,375.00
104	Berrigan Shire Council	RAL	1,372.14
105	Gilgandra Council	RAM	1,363.35
106	Edward River Council	RAL	1,359.72
107	Warrumbungle Shire Council	RAL	1,353.33
108	Warren Shire Council	RAM	1,352.01
109	Walgett Shire Council	RAL	1,350.85
110	Narrandera Shire Council	RAL	1,341.90
111	Temora Shire Council	RAL	1,330.35
112	Weddin Shire Council	RAM	1,328.58
113	Wentworth Shire Council	RAL	1,327.23
114	Gwydir Shire Council	RAL	1,325.37
115	Bogan Shire Council	RAM	1,323.07
116	Narromine Shire Council	RAL	1,322.84
117	Coonamble Shire Council	RAM	1,316.70
118	Hay Shire Council	RAM	1,302.35
119	Coolamon Shire Council	RAM	1,291.03
120	Brewarrina Shire Council	RAS	1,288.74
121	Carrathool Shire Council	RAM	1,286.48
122	Murrumbidgee Council	RAM	1,286.35
123	Bourke Shire Council	RAM	1,281.13
124	Lachlan Council	RAL	1,273.18
125	Cobar Shire Council	RTL	1,272.60
126	Bland Shire Council	RAL	1,266.99
127	Balranald Shire Council	RAM	1,251.74
128	Central Darling Shire Council	RTM	1,248.11
129	Lord Howe Island Board	RTX	–
129	Silverton Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	–
129	Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	RTX	–

Table 53 2023–24 Victorian councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

The state average general purpose grant per capita for Victoria in 2023–24 is **$83.14**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
1	West Wimmera Shire Council	RAM	1,072.56
2	Loddon Shire Council	RAL	808.22
3	Buloke Shire Council	RAL	792.83
4	Yarriambiack Shire Council	RAL	640.22
5	Hindmarsh Shire Council	RAL	605.35
6	Shire of Towong	RAL	594.40
7	Pyrenees Shire Council	RAL	530.25
8	Northern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	486.01
9	Gannawarra Shire Council	RAV	413.83
10	Ararat Rural City Council	RAV	385.78
11	Shire of Strathbogie	RAV	346.16
12	Corangamite Shire Council	RAV	330.46
13	Southern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	324.71
14	Glenelg Shire Council	RAV	310.93
15	Shire of Moyne	RAV	305.15
16	Moira Shire Council	URS	284.30
17	East Gippsland Shire Council	URM	282.92
18	Swan Hill Rural City Council	URS	273.67
19	Central Goldfields Shire Council	RAV	262.55
20	Mansfield Shire Council	RAL	257.93
21	Hepburn Shire Council	RAV	251.34
22	Campaspe Shire Council	URM	248.44
23	Alpine Shire	RAV	246.14
24	Wellington Shire Council	URM	244.42
25	South Gippsland Shire Council	URS	244.25
26	Murrindindi Shire Council	RAV	241.67
27	Horsham Rural City Council	RAV	241.11
28	Benalla Rural City Council	RAV	237.25
29	Mildura Rural City Council	URM	237.19
30	Colac Otway Shire	URS	233.82
31	Indigo Shire Council	RAV	225.99
32	Mount Alexander Shire Council	RAV	203.02
33	Wangaratta Rural City Council	URS	201.43
34	Golden Plains Shire Council	UFS	185.08
35	Greater Shepparton City Council	URM	180.75
36	Bass Coast Shire Council	UFM	159.70
37	Latrobe City Council	URL	158.90
38	Moorabool Shire Council	URM	155.63
39	Mitchell Shire Council	URM	154.81
40	Baw Baw Shire Council	URM	143.82
41	Greater Bendigo City Council	URL	138.29
42	Wodonga City Council	URM	135.18
43	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	URM	127.95
44	Warrnambool City Council	URM	123.72
45	Ballarat City Council	URL	123.18
46	Borough of Queenscliffe	UFS	115.44
47	Melton City Council	UFV	105.71
48	Cardinia Shire Council	UFL	95.59
49	Surf Coast Shire	UFM	89.77
50	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	UFV	81.53
51	City of Greater Geelong	URV	81.01
52	Brimbank City Council	UDV	69.39
53	Wyndham City Council	UFV	69.34
54	City of Greater Dandenong	UDV	69.14
55	Hume City Council	UFV	68.91
56	City of Whittlesea	UFV	64.18
57	Casey City Council	UDV	62.14
58	Frankston City Council	UDV	61.13
59	City of Knox	UDV	45.15
60	Maroondah City Council	UDL	38.13
61	Nillumbik Shire Council	UFM	33.12
62	City of Maribyrnong	UDL	27.25
63	Merri-bek City Council	UDV	24.95
63	Monash City Council	UDV	24.95
63	Moonee Valley City Council	UDV	24.95
66	Banyule City Council	UDV	24.94
66	Bayside City Council	UDL	24.94
66	City of Boroondara	UDV	24.94
66	City of Darebin	UDV	24.94
66	City of Glen Eira	UDV	24.94
66	City of Port Phillip	UDL	24.94
66	Hobsons Bay City Council	UDL	24.94
66	Kingston City Council	UDV	24.94
66	Manningham City Council	UDV	24.94
66	Melbourne City Council (City of Melbourne)	UCC	24.94
66	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	UFV	24.94
66	Stonnington City Council	UDL	24.94
66	Whitehorse City Council	UDV	24.94
66	Yarra City Council	UDL	24.94

Table 54 2023–24 Victorian councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for Victoria in 2023-24 is **$1,487.09**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	Melbourne City Council (City of Melbourne)	UCC	3,687.95
2	City of Greater Dandenong	UDV	2,813.01
3	City of Port Phillip	UDL	2,451.14
4	Brimbank City Council	UDV	2,416.87
5	City of Maribyrnong	UDL	2,403.77
6	Warrnambool City Council	URM	2,394.44
7	Hume City Council	UFV	2,363.81
8	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	UFV	2,318.53
9	Melton City Council	UFV	2,307.74
10	Merri-bek City Council	UDV	2,224.76
11	Yarra City Council	UDL	2,194.16
12	South Gippsland Shire Council	URS	2,184.96
13	Stonnington City Council	UDL	2,183.04
14	Kingston City Council	UDV	2,161.45
15	Banyule City Council	UDV	2,159.29
16	City of Whittlesea	UFV	2,150.63
17	City of Darebin	UDV	2,146.58
18	Moonee Valley City Council	UDV	2,134.05
19	Hobsons Bay City Council	UDL	2,131.85
20	Ballarat City Council	URL	2,122.39
21	Monash City Council	UDV	2,082.54
22	Whitehorse City Council	UDV	2,082.09
23	Cardinia Shire Council	UFL	2,062.46
24	Maroondah City Council	UDL	2,045.31
25	City of Boroondara	UDV	2,018.87
26	Colac Otway Shire	URS	2,012.68
27	Wodonga City Council	URM	1,984.83
28	City of Knox	UDV	1,984.07
29	Wellington Shire Council	URM	1,971.03
30	Alpine Shire	RAV	1,966.32
31	East Gippsland Shire Council	URM	1,958.06
32	Frankston City Council	UDV	1,957.40
33	Latrobe City Council	URL	1,943.59
34	Wyndham City Council	UFV	1,925.09
35	Casey City Council	UDV	1,887.00
36	Shire of Towong	RAL	1,879.85
37	City of Greater Geelong	URV	1,878.83
38	Shire of Moyne	RAV	1,874.75
39	Bass Coast Shire Council	UFM	1,869.18
40	Nillumbik Shire Council	UFM	1,855.95
41	Corangamite Shire Council	RAV	1,826.83
42	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	UFV	1,810.02
43	Surf Coast Shire	UFM	1,803.09
44	Bayside City Council	UDL	1,789.88
45	Baw Baw Shire Council	URM	1,750.99
46	Manningham City Council	UDV	1,732.46
47	Borough of Queenscliffe	UFS	1,698.49
48	Murrindindi Shire Council	RAV	1,694.28
49	Hepburn Shire Council	RAV	1,675.54
50	City of Glen Eira	UDV	1,665.72
51	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	URM	1,657.39
52	Mitchell Shire Council	URM	1,634.56
53	Glenelg Shire Council	RAV	1,627.72
54	Moorabool Shire Council	URM	1,593.72
55	Wangaratta Rural City Council	URS	1,585.46
56	Mount Alexander Shire Council	RAV	1,555.19
57	Greater Shepparton City Council	URM	1,533.85
58	Golden Plains Shire Council	UFS	1,523.34
59	Mansfield Shire Council	RAL	1,396.21
60	Greater Bendigo City Council	URL	1,389.98
61	Benalla Rural City Council	RAV	1,369.17
62	Indigo Shire Council	RAV	1,335.33
63	Moira Shire Council	URS	1,316.79
64	Pyrenees Shire Council	RAL	1,296.87
65	Southern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	1,276.28
66	Campaspe Shire Council	URM	1,245.00
67	Shire of Strathbogie	RAV	1,235.41
68	Central Goldfields Shire Council	RAV	1,215.40
69	Ararat Rural City Council	RAV	1,199.48
70	Gannawarra Shire Council	RAV	1,096.20
71	Northern Grampians Shire Council	RAV	1,063.55
72	West Wimmera Shire Council	RAM	1,023.00
73	Mildura Rural City Council	URM	987.78
74	Loddon Shire Council	RAL	954.89
75	Horsham Rural City Council	RAV	913.72
76	Swan Hill Rural City Council	URS	822.33
77	Hindmarsh Shire Council	RAL	596.07
78	Buloke Shire Council	RAL	576.91
79	Yarriambiack Shire Council	RAL	533.63

Table 55 2023–24 Queensland councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

The state average general purpose grant per capita for Queensland in 2023–24 is **$83.19**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
1	Diamantina Shire Council	RTX	19,975.15
2	Bulloo Shire Council	RTX	19,794.15
3	Croydon Shire Council	RTX	18,229.15
4	Barcoo Shire Council	RTX	15,397.87
5	Burke Shire Council	RTX	12,554.97
6	Boulia Shire Council	RTS	11,346.22
7	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	RTX	8,982.99
8	Quilpie Shire Council	RTS	8,673.97
9	Etheridge Shire Council	RTS	7,972.16
10	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	RTX	6,797.40
11	Mckinlay Shire Council	RTS	6,787.05
12	Richmond Shire Council	RTS	6,538.37
13	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	5,728.17
14	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	5,632.60
15	Winton Shire Council	RTM	5,028.84
16	Flinders Shire Council	RTM	4,612.14
17	Paroo Shire Council	RTM	3,857.05
18	Mornington Shire Council	RTM	3,754.89
19	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	3,583.61
20	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	RTL	3,530.68
21	Carpentaria Shire Council	RTM	3,243.37
22	Aurukun Shire Council	RTM	3,180.03
23	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	3,065.24
24	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	RTM	2,974.03
25	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	2,955.45
26	Barcaldine Regional Council	RTM	2,915.98
27	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	2,545.65
28	Longreach Regional Council	RTL	2,433.94
29	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	2,400.84
30	Cook Shire Council	RTL	2,194.97
31	Torres Shire Council	RTL	1,968.77
32	Cloncurry Shire Council	RTL	1,922.45
33	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	RTL	1,912.04
34	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1,884.53
35	Murweh Shire Council	RTL	1,813.63
36	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1,780.70
37	Balonne Shire Council	RAM	1,770.08
38	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	973.77
39	Maranoa Regional Council	RAV	758.83
40	North Burnett Regional Council	RAV	751.13
41	Goondiwindi Regional Council	RAV	526.35
42	Charters Towers Regional Council	RAV	519.94
43	Banana Shire Council	RAV	502.75
44	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	RAV	360.69
45	Mount Isa City Council	RTL	348.60
46	Burdekin Shire Council	RAV	329.57
47	Douglas Shire Council	RAV	271.82
48	Isaac Regional Council	URS	271.45
49	Mareeba Shire Council	URS	268.39
50	Western Downs Regional Council	URM	196.85
51	Central Highlands Regional Council	URS	159.25
52	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	URS	111.40
53	Tablelands Regional Council	URS	110.88
54	South Burnett Regional Council	URM	101.38
55	Whitsunday Regional Council	URM	87.46
56	Southern Downs Regional Council	URM	79.24
57	Gladstone Regional Council	URM	69.09
58	Somerset Regional Council	UFS	62.60
59	Gympie Regional Council	URM	55.79
60	Livingstone Shire Council	UFM	53.24
61	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	URM	51.39
62	Rockhampton Regional Council	URL	46.75
63	Bundaberg Regional Council	URL	38.88
64	Fraser Coast Regional Council	URL	34.80
65	Scenic Rim Regional Council	UFM	34.33
66	Toowoomba Regional Council	URV	34.07
67	Mackay Regional Council	URL	26.38
68	Brisbane City Council	UCC	24.96
68	Cairns Regional Council	URV	24.96
68	Gold Coast City Council	URV	24.96
68	Ipswich City Council	URV	24.96
68	Logan City Council	URV	24.96
68	Moreton Bay Regional Council	URV	24.96
68	Noosa Shire Council	URM	24.96
68	Redland City Council	URV	24.96
68	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	URV	24.96
68	Townsville City Council	URV	24.96

Table 56 2023–24 Queensland councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for Queensland in 2023–24 is **$1,198.11**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	URM	3,010.45
2	Brisbane City Council	UCC	2,222.63
3	Douglas Shire Council	RAV	2,095.86
4	Gladstone Regional Council	URM	1,922.05
5	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	URS	1,914.93
6	Gympie Regional Council	URM	1,791.14
7	Gold Coast City Council	URV	1,774.61
8	Torres Shire Council	RTL	1,721.63
9	Scenic Rim Regional Council	UFM	1,685.44
10	Livingstone Shire Council	UFM	1,640.87
11	Tablelands Regional Council	URS	1,609.44
12	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	RAV	1,596.61
13	Logan City Council	URV	1,590.63
14	Burke Shire Council	RTX	1,569.29
15	Somerset Regional Council	UFS	1,551.91
16	Burdekin Shire Council	RAV	1,471.56
17	Whitsunday Regional Council	URM	1,410.31
18	Southern Downs Regional Council	URM	1,375.43
19	Banana Shire Council	RAV	1,290.22
20	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	RTL	1,285.37
21	Richmond Shire Council	RTS	1,261.91
22	Mckinlay Shire Council	RTS	1,246.95
23	South Burnett Regional Council	URM	1,239.95
24	Murweh Shire Council	RTL	1,219.82
25	Moreton Bay Regional Council	URV	1,211.53
26	Maranoa Regional Council	RAV	1,209.33
27	Balonne Shire Council	RAM	1,209.15
28	Cook Shire Council	RTL	1,196.01
29	Central Highlands Regional Council	URS	1,191.35
30	Mount Isa City Council	RTL	1,186.05
31	Western Downs Regional Council	URM	1,181.12
32	Charters Towers Regional Council	RAV	1,179.93
33	Flinders Shire Council	RTM	1,171.55
34	Cloncurry Shire Council	RTL	1,165.73
35	Goondiwindi Regional Council	RAV	1,159.19
36	Croydon Shire Council	RTX	1,153.15
37	Redland City Council	URV	1,136.37
38	Winton Shire Council	RTM	1,123.20
39	Isaac Regional Council	URS	1,122.77
40	Mareeba Shire Council	URS	1,120.51
41	North Burnett Regional Council	RAV	1,113.56
42	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1,068.28
43	Ipswich City Council	URV	1,066.95
44	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	RTM	1,051.91
45	Cairns Regional Council	URV	1,037.93
46	Barcaldine Regional Council	RTM	1,037.30
47	Longreach Regional Council	RTL	1,027.14
48	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	1,019.61
49	Carpentaria Shire Council	RTM	1,003.84
50	Etheridge Shire Council	RTS	1,000.49
51	Paroo Shire Council	RTM	997.20
52	Townsville City Council	URV	982.65
53	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	URV	957.89
54	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	887.70
55	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	887.59
56	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	RTX	882.89
57	Bulloo Shire Council	RTX	877.33
58	Boulia Shire Council	RTS	874.09
59	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	867.05
60	Quilpie Shire Council	RTS	859.90
61	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	854.93
62	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	RTL	848.33
63	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	847.35
64	Mornington Shire Council	RTM	843.97
65	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	RTM	838.24
66	Aurukun Shire Council	RTM	835.58
67	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	RTX	831.79
68	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	831.26
69	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	RTS	829.52
70	Barcoo Shire Council	RTX	827.42
71	Diamantina Shire Council	RTX	709.80
72	Noosa Shire Council	URM	657.28
73	Mackay Regional Council	URL	561.70
74	Rockhampton Regional Council	URL	519.73
75	Fraser Coast Regional Council	URL	499.40
76	Bundaberg Regional Council	URL	472.41
77	Toowoomba Regional Council	URV	435.91

Table 57 2023–24 Western Australian councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

The state average general purpose grant per capita for Western Australia in 2023–24 is **$82.78**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
1	Shire of Murchison	RTX	33,138.36
2	Shire of Upper Gascoyne	RTX	19,700.47
3	Shire of Sandstone	RTX	16,138.97
4	Shire of Cue	RTX	8,157.59
5	Shire of Yalgoo	RTX	5,638.87
6	Shire of Trayning	RAS	5,270.34
7	Shire of Westonia	RAS	4,662.88
8	Shire of Nungarin	RAS	4,447.57
9	Shire of Mount Marshall	RAS	4,107.68
10	Shire of Koorda	RAS	4,061.74
11	Shire of Wiluna	RTS	3,985.49
12	Shire of Wyalkatchem	RAS	3,116.04
13	Shire of Menzies	RTS	3,070.33
14	Shire of Kent	RAS	2,901.29
15	Shire of Mount Magnet	RTS	2,655.94
16	Shire of Perenjori	RAS	2,603.27
17	Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku	RTM	2,590.39
18	Shire of Tammin	RAS	2,336.75
19	Shire of Meekatharra	RTM	2,306.68
20	Shire of Kulin	RAS	2,184.26
21	Shire of Yilgarn	RAS	2,166.81
22	Shire of Kondinin	RAS	2,156.45
23	Shire of Morawa	RAS	2,143.43
24	Shire of Mukinbudin	RAS	2,131.87
25	Shire of Carnamah	RAS	2,102.25
26	Shire of Dumbleyung	RAS	1,924.31
27	Shire of Bruce Rock	RAS	1,900.92
28	Shire of Narembeen	RAS	1,880.45
29	Shire of Dundas	RTS	1,834.56
30	Shire of Three Springs	RAS	1,654.67
31	Shire of Wickepin	RAS	1,634.32
32	Shire of Dalwallinu	RAS	1,612.38
33	Shire of Lake Grace	RAS	1,596.18
34	Shire of Coorow	RAS	1,585.29
35	Shire of Shark Bay	RTS	1,576.73
36	Shire of Kellerberrin	RAS	1,571.96
37	Shire of Quairading	RAS	1,517.08
38	Shire of Corrigin	RAS	1,473.34
39	Shire of Dowerin	RAS	1,432.27
40	Shire of Laverton	RTM	1,340.01
41	Shire of Woodanilling	RAS	1,285.54
42	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	RAS	1,241.72
43	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	RAS	1,123.84
44	Shire of Pingelly	RAS	1,098.49
45	Shire of Mingenew	RAS	1,034.56
46	Shire of Cranbrook	RAS	997.74
47	Shire of Brookton	RAS	976.23
48	Shire of Halls Creek	RTL	934.70
49	Shire of West Arthur	RAS	915.24
50	Shire of Victoria Plains	RAS	906.35
51	Shire of Gnowangerup	RAS	899.89
52	Shire of Cunderdin	RAS	844.35
53	Shire of Jerramungup	RAS	789.59
54	Shire of Carnarvon	RAL	781.65
55	Shire of Ravensthorpe	RAS	672.20
56	Shire of Wandering	RAS	669.58
57	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	RTL	668.50
58	Shire of Cuballing	RAS	666.57
59	Shire of Nannup	RAS	651.28
60	Shire of Wagin	RAS	648.93
61	Shire of Merredin	RAM	607.61
62	Shire of Goomalling	RAS	591.51
63	Shire of Boyup Brook	RAS	514.38
64	Shire of Moora	RAM	509.15
65	Shire of Beverley	RAS	482.83
66	Shire of Northampton	RAM	477.54
67	Shire of Katanning	RAM	467.06
68	Shire of Kojonup	RAS	463.35
69	Shire of Exmouth	RTM	456.17
70	Shire of Chapman Valley	RAS	384.73
71	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	RTL	381.03
72	Shire of Williams	RAS	361.17
73	Shire of Narrogin	RAL	357.90
74	Shire of Manjimup	RAL	331.27
75	Shire of Leonora	RTM	324.31
76	Shire of Ashburton	RTL	323.66
77	Shire of East Pilbara	RTL	321.70
78	Shire of York	RAM	295.95
79	Shire of Dandaragan	RAM	276.83
80	Shire of Esperance	RAV	264.58
81	Shire of Plantagenet	RAL	260.56
82	Shire of Waroona	RAM	249.85

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
83	Shire of Northam	RAV	228.98
84	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	RAL	227.46
85	Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	RAM	213.00
86	Shire of Toodyay	RAM	207.63
87	Shire of Chittering	RAL	195.88
88	Shire of Gingin	RAL	192.11
89	Shire of Coolgardie	RTL	190.17
90	Shire of Collie	RAL	162.42
91	City of Greater Geraldton	URM	120.13
92	Shire of Broome	RTL	106.91
93	Shire of Irwin	RAM	104.28
94	Shire of Capel	URS	95.04
95	Shire of Harvey	URS	92.54
96	Shire of Denmark	RAL	91.13
97	City of Albany	URM	85.36
98	Shire of Dardanup	RAV	65.40
99	Shire of Murray	RAV	61.96
100	City of Karratha	URS	59.91
101	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	URM	59.62
102	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	UFS	48.84
103	Shire of Boddington	RAS	47.45
104	Shire of Mundaring	UFM	44.42
105	Town of Port Hedland	RTL	39.95
106	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	RSG	35.42
107	Shire of Peppermint Grove	UDS	27.53
108	City of Perth	UCC	26.51
109	Town of Cottesloe	UDS	25.71
110	City of Armadale	UFM	25.51
111	City of Nedlands	UDS	25.40
112	City of Rockingham	UFV	25.29
113	Town of East Fremantle	UDS	25.23
114	City of Wanneroo	UFV	25.17
115	City of Kwinana	UFM	25.11
116	Town of Victoria Park	UDM	25.06
117	City of Kalamunda	UFM	25.01
118	City of Joondalup	UDV	25.00
118	Town of Cambridge	UDS	25.00
120	City of South Perth	UDM	24.94
121	City of Belmont	UDM	24.91
122	Town of Bassendean	UDS	24.88
123	City of Melville	UDL	24.84
124	City of Bayswater	UDM	24.83
124	City of Bunbury	URM	24.83
124	City of Busselton	URM	24.83
124	City of Canning	UDL	24.83
124	City of Cockburn	UDL	24.83
124	City of Fremantle	UDM	24.83
124	City of Gosnells	UDV	24.83
124	City of Mandurah	UFL	24.83
124	City of Stirling	UDV	24.83
124	City of Subiaco	UDS	24.83
124	City of Swan	UFV	24.83
124	City of Vincent	UDS	24.83
124	Town of Claremont	UDS	24.83
124	Town of Mosman Park	UDS	24.83

Table 58 2023–24 Western Australian councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for Western Australia in 2023–24 is **$1,155.24**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	City of Perth	UCC	4,350.97
2	Shire of Murray	RAV	3,463.92
3	City of Bunbury	URM	3,391.13
4	City of Vincent	UDS	3,127.08
5	City of Subiaco	UDS	3,075.27
6	City of Belmont	UDM	3,016.08
7	City of Cockburn	UDL	2,951.52
8	City of Canning	UDL	2,866.36
9	Town of Victoria Park	UDM	2,830.91
10	City of Bayswater	UDM	2,826.87
11	Shire of Peppermint Grove	UDS	2,801.44
12	City of Swan	UFV	2,762.78
13	City of Fremantle	UDM	2,754.46
14	Town of Bassendean	UDS	2,747.49
15	Town of Claremont	UDS	2,738.35
16	Town of Cambridge	UDS	2,692.10
17	City of Nedlands	UDS	2,685.17
18	City of Joondalup	UDV	2,681.82
19	City of Gosnells	UDV	2,680.73
20	Town of Cottesloe	UDS	2,647.74
21	City of South Perth	UDM	2,646.43
22	City of Melville	UDL	2,617.62
23	City of Stirling	UDV	2,616.12
24	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	RTL	2,555.68
25	City of Wanneroo	UFV	2,498.66
26	Town of East Fremantle	UDS	2,485.03
27	Town of Mosman Park	UDS	2,440.79
28	City of Karratha	URS	2,406.95
29	City of Rockingham	UFV	2,400.42
30	City of Armadale	UFM	2,383.64
31	City of Kalamunda	UFM	2,373.79
32	City of Mandurah	UFL	2,373.19
33	City of Kwinana	UFM	2,263.60
34	Town of Port Hedland	RTL	2,233.85
35	Shire of Boyup Brook	RAS	2,131.61
36	Shire of Mundaring	UFM	2,119.30
37	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	UFS	2,084.09
38	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	RAL	2,062.82
39	Shire of Dardanup	RAV	1,966.96
40	City of Albany	URM	1,958.79
41	Shire of Wandering	RAS	1,911.96
42	Shire of Broome	RTL	1,907.39
43	Shire of Exmouth	RTM	1,861.19
44	City of Busselton	URM	1,651.36
45	Shire of Capel	URS	1,577.10
46	Shire of Collie	RAL	1,562.39
47	Shire of Harvey	URS	1,484.98
48	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	URM	1,453.23
49	Shire of Waroona	RAM	1,443.86
50	Shire of Manjimup	RAL	1,418.13
51	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	RSG	1,406.76
52	Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku	RTM	1,354.64
53	Shire of Woodanilling	RAS	1,354.11
54	Shire of Chittering	RAL	1,331.40
55	Shire of Northam	RAV	1,321.26
56	Shire of Gingin	RAL	1,247.62
57	Shire of Nannup	RAS	1,232.52
58	Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	RAM	1,220.89
59	City of Greater Geraldton	URM	1,205.39
60	Shire of York	RAM	1,176.48
61	Shire of Kojonup	RAS	1,145.89
62	Shire of Toodyay	RAM	1,119.73
63	Shire of Carnarvon	RAL	1,114.54
64	Shire of East Pilbara	RTL	1,052.83
65	Shire of Boddington	RAS	1,006.83
66	Shire of Dandaragan	RAM	993.11
67	Shire of Shark Bay	RTS	991.25
68	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	RTL	983.94
69	Shire of Moora	RAM	982.75
70	Shire of Denmark	RAL	968.59
71	Shire of Bruce Rock	RAS	968.29
72	Shire of Irwin	RAM	937.31
73	Shire of Williams	RAS	933.17
74	Shire of Narrogin	RAL	923.13
75	Shire of Mingenew	RAS	907.68
76	Shire of Katanning	RAM	905.82
77	Shire of Carnamah	RAS	881.45
78	Shire of Menzies	RTS	871.49
79	Shire of Esperance	RAV	871.42
80	Shire of Victoria Plains	RAS	862.04

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
81	Shire of Halls Creek	RTL	861.87
82	Shire of Cue	RTX	850.61
83	Shire of Plantagenet	RAL	846.73
84	Shire of Northampton	RAM	842.56
85	Shire of Beverley	RAS	838.95
86	Shire of Three Springs	RAS	838.83
87	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	RAS	830.83
88	Shire of Quairading	RAS	826.66
89	Shire of Cunderdin	RAS	822.01
90	Shire of Brookton	RAS	820.38
91	Shire of Pingelly	RAS	813.31
92	Shire of Merredin	RAM	811.41
93	Shire of Corrigin	RAS	804.43
94	Shire of Coorow	RAS	800.30
95	Shire of Goomalling	RAS	795.27
96	Shire of Gnowangerup	RAS	794.34
97	Shire of Cranbrook	RAS	792.87
98	Shire of Wagin	RAS	792.81
99	Shire of Dumbleyung	RAS	781.35
100	Shire of Wyalkatchem	RAS	777.60
101	Shire of Kellerberrin	RAS	776.42
102	Shire of Nungarin	RAS	774.11
103	Shire of Upper Gascoyne	RTX	773.66
104	Shire of Trayning	RAS	771.92
105	Shire of Dundas	RTS	770.86
106	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	RAS	769.99
107	Shire of Ravensthorpe	RAS	767.30
108	Shire of Chapman Valley	RAS	766.51
109	Shire of Kulin	RAS	762.99
110	Shire of Coolgardie	RTL	762.89
111	Shire of West Arthur	RAS	759.83
112	Shire of Perenjori	RAS	758.77
113	Shire of Cuballing	RAS	758.03
114	Shire of Dalwallinu	RAS	755.46
115	Shire of Wickepin	RAS	753.50
116	Shire of Koorda	RAS	753.44
117	Shire of Mukinbudin	RAS	747.88
118	Shire of Morawa	RAS	744.91
119	Shire of Jerramungup	RAS	743.35
120	Shire of Kondinin	RAS	741.19
121	Shire of Meekatharra	RTM	740.96
122	Shire of Dowerin	RAS	739.36
123	Shire of Westonia	RAS	735.97
124	Shire of Tammin	RAS	735.84
125	Shire of Ashburton	RTL	730.99
126	Shire of Narembeen	RAS	723.77
127	Shire of Lake Grace	RAS	708.20
128	Shire of Kent	RAS	691.56
129	Shire of Murchison	RTX	670.18
130	Shire of Yilgarn	RAS	667.44
131	Shire of Yalgoo	RTX	657.40
132	Shire of Mount Marshall	RAS	654.61
133	Shire of Sandstone	RTX	647.58
134	Shire of Leonora	RTM	641.27
135	Shire of Mount Magnet	RTS	632.22
136	Shire of Wiluna	RTS	625.68
137	Shire of Laverton	RTM	314.82

Table 59 2023–24 South Australian councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

The state average general purpose grant per capita for South Australia in 2023–24 is **$83.56**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
1	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	RAS	1,345.79
2	Wudinna District Council	RAS	1,307.69
3	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	RAS	1,248.36
4	Maralinga Tjarutja	RTX	1,192.99
5	District Council of Kimba	RAS	1,156.28
6	District Council of Franklin Harbour	RAS	879.64
7	District Council of Peterborough	RAS	866.62
8	District Council of Elliston	RAS	861.41
9	Outback Communities Authority	RTM	824.04
10	The Flinders Ranges Council	RAS	808.67
11	District Council of Streaky Bay	RAM	791.65
12	District Council of Cleve	RAS	738.19
13	Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation	RTX	671.40
14	District Council of Mount Remarkable	RAM	653.84
15	Southern Mallee District Council	RAM	651.54
16	District Council of Coober Pedy	URS	648.79
17	Regional Council of Goyder	RAM	610.59
18	District Council of Ceduna	RAM	593.85
19	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc	RTM	591.22
20	Tatiara District Council	RAL	461.06
21	Kangaroo Island Council	RAM	449.97
22	Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corporation	RTX	446.62
23	Mid Murray Council	RAL	432.57
24	Coorong District Council	RAL	415.17
25	Northern Areas Council	RAM	368.93
26	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	RAV	366.41
27	Wakefield Regional Council	RAL	321.34
28	Naracoorte Lucindale Council	RAL	320.42
29	Port Pirie Regional Council	RAV	284.36
30	Renmark Paringa Council	RAL	279.18
31	Wattle Range Council	RAV	271.20
32	Berri Barmera Council	RAV	259.93
33	Corporation of the City of Whyalla	URS	239.98
34	Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	URS	235.64
35	Gerard Community Council Aboriginal Corporation	RTX	227.67
36	District Council of Grant	RAL	200.25
37	Rural City of Murray Bridge	URS	188.98
38	District Council of Tumby Bay	RAM	168.28
39	Adelaide Plains Council	RAL	149.22
40	Copper Coast Council	RAV	146.07
41	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	RAL	143.30
42	City of Mount Gambier	URS	134.93
43	City of Playford	UFL	134.04
44	City of Port Lincoln	URS	122.26
45	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	112.87
46	Kingston District Council	RAM	109.48
47	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	URS	102.53
48	Yorke Peninsula Council	RAV	96.13
49	Town of Gawler	UFS	81.43
50	Light Regional Council	RAV	74.64
51	Barunga West Council	RAM	73.92
52	Alexandrina Council	UFS	61.09
53	The Barossa Council	UFS	59.78
54	City of Salisbury	UDV	56.48
55	District Council of Yankalilla	RSG	39.88
56	City of Onkaparinga	UFV	38.82
57	District Council of Mount Barker	URM	28.46
58	Adelaide Hills Council	UFM	25.07
58	City of Burnside	UDM	25.07
58	City of Charles Sturt	UDL	25.07
58	City of Holdfast Bay	UDM	25.07
58	City of Mitcham	UDM	25.07
58	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	UDV	25.07
58	City of Prospect	UDS	25.07
58	Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully	UDL	25.07
58	City of Victor Harbor	URS	25.07
58	City of West Torrens	UDM	25.07
58	Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	UDM	25.07
58	Corporation of the City of Marion	UDL	25.07
58	Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	25.07
58	Corporation of the City of Unley	UDM	25.07
58	Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	UDS	25.07
58	District Council of Robe	RAS	25.07
58	The Corporation of the City of Adelaide	UCC	25.07

Table 60 2023–24 South Australian councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for South Australia in 2023–24 is **$674.47**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	Corporation of the City of Marion	UDL	3,374.88
2	City of Prospect	UDS	3,084.67
3	City of Playford	UFL	3,017.97
4	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	UDV	2,996.19
5	Corporation of the City of Unley	UDM	2,930.04
6	Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters	UDM	2,915.73
7	Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	UDS	2,900.86
8	City of Holdfast Bay	UDM	2,793.84
9	Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	UDM	2,786.17
10	City of West Torrens	UDM	2,771.54
11	The Corporation of the City of Adelaide	UCC	2,770.61
12	City of Charles Sturt	UDL	2,734.08
13	City of Burnside	UDM	2,630.90
14	City of Onkaparinga	UFV	2,581.18
15	City of Salisbury	UDV	2,475.47
16	Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully	UDL	2,436.98
17	City of Mitcham	UDM	2,410.69
18	Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	URS	2,386.17
19	Town of Gawler	UFS	2,368.08
20	Corporation of the City of Whyalla	URS	2,318.95
21	City of Mount Gambier	URS	2,237.58
22	City of Port Lincoln	URS	1,764.22
23	Adelaide Hills Council	UFM	1,435.86
24	District Council of Franklin Harbour	RAS	1,344.84
25	Kingston District Council	RAM	1,158.72
26	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	RAL	1,112.65
27	District Council of Mount Barker	URM	1,059.55
28	City of Victor Harbor	URS	929.07
29	Copper Coast Council	RAV	909.28
30	Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation	RTX	892.64
31	Kangaroo Island Council	RAM	877.78
32	Rural City of Murray Bridge	URS	645.06
33	The Barossa Council	UFS	641.53
34	Renmark Paringa Council	RAL	604.76
35	Alexandrina Council	UFS	586.60
36	Berri Barmera Council	RAV	583.26
37	Tatiara District Council	RAL	569.83
38	District Council of Grant	RAL	565.07
39	District Council of Elliston	RAS	468.86
40	Coorong District Council	RAL	467.79
41	Port Pirie Regional Council	RAV	445.85
42	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	URS	419.18
43	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	RAV	417.61
44	District Council of Yankalilla	RSG	400.96
45	Southern Mallee District Council	RAM	395.53
46	Naracoorte Lucindale Council	RAL	394.29
47	Light Regional Council	RAV	383.56
48	Adelaide Plains Council	RAL	371.32
49	District Council of Streaky Bay	RAM	352.63
50	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	RAS	344.09
51	District Council of Ceduna	RAM	339.52
52	District Council of Cleve	RAS	335.87
53	District Council of Robe	RAS	330.71
54	District Council of Tumby Bay	RAM	317.31
55	The Flinders Ranges Council	RAS	312.48
56	Wudinna District Council	RAS	308.56
57	Wattle Range Council	RAV	289.47
58	Barunga West Council	RAM	284.02
59	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	RAL	277.38
60	Yorke Peninsula Council	RAV	276.08
61	District Council of Peterborough	RAS	260.66
62	Wakefield Regional Council	RAL	259.52
63	Regional Council of Goyder	RAM	255.68
64	Mid Murray Council	RAL	255.62
65	Northern Areas Council	RAM	240.22
66	District Council of Mount Remarkable	RAM	234.58
67	District Council of Kimba	RAS	232.25
68	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	RAS	206.80
69	District Council of Coober Pedy	URS	132.26
70	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc	RTM	62.29
71	Gerard Community Council Aboriginal Corporation	RTX	–
71	Maralinga Tjarutja	RTX	–
71	Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corporation	RTX	–
71	Outback Communities Authority	RTM	–

Table 61 2023–24 Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

The state average general purpose grant per capita for Tasmania in 2023–24 is **$84.37**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
1	Flinders Council	RAS	976.41
2	King Island Council	RAS	553.63
3	Central Highlands Council	RAM	474.88
4	West Coast Council	RAM	399.60
5	Southern Midlands Council	RAL	319.85
6	Kentish Council	RAL	267.82
7	Tasman Council	RAM	248.91
8	Break O'Day Council	RAL	238.11
9	Dorset Council	RAL	237.24
10	George Town Council	RAL	208.69
11	Circular Head Council	RAL	196.71
12	Derwent Valley Council	RAV	151.17
13	Waratah/Wynyard Council	RAV	148.02
14	Central Coast Council	URS	134.02
15	Huon Valley Council	RAV	127.74

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
16	Meander Valley Council	RAV	126.54
17	West Tamar Council	UFS	111.45
18	Northern Midlands Council	RAV	107.13
19	Latrobe Council	RAV	103.48
20	Sorell Council	RAV	90.96
21	Brighton Council	UFS	89.94
22	Burnie City Council	URS	88.17
23	Devonport City Council	URS	64.71
24	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	RAM	46.01
25	Kingborough Council	UFM	25.32
25	Launceston City Council	URM	25.32
27	Clarence City Council	UFM	25.31
27	Glenorchy City Council	UFM	25.31
27	Hobart City Council	UCC	25.31

Table 62 2023–24 Tasmanian councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for Tasmania in 2023–24 is **$3,578.25**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	Hobart City Council	UCC	6,477.48
2	Glenorchy City Council	UFM	5,669.25
3	Devonport City Council	URS	5,305.67
4	West Coast Council	RAM	4,943.21
5	Launceston City Council	URM	4,745.72
6	Clarence City Council	UFM	4,464.91
7	Burnie City Council	URS	4,393.55
8	Brighton Council	UFS	4,057.64
9	George Town Council	RAL	3,944.03
10	Central Coast Council	URS	3,686.51
11	Sorell Council	RAV	3,646.15
12	Break O'Day Council	RAL	3,611.69
13	West Tamar Council	UFS	3,586.79
14	Kingborough Council	UFM	3,586.70
15	Derwent Valley Council	RAV	3,478.01

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
16	Latrobe Council	RAV	3,463.59
17	Tasman Council	RAM	3,461.73
18	Dorset Council	RAL	3,430.71
19	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	RAM	3,416.59
20	Waratah/Wynyard Council	RAV	3,337.57
21	Meander Valley Council	RAV	3,332.12
22	Kentish Council	RAL	3,159.12
23	Northern Midlands Council	RAV	3,149.61
24	Circular Head Council	RAL	3,098.76
25	King Island Council	RAS	3,010.61
26	Huon Valley Council	RAV	2,939.70
27	Flinders Council	RAS	2,700.56
28	Southern Midlands Council	RAL	2,575.97
29	Central Highlands Council	RAM	2,515.31

Table 63 2023–24 Northern Territory councils ranked by funding per capita – general purpose grant

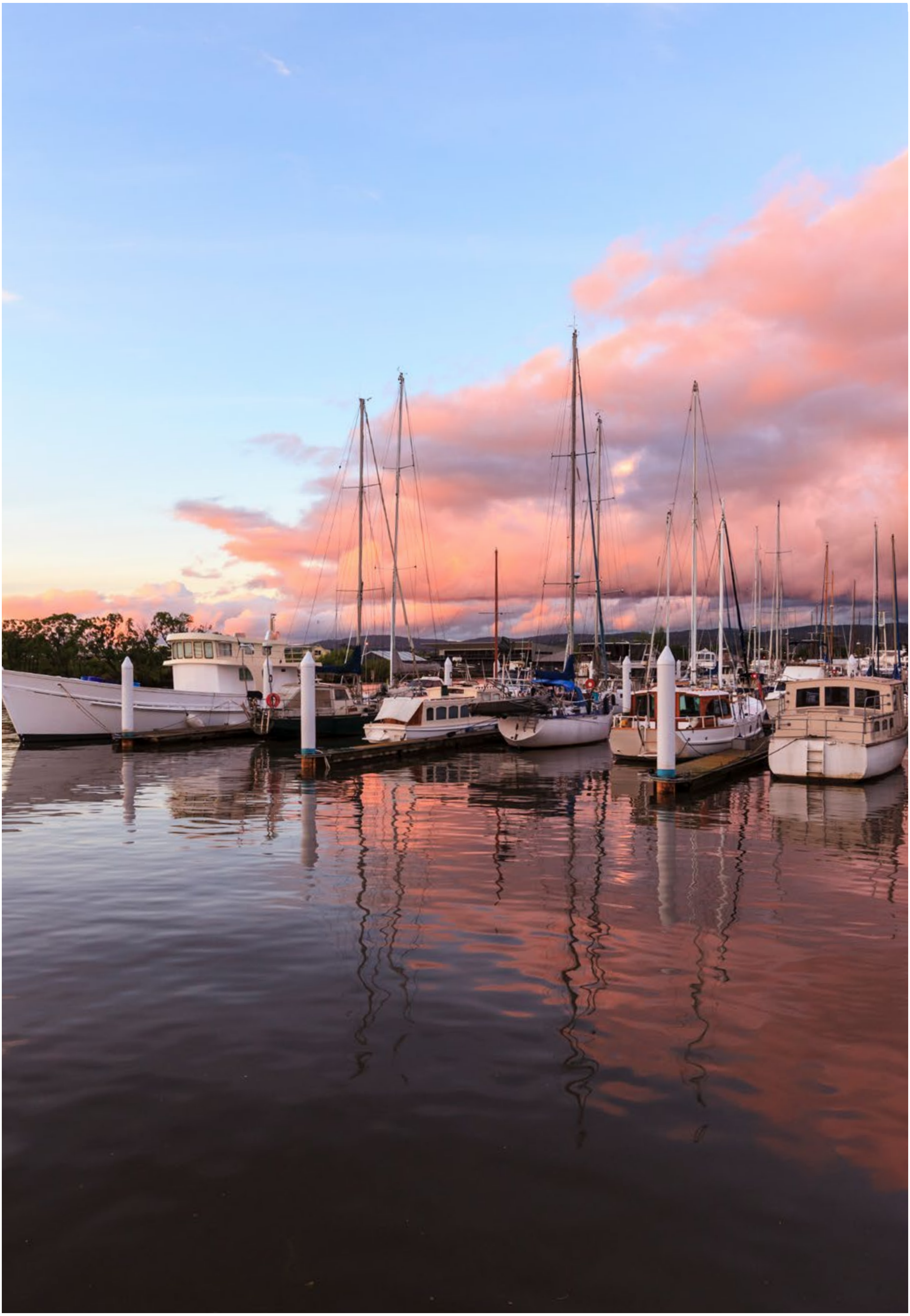
The state average general purpose grant per capita for Northern Territory in 2023–24 is **$87.00**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per capita
1	East Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	407.65
2	MacDonnell Regional Council	RTL	368.88
3	Roper Gulf Regional Council	RTL	337.52
4	Central Desert Regional Council	RTL	301.80
5	Barkly Regional Council	RTL	287.64
6	West Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	243.08
7	Victoria Daly Regional Council	RTL	193.58
8	West Daly Regional Council	RTL	175.94
9	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	RTM	174.70
10	Belyuen Community Government Council	RTX	156.36
11	Katherine Town Council	URS	42.53
12	Wagait Shire Council	RTS	31.26
13	Alice Springs Town Council	URS	28.09
14	City of Darwin	UCC	26.10
14	City of Palmerston	URM	26.10
14	Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM	26.10
14	Litchfield Council	UFS	26.10
15	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	N/A	–

Table 64 2023–24 Northern Territory councils ranked by funding per km – local roads grant

The state average local road grant per km for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 is **$1,707.65**.

Rank	Council name	Classification	$ per km
1	Alice Springs Town Council	URS	4,750.86
2	Litchfield Council	UFS	4,437.23
3	Katherine Town Council	URS	4,337.43
4	City of Darwin	UCC	4,277.32
5	Wagait Shire Council	RTS	3,988.59
6	City of Palmerston	URM	3,790.82
7	Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM	3,133.56
8	Victoria Daly Regional Council	RTL	2,563.21
9	East Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	1,616.23
10	Roper Gulf Regional Council	RTL	1,416.66
11	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	RTM	1,416.23
12	West Daly Regional Council	RTL	1,389.97
13	Barkly Regional Council	RTL	1,249.54
14	West Arnhem Regional Council	RTL	1,209.22
15	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc	N/A	1,058.76
16	Central Desert Regional Council	RTL	807.15
17	MacDonnell Regional Council	RTL	805.86
18	Belyuen Community Government Council	RTX	481.75



Appendix F
Australian Classification of Local Governments

The Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG) was first published in September 1994. The ACLG categorises local governing bodies across Australia using the population, the population density and the proportion of the population that is classified as urban, for each council.

The local governing bodies included in the classification system are those that receive funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program as defined under the Act. Therefore, bodies, declared, by the Australian Government Minister responsible for local government (the Federal Minister), on the advice of the state minister, to be local governing bodies for the purposes of the Act, are included in the ACLG.

The classification system generally involves three steps. Each step allocates a prefix formed from letters of the alphabet to develop a three-letter identifier for each class of local government. There are a total of 22 categories. For example, a medium-sized council in a rural, agricultural area would be classified as RAM – rural, agricultural, medium. If it were remote, however, it would be classified as RTM – rural, remote, medium. Table 65 provides information on the structure of the classification system.

Notwithstanding the capacity of the ACLG system to group like councils, it should be noted that there remains considerable scope for divergence within these categories, and for this reason the figures in Appendix D should be taken as a starting point for enquiring into grant outcomes. This divergence can occur because of factors including isolation, population distribution, local economic performance, daily or seasonal population changes, the age profile of the population and geographic differences. The allocation of the general purpose grant between states on an equal per capita basis and the local road grant on a fixed shares basis can also cause divergence.

To ensure the ACLG is kept up-to-date, Local Government Grants Commissions advise of any changes to the actual location of councils, within the ACLG, in their state at the end of each financial year.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts is planning to phase out the ACLG framework and replace it with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard's (ASGS') remoteness classifications, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. If you have any questions or accessibility issues for Table 65 below, please email local.government@infrastructure.gov.au.

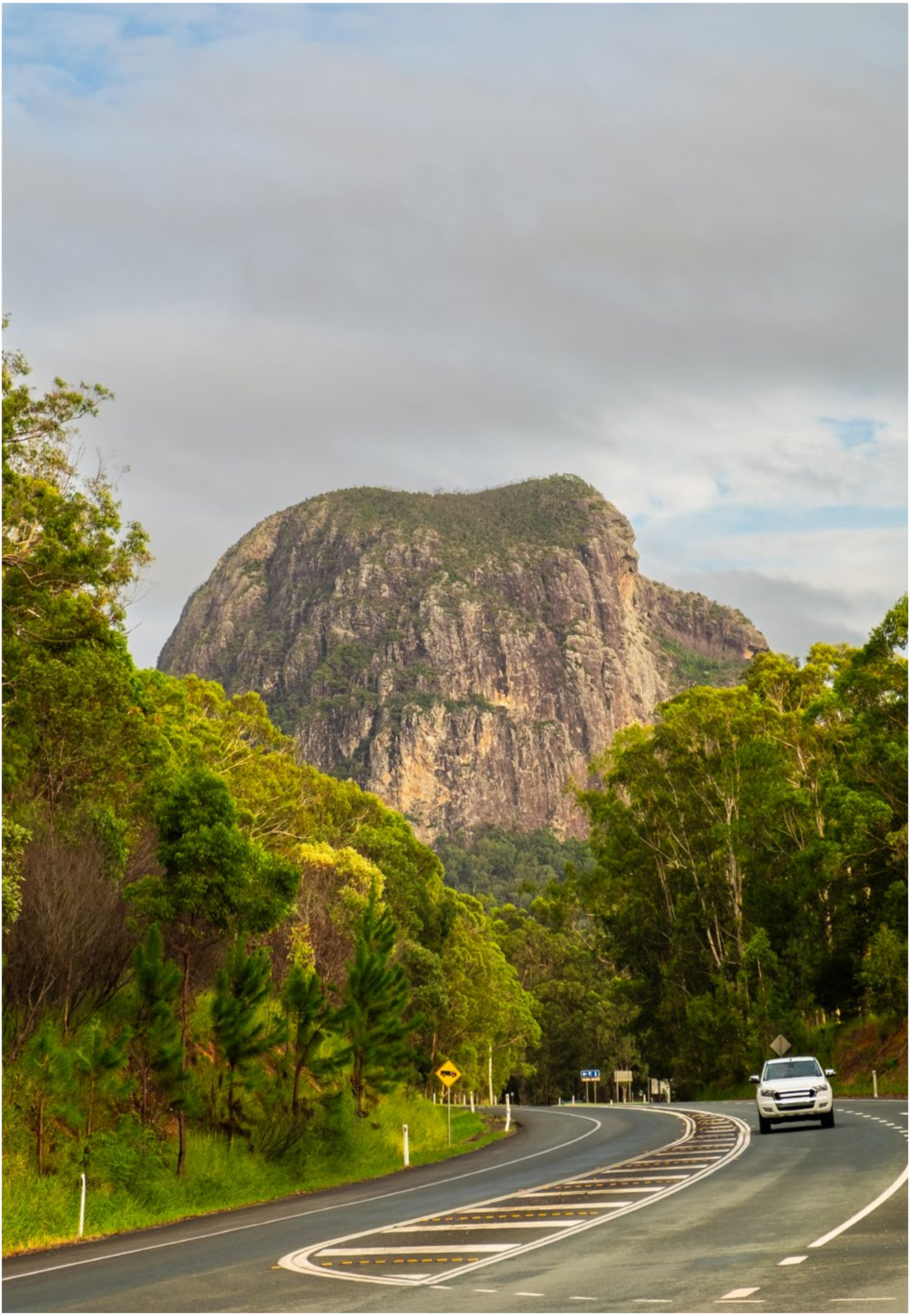
Table 65 Structure of the classification system

Step 1	**Step 2**	**Step 3**	**Identifiers**	**Category**
URBAN (U)				
Population more than 20,000 OR if population less than 20,000 EITHER population density more than 30 persons per square kilometre OR 90 per cent or more of the local governing body population is urban.	CAPITAL CITY (CC)	Not applicable		UCC
	METROPOLITAN DEVELOPED (D) Part of an urban centre of more than 1,000,000 or population density more than 600 per square kilometre	SMALL (S)	up to 30,000	UDS
		MEDIUM (M)	30,001 to 70,000	UDM
		LARGE (L)	70,001 to 120,000	UDL
		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120,000	UDV
	REGIONAL TOWNS/CITY (R) Part of an urban centre with population less than 1,000,000 and predominantly urban in nature	SMALL (S)	up to 30,000	URS
		MEDIUM (M)	30,001 to 70,000	URM
		LARGE (L)	70,001 to 120,000	URL
		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120,000	URV
	FRINGE (F) A developing LGA on the margin of a developed or regional urban centre	SMALL (S)	up to 30,000	UFS
		MEDIUM (M)	30,001 to 70,000	UFM
		LARGE (L)	70,001 to 120,000	UFL
		VERY LARGE (V)	more than 120,000	UFV
RURAL (R)				
A local governing body with population less than 20,000 AND population density less than 30 persons per square kilometre AND less than 90 per cent of local governing body is urban.	SIGNIFICANT GROWTH (SG) Average annual population growth more than 3 per cent, population more than 5,000 and not remote	Not applicable		RSG
	AGRICULTURAL (A)	SMALL (S)	up to 2,000	RAS
		MEDIUM (M)	2,001 to 5,000	RAM
		LARGE (L)	5,001 to 10,000	RAL
		VERY LARGE (V)	10,001 to 20,000	RAV
	REMOTE (T)	EXTRA SMALL (X)	up to 400	RTX
		SMALL (S)	401 to 1,000	RTS
		MEDIUM (M)	1,001 to 3,000	RTM
		LARGE (L)	3,001 to 20,000	RTL

Table 66 Categories of local governments by state at July 2023

ACLG categories	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT*	Australia
Urban Capital City (UCC)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Urban Developed Small (UDS)	1	0	0	10	2	0	0	13
Urban Developed Medium (UDM)	5	0	0	5	7	0	0	17
Urban Developed Large (UDL)	4	7	0	3	3	0	0	17
Urban Developed Very Large (UDV)	14	15	0	3	2	0	0	34
Urban Regional Small (URS)	9	5	5	3	8	3	2	35
Urban Regional Medium (URM)	17	11	8	5	1	1	1	44
Urban Regional Large (URL)	8	3	4	0	0	0	0	15
Urban Regional Very Large (URV)	3	1	9	0	0	0	0	13
Urban Fringe Small (UFS)	0	2	1	1	3	2	1	10
Urban Fringe Medium (UFM)	2	3	2	4	1	3	0	15
Urban Fringe Large (UFL)	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	5
Urban Fringe Very Large (UFV)	5	6	0	3	1	0	0	15
Rural Significant Growth (RSG)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Rural Agricultural Small (RAS)	1	0	0	51	10	2	0	64
Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM)	13	1	1	10	10	4	0	39
Rural Agricultural Large (RAL)	22	7	0	9	10	6	0	54
Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV)	19	16	8	4	7	7	0	61
Rural Remote Extra Small (RTX)	3	0	7	5	4	0	1	20
Rural Remote Small (RTS)	0	0	8	5	0	0	1	14
Rural Remote Medium (RTM)	1	0	15	5	2	0	2	25
Rural Remote Large (RTL)	1	0	8	8	0	0	8	25
Total	**131**	**79**	**77**	**137**	**74**	**29**	**17**	**544**

Notes: * NT total excludes Road Trust Account.



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