

Australia and Local Government Information



About Local Government

As one of Australia's three spheres of government (Federal, State, Local) Local Government is that sphere that most closely affects the daily lives of citizens. It is also referred to as elected Councils, Shires or Local Councils.

Local Government roles and responsibilities

The work of Local Government is varied, but it touches almost all areas of our day to day life as citizens – whether we live in cities, towns or country areas.



The roles and responsibilities of Local Government differs from state to state, but generally include:

- infrastructure and property services, including local roads, bridges, footpaths, drainage, waste collection and management
- provision of recreation facilities, such as parks, sports fields and stadiums, golf courses, swimming pools, sport centres, halls, camping grounds and caravan parks
- health services such as water and food inspection, immunisation services, toilet facilities, noise control and meat inspection and animal control
- community services, such as child care, aged care and accommodation, community care and welfare services
- building services, including inspections, licensing, certification and enforcement
- planning and development approval
- administration of facilities, such as airports and aerodromes, ports and marinas, cemeteries, parking facilities and street parking;
- cultural facilities and services, such as libraries, art galleries and museums
- water and sewerage services in some states
- other services, such as abattoirs, sale-yards and group purchasing schemes.

Where does the money come from to fund Local Government?

Local Government revenue comes from three main sources:

- Taxes in the form of Rates
- Charges for sale of goods and services
- Grants from Federal and State/Territory governments.

Local Governments across Australia

Local Governments across Australia employ over 178 000 people.

- New South Wales - 152 Local Governments
- Victoria - 79 Local Governments
- Queensland - 75 Local Governments
- South Australia - 68 Local Governments
- Tasmania - 29 Local Governments
- Northern Territory – 16 Local Governments
- Western Australia - 141 Local Governments

TOTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN AUSTRALIA: 558



State Populations

NSW – 7.2M

VIC – 5.5M

QLD – 4.5M

SA – 1.6M

TAS – 507,626

ACT – 358,894

NT – 229,675

WA – 2.3M

Major Industries

NSW – mining, agriculture, services,

VIC – finance, services, manufacturing

QLD – agriculture, mining, tourism

SA – manufacturing, agriculture, services

TAS – agriculture, services, tourism

ACT – services, tourism

NT – tourism, mining, agriculture

WA - agriculture, mining, tourism

Largest and smallest Councils in each state and territory and their sizes in square meters.

NSW – Central Darling – 53,509sqkm – Hunters Hill – 6sqkm

VIC – Mildura – 22,087sqkm – Queenscliffe – 9sqkm

QLD – Cook – 117,084sqkm – Lama Island – 1sqkm

SA – Coorong – 8,863sqkm – Yalata – 2sqkm

TAS – Central Highlands – 7,976sqkm – Hobart – 78sqkm

NT – Nyirranggung Mardruk – 28,700sqkm – Angurugu – 2sqkm

WA – East Pilbara – 371,696sqkm – Peppermint Grove 1.5sqkm

For more information please contact:

e) recruitment@walga.asn.au

w) www.workplacesolutions.asn.au

p) +61 8 9213 2023

f) +61 8 9486 9100

