



COUNCILS IN FOCUS

Local Government Information Framework – Council in Focus report overview

The Local Government Information Framework (LGIF) collates data from a range of sources on councils' functions to populate the Councils in Focus website, and as the basis of more detailed Report to Councils.

The table below details the information that the LGIF collates, what is proposed to be the information provided on Councils in Focus, and where this information comes from. The table shows:

1. The '**Report**'. This is the high level name of the particular function that is being reported against. There are a number of reports in four areas; namely:
 - **Overview of council** – basic information about each council to provide a 'snapshot' of current data – such as population, total revenue, total expenditure.
 - **How councils are funded** – information about where councils receive their revenue. The two reports in this area will provide information on total rates, grants and other income, and a breakdown of rates from different land uses (where applied);
 - **Council expenditure** – eleven reports each capturing information about the functions that councils spend money on – such as roads and transport, waste management, environment. This information will be able to be shown as either **operating expenditure**, **capital expenditure** or the **total amount**.
 - **Financial performance** – a report on the three financial indicators that councils report on each year – their operating position, net financial liability (as the best measure of indebtedness) and asset management ratio.
2. The '**Purpose code**'. This is the 'purpose code' that is applied to each element of the information by the Local Government Grants Commission, where this is done. It is included here to assist councils to understand the link between LGIF information and the information that is provided to the Commission by councils each year.

3. **Information collated by the LGIF.** This is each piece of information that the LGIF collates. As noted above, some of this will be used as the basis of the information on each council included in the Councils in Focus website. This information is in **bold**. The other information, in *italics*, will be collated and can be made available in the more detailed Reports to councils.
4. **'Comparison by'.** In recognition that a simple total of all revenue or expenditure does not assist either ratepayers or councils to truly understand how their council is performing in comparison to other councils, each report will include at least one 'unit of measure' that will enable this comparison. For example, roads and transport will be 'compared by' expenditure per kilometre of road. You will note that it is proposed that per capita and per rateable property is used as a standard 'unit of measure' for all functions, with specific measures included where relevant and available from exiting data. Information shown on Councils in Focus will enable councils to be compared with similar councils and state-wide averages.
5. **Data source.** The table also details where the data for each matter comes from. Most data comes from the Local Government Grants Commission that receives information from councils each year in two returns – the Supplementary Return (LGGC SR Returns) and the General Information Return (LGGC GIR). Other information comes from the Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Feedback on this table may consider—

- Do you think the 'high level' report to be placed on Councils in Focus (in **bold**) captures the right functions in each area?
- Do you have any comments on the proposed units of measure (the 'comparison by')?
- What do you think could be the basis of more detailed reporting to councils?
- How do you think the elements of this information could be used or structure to be the basis of good reporting to councils?
- What form of comparison would assist your council's performance analysis (eg time series, comparison with specific council or classes of councils)?
- What form of information would best assist your council? (e.g pre-set reports provided on a regular basis, or downloading a simple collection of information for you to use in your own analysis)?
- What pre-set reports would assist your councils and all councils?

Report details

The table below shows the reports that will be developed for Councils in Focus and indicates the information that will be used in each report

Report	Purpose code	Information collated by LGIF	Data Source
Overview of Councils			
		Population data	ABS Resident Population (ERP) series
		Total Council Revenue	LGGC SR Returns
		Total Council Expenditure	LGGC SR Returns/Councils' annual business plans and budgets
		Number of rateable properties within the council area	OVG
		Value of rateable properties within the council area	OVG
How Councils are funded			
	12001039	General Rates Gross	LGGC SR Returns / Councils' annual business plans and budgets
	12001439	<i>Less: Mandatory rebates</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12001339	<i>Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions and write offs</i>	LGGC SR Return
		General Rates in relation to number of rateable properties	LGGC SR Return / OVG
	90002005	Other rates	LGGC SR Returns / Councils' annual business plans and budgets
	12001014	<i>Natural Resource Management Levy</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12001012	<i>Waste Collection</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12001093	<i>Water Supply</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12001013	<i>Community Wastewater Management Systems</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12001089	<i>Separate and Special</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12001020	<i>Electricity Supply</i>	LGGC SR Return

		Fees and charges	LGGC SR Return
	12002000	<i>Statutory charges</i> 12902022 Development Act fees 12902010 Town planning fees 12902004 Health and Septic Tank inspection fees 12902074 Animal registration fees and fines 12902064 Parking fines / Expiation fees 12902075 Environment control fines 12902117 Other licenses / fees / fines	LGGC SR Return
	12003000	<i>User charges</i>	LGGC SR Return
	90002071	<i>Other charges</i> 12001139 Penalties for late payment 12001239 Legal & other costs recovered 12001313 less: discretionary rebates, remissions and writes offs	LGGC SR Return
	12004000	State Government grants / subsidies	LGGC SR Return
	1290437	<i>General Purpose Grants</i>	LGGC SR Return
	1290438	<i>Local Road Grants</i>	LGGC SR Return
	1290439	<i>Advance payment – General Purpose Grants</i>	LGGC SR Return
	1290440	<i>Advance payment – Local Roads Grants</i>	LGGC SR Return
	1290412	<i>Grants Commission – special local road grant</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12005000	Commonwealth Government grants / subsidies	LGGC SR Return
	12004500	Contributions from Private Sector (including households)	LGGC SR Return
		Other income	LGGC SR Return
	12009000	<i>Other income</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12006000	<i>Investment income</i> 12006001 Interest received from Local Government Finance Authority 12006003 Interest received from Bank and Other 12006004 Loans to community groups 12006100 Investment property rental income 12006009 Net premiums and discounts (recognised and unwound)	LGGC SR Return
	12007000	<i>Reimbursements</i>	LGGC SR Return
	12050001	<i>Net Gain – Equity Accounted Council Businesses</i>	LGGC SR Return

Comparison by		Per capita, per rateability property	ABS / OVG
How Councils are funded: rates			
		General Rates Gross	LGGC SR Returns / Councils' annual business plans and budgets
	12011	Residential	LGGC SR Returns
	12111	Commercial	LGGC SR Returns
	12211	Industrial	LGGC SR Returns
	12311	Rural	LGGC SR Returns
	12411	Other	LGGC SR Returns
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Roads and Transport			
	24	Roads - sealed	LGGC SR Return
	25	Roads - formed	LGGC SR Return
	26	Roads - natural formed	LGGC SR Return
	27	Roads unformed	LGGC SR Return
	29	Footpath and kerbing	LGGC SR Return
	98	Bridges and culverts	LGGC SR Return
	28	Traffic management	LGGC SR Return
	33	Water transport services	LGGC SR Return
	30	Aerodrome	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property, per Km of road lengths, per bridge, per airports and authorised landing areas (as appropriate to each sub-category)	ABS / OVG / LGGC GIS / LGGC General Information Returns
Council Expenditure: Waste Management			
	77	Ordinary Solid Waste Collection and disposal	LGGC SR Return

	78	Green Waste Collection and Disposal	LGGC SR Return
	79	Recycling Collection and Disposal	LGGC SR Return
	81	Waste disposal facilities	LGGC SR Return
	12	Other Waste Management	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property, per number of residential, rural and commercial (shop) properties, per tonnes collected, road length travelled (as appropriate to each sub-category)	ABS / OVG / LGGC GIS / LGGC General Information Returns
Council Expenditure: Environment			
		Street maintenance	
	95	<i>Street cleaning</i>	LGGC SR Return
	96	<i>Light cleaning</i>	LGGC SR Return
	97	<i>Street scaping</i>	LGGC SR Return
		Environment and Coastal Protection	
	86	<i>Agriculture water</i>	LGGC SR Return
	87	<i>Agriculture pest case</i>	LGGC SR Return
	88	<i>Agriculture land care</i>	LGGC SR Return
	21	<i>Other Agricultural services</i>	LGGC SR Return
	94	<i>Coastal protection</i>	LGGC SR Return
	5	<i>Other protection of the environment</i>	LGGC SR Return
	14	Stormwater management	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property, per stormwater drainage – maintenance (as appropriate to each sub-category)	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Libraries			
	60	<i>Libraries</i>	LGGC SR Return
	65	<i>Mobile Libraries and housebound services</i>	LGGC SR Return

Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Cultural Services			
	61	<i>Performing Arts</i>	LGGC SR Return
	62	<i>Heritage</i>	LGGC SR Return
	63	<i>Museums and Art Galleries</i>	LGGC SR Return
	18	<i>Other Cultural Services</i>	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Community Support and Services			
		Public Order and Safety	
	92	<i>Emergency Services and fire presentation</i>	LGGC SR Return
	3	<i>Other Public Order and Safety</i>	LGGC SR Return
	91	<i>Crime prevention</i>	LGGC SR Return
		Services to Family and Children	
	83	<i>Immunisation and other preventative health</i>	LGGC SR Return
	7	<i>Children and youth services</i>	LGGC SR Return
	53	<i>Family and neighbourhood support</i>	LGGC SR Return
		Community Support	
	5	<i>Other health services</i>	LGGC SR Return
	90	<i>Community centres and halls</i>	LGGC SR Return
	51	<i>Community transport</i>	LGGC SR Return
	8	<i>Other community support</i>	LGGC SR Return

	52	<i>Child care centres</i>	LGGC SR Return
	56	<i>Cemeteries / crematoria</i>	LGGC SR Return
	59	<i>Telecommunications</i>	LGGC SR Return
		Aged Care Services	
	84	<i>Nursing Homes</i>	LGGC SR Return
	49	<i>Elderly citizens facilities</i>	LGGC SR Return
	50	<i>Services for the aged and disabled</i>	LGGC SR Return
		Recreation and culture	LGGC SR Return
	57	<i>Public conveniences</i>	LGGC SR Return
	16	<i>Other community / amenities</i>	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property, per population aged 0-14 yrs, per population x CRI (SEIFA Index of Advantage/Disadvantage, per population aged > 65 years, per population aged 5-64 years (as appropriate to each sub-category)	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Recreation			
		Sports and Recreation	
	66	<i>Parks and Gardens</i>	LGGC SR Return
	67	<i>Sports facilities - indoor</i>	LGGC SR Return
	68	<i>Sports facilities - outdoor</i>	LGGC SR Return
	69	<i>Swimming Centres</i>	LGGC SR Return
	20	<i>Swimming Centres - outdoors</i>	LGGC SR Return
		Jetties, marine and boating facilities	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property, per population aged 5-64 years, per number of Jetties, Wharves, Marinas and Boat ramps (as appropriate to each sub-category)	ABS / OVG / LGGC General Information Returns
Council Expenditure: Regulatory Services			

	74	Dog and Cat control	LGGC SR Return
		Regulatory Services	
	4	<i>Health inspection</i>	LGGC SR Return
	75	<i>Environmental Protection Council</i>	LGGC SR Return
	117	<i>Other Regulatory Services</i>	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Economic Development			
	41	<i>Employment Creation Programs</i>	LGGC SR Return
	42	<i>Regional Development</i>	LGGC SR Return
	43	<i>Support to Local Businesses</i>	LGGC SR Return
	44	<i>Tourism and regional promotion</i>	LGGC SR Return
	34	<i>Other Economic Development</i>	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Business Undertakings			
	40	<i>Caravan Parks / Tourist Accommodation</i>	LGGC SR Return
	11	<i>Real Estate Development</i>	LGGC SR Return
	31	<i>Car Parking</i>	LGGC SR Return
	13	<i>Community Wastewater Management</i>	LGGC SR Return
	93	<i>Water Supply - Domestic</i>	LGGC SR Return
	20	<i>Electricity Supply Undertakings</i>	LGGC SR Return
	48	<i>Town Bus Service</i>	LGGC SR Return
	23	<i>Gravel Pits/Quarries</i>	LGGC SR Return

	45	<i>Markets / Saleyards</i>	LGGC SR Return
	46	<i>Private Works</i>	LGGC SR Return
	47	<i>Investment property</i>	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Council Expenditure: Council Administration and Governance			
	189	<i>Governance</i>	LGGC SR Return
	187	<i>Finance Costs</i>	LGGC SR Return
	190	<i>Council Administration</i>	LGGC SR Return
Comparison by		Per capita, per rateable property	ABS / OVG
Financial performance			
		<i>Operating surplus ratio</i>	LGGC SR Return
		<i>Net Financial Liabilities ratio</i>	LGGC SR Return
		<i>Assets renewal funding ratio</i>	LGGC SR Return