More information?
futurelocal.tas.gov.au
lgboard@tas.gov.au

The Future of Local Government Review

Council Data Dashboard Items Explained

Data Category	Data Item	What does it show?	Source
Local Community Snapshot	Land area (km²)	This shows the geographic size, in square kilometres, of the local government area. It points to the geographical spead of responsibility for councils.	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
	Estimated resident population (current and % change since 2006 – growth/decline)	This reports how many people currently live in the local government area, and how this has either increased or decreased, in percentage terms, since 2006. It points to the extent to which the local government area is attracting and retaining residents, which can impacts on its its rate base and services to residents.	
	Population density (per km²)	This reports how many people, on average, live in any single square kilometre within the local government area. It illustrates the variance in the distribution of services between large rural councils with smaller populations compared to smaller urgan councils with larger populations.	
	Median resident age (years)	This reports the age profile of people in the local government area, in years, based on the age of the 'median' or 'middle' resident. It is a broad indicator of the ability of the residents in the council area to generate economic activity and capacity to pay for services. *Note: Medians are similar to averages but are sometimes used instead of averages because averages can be influenced by extremes at either the high or low end and misrepresent the overall picture of what is 'typical' in a particular data set.*	
	Median household Income ($ weekly)	This reports the amount of money people in the local government area earn, at an individual household level, in any given week based on the median or 'middle' household. Please note that in this data set, a 'household' can range from a large family, or a single person. It is a broad indicator of the capacity of the residents in the local government area to pay for services *Note: Medians are similar to averages, but are sometimes used instead of averages because averages can be influenced by extremes at either the high or low end and misrepresent the overall picture of what is 'typical' in a particular data set.*	
	SEIFA social disadvantage index	The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a measure of how advantaged or disadvantaged a local government area is, compared, on average, to other local government areas across Australia. The SEIFA is based on a range of measures collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A SEIFA number higher than 1000 indicates an area is relatively advantaged compared to other local government areas, and a score lower than 1000 indicates an area is relatively disadvantaged.	

Tasmanian Government

Data Category	Data Item	What does it show?	Source
	Population projection (including projected growth/decline rate)	This shows the 'medium series' scenario for the composition and size of the local government area's population level, making certain assumptions about natural population increase and migration. It is a broad indicator of the longer term sustainability of the region based on the capacity of the resident population to pay for council services. *Note: these are projections, not forecasts, and no allowance has been made for the impact of any future policies that may influence future population trends.*	Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance– https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-data/2019-population-projections-for-tasmania-and-its-local-government-areas
*Financial and Asset Sustainability** *(note that Tasmanian councils are required to report on these measures annually under the *Local Government (Management Indicators) Order 2014*	Underlying surplus/deficit	The underlying surplus or deficit is a council's recurrent income, minus its recurrent expenses. A council's underlying surplus or deficit is a way of showing a council's financial position in a way that sets aside income received specifically for new or upgraded assets, physical resources received free of charge, or other income of a capital nature as well as 'one-off' expenses or revenue in any given financial year	Tasmanian councils audited financial statements. Further details on how the underlying surplus/deficit is calculated can be found on the Tasmanian Audit Office website - Local Government Underlying Result Calculation
	Underlying surplus ratio	The underlying surplus ratio is calculated by dividing the council's underlying surplus or deficit in a financial year by its recurrent income in the same financial year. The larger the surplus the stronger the assessment of sustainability. However, too strong a result could disadvantage ratepayers as it may indicate they are paying more than they need to receive the services that council is delivering, or that councils are spending less than is available in funding. However, such judgements should only be made in the context of longer term trends. A negative result indicates a deficit which cannot be sustained in the long term. *Note: Operating Revenue is used in the calculation of the Underlying Surplus Ratio as reported in the notes to Council financial statements. Operating revenue generally represents Recurrent Income adjusted for the effects of prepaid Financial Assistance Grants.*	
	Asset sustainability ratio	The asset sustainability ratio provides a comparison of the rate of a council's spending on its existing infrastructure, property, plant, and equipment through renewing, restoring and replacing those assets, with depreciation (which indicates the rate at which assets are being 'used up'). It calculated by dividing the amount of capital expenditure by a council in a financial year on the replacement and renewal of existing council plant, equipment and infrastructure assets by the annual depreciation expense of the plant, equipment and assets for the financial year. Ratios higher than 100% indicate councils are maintaining operating capacity through renewal of their existing asset base. Ratios lower than 100% indicate a shortfall in asset renewal spending. This is a long-term indicator, noting that as such assets are long-lived, spending in asset renewal can be deferred in the short-term if there are insufficient funds available from operations, and borrowing is not an option.	
	Asset renewal funding ratio	The asset renewal funding ratio indicates a council's capacity to fund future asset replacement requirements for infrastructure. An inability to fund future requirements will result in revenue, expenditure, or debt consequences or potentially a reduction in service levels. It is calculated by dividing the current value of projected capital funding outlays for an asset identified in the long-term financial plan of a council by the value of projected capital expenditure funding for an asset identified in the long-term strategic asset management plan of a council.	

Tasmanian Government

Data Category	Data Item	What does it show?	Source
	Asset consumption ratio	The asset consumption ratio indicates the levels of service potential or 'remaining life' available in existing infrastructure assets managed by councils. It is calculated by dividing the depreciated replacement cost of assets divided by the current replacement cost for those assets. The higher the percentage, the greater future service potential available to provide services to ratepayers. A ratio above 60% represents low financial sustainability risk whilst a ratio less than 40% represents a high sustainability risk.	
	Net financial liabilities ratio	The net financial liabilities ration indicates the extent to which a council's net liabilities (e.g. creditors, debt) can be met from its operating income. A falling ratio indicates that a council's capacity to meet its financial obligations from operating income is strengthening, and vice versa. The ratio is calculated by subtracting a council's total financial liabilities from its liquid assets, and dividing this number by the council's total operating income. Assets are 'liquid' if they can be readily realised with no or little loss in value, e.g. cash at bank, money market accounts, and receivables.	
Infrastructure	Km of council road – total and by category (sealed, unsealed, rural, urban)	This reports the total length (in kilometres) of council-owned roads in the local government area, overall, and by various categories (noting that some types of roads are more expensive to maintain than others). It is an indicator of the breadth of responsibilities councils have for road renewal and maintenance.	Tasmanian Councils Consolidated Data Collection – https://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/open data/
	Metres of council roads per head of population	This provides a broad indication of the roads management liability that a council has, relative to its population. This measure is calculated by dividing the total length of council-owned roads by the estimated resident population.	
	Gross replacement cost and written-down value: • *roads and traffic infrastructure* • *stormwater and drainage* • *other infrastructure assets*	This reports the overall value of major infrastructure asset classes under council control. Replacement cost is the amount it would cost to replace an existing asset on a 'like for like' basis with a new one, while the 'written down' value is the replacement cost minus depreciation.	
Rates and Revenue	Total Revenue ($)	This reports Councils' total revenue in a financial year from all sources. Sources could include rates, charges, grants from other levels of government, or returns on investments.	Tasmanian councils audited financial statements
	Operating Revenue ($)	This reports Councils' operating revenue in a financial year. Operating revenue is raised from a council's normal business operations and does not include capital income or revenue from non-financial assets.	
	Rateable properties/number of rateable valuations (No.)	This reports the total number of properties in the local government area that are subject to council rates. It is a broad indicator of the capacity of councils to levy rates.	

Tasmanian
Government

Data Category	Data Item	What does it show?	Source
	Rates and charges revenue ($)	This reports the amount of revenue collected by a council from rates and charges. *Note: This figure includes various council charges, such as waste charges.* *This figure <u>does not</u> include the State Fire Levy, which is a State Government charge collected from residents by councils on behalf of the State Government.*	
	Average rates and charges per rateable property ($)	This shows the average amount in rates and charges across rateable properties within the council area. It is calculated by taking the total revenue from rates and charges collected by a council and dividing it by the total number of rateable properties in the local government area.	
	Average rates and charges per head of population ($)	This shows the average amount in rates and charges per person living in the local government area. This is calculated by taking the council's total revenue from rates and charges and dividing it by the estimated resident population.	
	Rate and charges revenue as % of operating revenue (%)	This shows the amount of rates and charges that is derived as a percentage of a council's total operating revenue.. This is an indicator of how reliant a council is on rates and charges as compared to other sources of revenue (e.g. grants from other levels of government).	
	Operating costs per rateable property ($)	This shows the average amount each council spends per rateable property in its municipal area to provide services and infrastructure to the community. This is calculated by adding operating expenses and finance costs and dividing this number by rateable properties on the council's valuation roll.	
	Own source revenue as % of operating revenue (%)	This shows the percentage, of a council's operating revenue that it it raises through levying rates, fees and charges for services, and other self-generated sources (as opposed to grants from other levels of government).	
	Average residential rates per residential property ($)	This shows the average amount in residential rates and charges across rateable residential properties within the council area. This is calculated by dividing the total number of rateable residential properties by residential rate revenue. *Note: This figure includes the State Fire Levy, which is a State Government charge collected from residents by councils on behalf of the State Government.*	Tasmanian Councils Consolidated Data Collection – https://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/open data/
Government Grants	Local Government Financial Assistance Grants ($)	This shows the total amount councils received in State Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grants. The Financial Assistance Grants are provided by the Australian Government under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act). The Financial Assistance Grant program consists of two components: • a general purpose component which is distributed between the states and territories according to population (i.e. on a per capita basis), and • an identified local road component which is distributed between the states and territories according to fixed historical shares. Both components of the grant are untied in the hands of local government, allowing councils to spend the grants according to local priorities. Local government grants commissions in each state and the Northern Territory recommend the distribution of the funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies in accordance with the Act and the National Principles for allocating grants.	Tasmanian Councils Consolidated Data Collection – https://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/open data/

Tasmanian Government

Data Category	Data Item	What does it show?	Source
	Other Recurrent Government Grants (State and Commonwealth) ($)	This shows the total amount in dollars that a council receives in other recurrent grants from the State and Commonwealth governments, in a given financial year. Examples of grants that fall into this category include funding for childcare and other community services, and for cultural activities (e.g. Austalia Day).	
	Capital Government Grants (State and Commonwealth) ($)	This shows the total amount in dollars that a council receives in capital (non-recurrent) grants from the State and Commonwealth Governments, in a given financial year. Examples of funding that might fall into this catgeory include grants provided under the *Roads to Recovery* and *Building Better Regions* programs.	
Planning and other Regulatory activities	Development Development Applications received/accepted (split into Discretionary and Permitted) (No.)	This shows the total number of development applications submitted to the council in a given financial year in two main categories – 'permitted' and 'discretionary' applications. Permitted applications are for those developments that a council must approve (subject to any conditions informed by the council's planning scheme, while discreationary applications are applications that councils has discretion to refuse or permit (again, with conditions) under its planning scheme.	Tasmanian Councils Consolidated Data Collection – https://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/open data/
	Average number of statutory days taken to assess Development Applications (split into Discretionary and Permitted) (No.)	This shows the number of day taken, on average, to assess Development Applications received by the council in a given financial year, in both 'permitted' and 'discretionary' categories. Under Tasmania's planning legislation, councils are required to process permitted applications within 28 days of lodgment, and discretionary applications within 42 days. '** 'Statutory days' are the total number of days from receipt of an application to determination, less any extra days requested by the Heritage Council under s39(3) of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. Note: statutory days include any additional days negotiated between the council and the applicant under s39(6) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, but do not include days where the 'clock is stopped'.	
	Building applications received (No.)	This shows the total number of building applications submitted to the council in a given financial year. This is an indicator of the level of building activity occurring in a council area and the effort required by councils to process those applications.	
	Value of all development approvals ($)	This shows the total estimated dollar value of all developments approved by council in a given financial year. This is an indicator of the scale of development of development activity occurring in a council area.	
	Number of food premises (No.)	This shows the total number of licensed food premises in the local government area. This is an indicator of the breadth of responsibility councils have for regulating compliance with relevant legislative standards.	
	Number of food premises inspections undertaken (No.)	The number of inspections of licensed food premises that the council has undertaken in a given financial year. This is an indicator of the level of effort councils commit to checking food premises compliance with the legislative requirements.	
	Councillors (No.)	This reports the number of elected members for each council. This number is legislated under the *Local Government Act 1993*.	Determined by *Local Government Act 1993* – www.thelaw.tas.gov.au)

Tasmanian Government

Data Category	Data Item	What does it show?	Source
Governance and Representation	Councillors per 1000 head of population (No.)	The ratio of elected members of a council to how many people live in the local government area. This measure provides a broad indication of representation.	
	Councillor gender split (%)	This reports the gender balance of the council elected at the 2018 council elections. It a broad indicator of gender equality within councils. *Please note that these figures may have changed as a result of changes in elected members at individual councils since the 2018 elections.*	Tasmanian Electoral Commission - https://www.tec.tas.gov.au/Local_Government_Elections/LocalGovernmentElections2018/index.html
	Number of candidates for councillor/deputy mayor/mayor at 2018 elections (No.)	This reports the number of candidates who ran for public office in these roles in the last council elections, held in 2018 (2017/18 in Glenorchy). It is a broad indicator of the level of community engagement with their local government.	
	Voter participation rate (2018 elections) (%)	The shows the percentage of eligible voters in the local government area who returned their ballots at the 2018 council elections (2017-18 for Glenorchy), noting that voting for local government in Tasmania is non-compulsory. It is a broad indicator of the level of community engagement with local government in each municipality.	
Workforce	Total FTEs (No.)	This reports the total number of full-time equivalent employees employed by each council in any given financial year.	Tasmanian Councils Consolidated Data Collection – https://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/opendata/
	Total employee costs ($)	This reports the total expenditure each council attributes to employing staff in any given financial year. *Note: this figure shows total employee expenses and does not take into account any offsets from capitalised labour.*	
	Median employee age (years)	This shows the median age council employees in any given financial year. It is a broad indicator of the age profile of council employees.	
	Total staff turnover rate (%)	This shows the annual turnover rate of staff employed by the council as a percentage of the council's total workforce in any given financial year (excluding casual employees). This is a broad indicator of the capacity of councils to attract and retain employees.	

Tasmanian Government