Financing the infrastructure investment undertaken by New Zealand councils

Te tuku pūtea ki ngā haumitanga hanganga e whakamahia ana e ngā kaunihera o Aotearoa

Half year report 31 December 2019



Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu is a traditional saying literally meaning 'birds need feathers to fly'.

Its wider meaning is that 'investment is needed for success'.

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LGFA Half Year Report 2019

Message from the Chair He karere mai i te Toihau

For the six months ended 31 December 2019

"LGFA continues to provide cost
effective financing solutions for its
growing council membership base
while offering New Zealand dollar
fixed income investors a choice of
investment maturities with a relatively
attractive yield pickup over New
Zealand Government Bonds"

Craig Stobo, Chair LGFA Board



Directors would like to highlight the following developments at LGFA for the six-month period to 31 December 2019.

Strong Financial and Operational Performance

LGFA total interest income for the six-month period of \$185.1 million was a 2.3% increase over the 2018-19 comparable period result of \$180.9 million while net operating profit of \$6.10 million was a 0.3% increase on the 2018-19 comparable period result of \$6.08 million.

Net interest income and operating profit exceeded both the previous comparable period result and are ahead of the Statement of Intent (SOI) forecast due to the early refinancing of council loans maturing in April 2020 and a higher level of new council borrowing.

Expenses have been managed under budget over the past six months. In terms of composition, lower fees from a reduced utilisation of the standby facility, and lower Approved Issuer Levy payments were somewhat offset by higher legal and NZX costs from lending and bond issuance activities.

LGFA bonds continue to be an attractive investment for investors while LGFA has also delivered savings in borrowing costs and extended the tenor of lending available to our council borrowers.

The financial strength of LGFA was reaffirmed by Fitch Ratings who maintained our credit rating at 'AA+' in November 2019 and our 'AA+' rating from S&P Global Ratings remains on positive outlook, both of which are the same as the New Zealand Government.

Borrowing activity

LGFA issued \$1.105 billion of bonds over the past six months and nominal outstandings now total \$10.49 billion (including \$450 million of treasury stock) across nine maturities from 2020 to 2033.

The new April 2029 bond maturity by syndication of \$500 million in August 2019 was another successful issue, following on from the \$1 billion April 2024 syndication in March 2019. The April 2024 syndication was recognised at the KangaNews awards as the New Zealand Domestic Bond Deal of the Year.

LGFA is the largest issuer of New Zealand dollar securities after the New Zealand Government and our bonds are amongst the largest and most liquid New Zealand dollar debt instruments available for investors. We have seen a shift in investor

composition over the past six months as offshore investors have become less attracted to the lower yielding NZD fixed income asset class while domestic investors have increased their holdings based on the outlook for lower interest rates and lack of supply of other high-grade bonds. Our offshore investor holdings have reduced from 33% in June 2019 to 29% in December 2019, while NZ Institutional and retail investor holdings have increased from 29% to 32%.

The performance of LGFA bonds over the past six months has been positive with LGFA bond spreads to both swap and New Zealand Government Bonds (NZGB) becoming tighter with a greater narrowing on the spread to NZGB as market participants expect additional future issuance of NZGBs. Outright yields on LGFA bonds have declined modestly over the past six months by between 2 bps (0.02%) on the 2027 maturity and 11 bps (0.11%) on the 2021 maturity, although there was greater volatility with the 2027 LGFA bond yield trading a 65 bps (0.65%) range over the six-month period.

LGFA continues to issue short-dated LGFA Bills ranging in maturities from three months to 12 months through a combination of monthly tenders and private placements. As at 31 December 2019, outstandings under the programme are \$405 million. These instruments provide a source of funding for short-dated lending to our council borrowers and assist LGFA with liquidity management.

Lending to the sector

LGFA was established in December 2011 to provide long-dated borrowing, certainty of access to markets and to reduce the borrowing costs for the local government sector. Over the past six months, we added two new members with Taranaki Regional Council joining as a guarantor and Kaikoura District Council joining as a non-guarantor. Total membership of 66 councils is very pleasing and this is expected to increase slightly in the coming six months as several councils are partly through the joining process.

Long-dated lending over the six-month period was \$732 million with the lending activity a mix of new borrowing and the refinancing of council loans maturing on 15th April 2020. The tenor of borrowing by councils at 6.8 years was longer than the average term of borrowing of 6.0 years over the 12-month period to June 2019.

Short-dated lending for terms less than 12 months has been well supported by councils and, as at 31 December 2019, LGFA had \$525 million of short-term loans outstanding to 31 councils.

The underlying credit quality of the sector continues to remain very strong with all member councils remaining compliant with the LGFA lending covenants.

Acknowledgments

On behalf of my fellow directors we are pleased to be part of the continued success of this organisation and wish to thank our council shareholders, guarantors and borrowers as well as NZ Debt Management, our financial intermediaries, investors and staff for their continued support.

Craig Stobo

aurecho

Chair, LGFA Board





Performance against objectives Tutukinga mahi ki ōna whāinga

The statement of service performance details LGFA's performance for the first half of the financial year against the objectives and targets set out in the LGFA Statement of Intent 2019-20 (SOI)

Performance against 2019-20 primary objectives

This section sets out LGFA's performance for the six-month period ended 31 December 2019 against the two primary objectives set out in the 2019-20 SOI.

 LGFA will operate with the primary objective of optimising the debt funding terms and conditions for participating local authorities. Among other things this includes:

Providing savings in annual interest costs for all participating local authorities on a relative basis to other sources of financing;

LGFA aims to minimise its issuance margin over swap rates to provide cost-effective funding to councils. The LGFA margin to swap will depend upon several factors including the relative demand and supply of high grade bonds, general credit market conditions, performance of New Zealand Government bonds and swap rates, investor perceptions of LGFA, and the issuance volume and tenor of LGFA bonds.

2019-20 performance objectives

The SOI sets out two primary performance objectives and eight additional objectives for LGFA for the year ended 30 June 2020:

Primary objectives

- 1. LGFA will operate with the primary objective of optimising the debt funding terms and conditions for participating local authorities. Among other things this includes:
 - Providing savings in annual interest costs for all participating local authorities on a relative basis to other sources of financing;
 - ii. Offering short and long-term borrowings with flexible lending terms;
 - iii. Enhancing the certainty of access to debt markets for participating local authorities, subject always to operating in accordance with sound business practice; and
 - iv. Being the debt funder of choice for New Zealand local government.
- LGFA will monitor the quality of the asset book so that it remains of a high standard by ensuring it understands each participating local authority's financial position and the general issues confronting the Local Government sector. This includes
 - LGFA will review each participating local authority's financial position, its financial headroom under LGFA policies and endeavour to visit each Participating Local Authority on an annual basis;
 - ii. Implement the changes to the Foundation Policies that were approved at the November 2018 AGM to allow for lending to councilcontrolled organisations (CCOs). Changes to operational policies and practices need

- to ensure that no additional risk is borne by lenders, guarantors or the Crown;
- iii. LGFA will analyse finances at the Council group level where appropriate and report to shareholders as to which participating local authorities are measured on a group basis; and
- iv. LGFA will take a proactive role to enhance the financial strength and depth of the local government debt market and work with key central government and local government stakeholders on sector and individual council issues.

Additional objectives

- Operate with a view to making a profit sufficient to pay a dividend in accordance with its stated Dividend Policy;
- 2. Provide at least 75% of aggregate long-term debt funding to the local government sector;
- 3. Achieve the financial forecasts (excluding the impact of AIL) set out in section 4;
- 4. Ensure its products and services are delivered at a cost that does not exceed the forecast for issuance and operating expenses set out in section 4;
- 5. Take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
- 6. Maintain LGFA's credit rating equal to the New Zealand Government sovereign rating where both entities are rated by the same rating agency;
- 7. Introduce CCO lending by December 2019 and report quarterly, the volume of lending to CCOs; and
- 8. Comply with its Treasury Policy, as approved by the Board.

Given that LGFA tends to match fund its on-lending to councils where possible, i.e. tends to issue bonds in a similar tenor and volume as its on-lending, LGFA only has influence over investor perception amongst the above factors that determine LGFA spreads to swap.

There will be periods within the interest rate and credit market cycles when LGFA bonds will outperform its benchmarks (spread narrowing) and there will be periods of time when LGFA bonds underperform (spread widening). It is also very difficult to find an appropriate benchmark to

measure performance against.

LGFA spreads to swap have consistently narrowed since it first began issuing bonds in February 2012 and, over the past six months, spreads to swap as measured by secondary market levels have, in general, narrowed modestly or are unchanged.

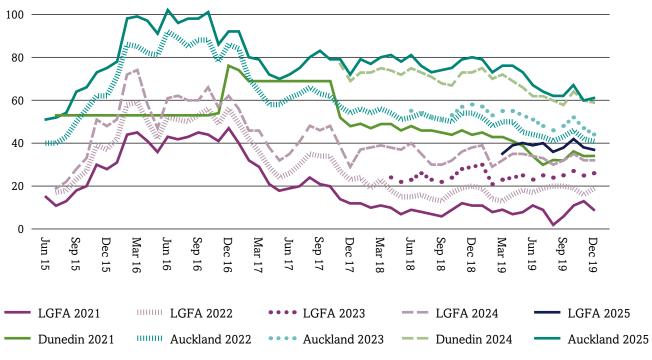
LGFA bond margin to swap	As at 31 December 2019 basis points (bps)	As at 30 June 2019 (bps)	Spread movement (bps)
15-Apr-20	7	11	(4)
15-May-21	15	15	Nil
14-Apr-22	23	22	1
15-Apr-23	27	30	(3)
15-Apr-24	34	37	(3)
15-Apr-25	40	41	(1)
15-Apr-27	46	46	Nil
20-Apr-29	59	-	n/a
14-Apr-33	67	67	Nil

Some of the movement is due to the changes in the spread between swap rates and NZ Government Bond (NZGB) yields as, over the same period, LGFA spreads to NZGB have narrowed for all maturities (except the April 2020s as the RBNZ is repurchasing this very short dated NZGB maturity).

LGFA bond margin to NZGB	As at 31 December 2019 (bps)	As at 30 June 2019 (bps)	Spread movement (bps)
15-Apr-20	37	30	7
15-May-21	27	36	(9)
14-Apr-22	35	42	(7)
15-Apr-23	41	51	(10)
15-Apr-24	46	59	(13)
15-Apr-25	50	65	(15)
15-Apr-27	56	70	(14)
20-Apr-29	68	-	n/a
14-Apr-33	73	92	(21)

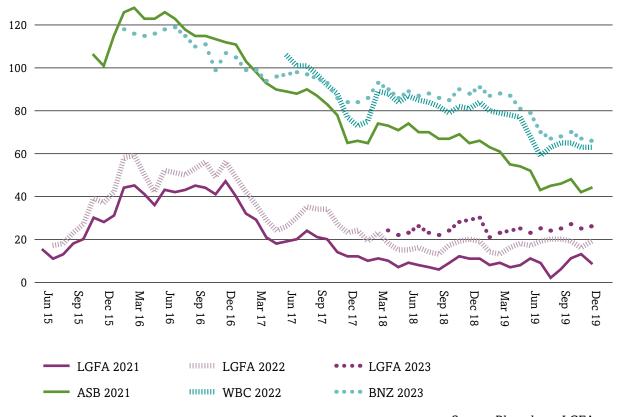
LGFA continues to provide savings in borrowing cost for councils relative to other sources of borrowing. We compare our secondary market spreads on LGFA bonds to those of Auckland Council and Dunedin City Treasury (as a proxy for councils borrowing in their own name) and a mix of banks (as a proxy for general market conditions).

Secondary market credit spread to swap for LGFA and council bonds (basis points)



Source: Bloomberg, LGFA

Secondary market credit spread to swap for LGFA and bank bonds (basis points)



Source: Bloomberg, LGFA

Offering short and long-term borrowings with flexible lending terms

The average borrowing term (excluding short-dated borrowing) for the six-month period to 31 December 2019 by councils was 7.4 years, being an increase on the 6.0 years for the year to 30 June 2019. Councils lengthened the term of borrowing in response to the narrowing in borrowing spreads, low outright yields and by borrowing into 2030 and 2033 maturities.

While LGFA provides councils with the ability to currently borrow for terms from one month to 14 years, it is up to the councils to determine their preferred term of borrowing.

In August 2019, LGFA commenced the issuance of a 10-year bond (April 2029) providing a new benchmark to assist with the pricing of council loans between the April 2027 and April 2033 LGFA bond maturities.

The following chart shows the total LGFA bond outstandings, including treasury stock, by maturity as at 31 December 2019.

LGFA bonds on issue (NZ\$ million)

As at 31 December 2019 : NZ\$10,490 million Includes NZ\$450 million treasury stock



Enhancing the certainty of access to debt markets for participating local authorities, subject always to operating in accordance with sound business practice;

LGFA listed its bonds on the NZX Debt Market in November 2015 and this has led to greater awareness and participation in LGFA bonds by domestic retail and offshore investors. Average turnover on the NZX Debt Market since listing has been \$10.6 million per month which represents 7.9% of the total turnover of the NZX Debt Market. Turnover has remained at lower than normal levels over the past six months as retail investors seek higher term deposit rates.

In late 2015, LGFA commenced the issuance of LGFA Bills (three and six months) which facilitated the offer of short-term loans of less than one year to councils. As at 31 December 2019, short-term loans totaling \$525.1 million were outstanding to 31 councils (\$360 million, 30 June 2019), which were partially funded by LGFA Bills on issue of \$403 million.

LGFA held four bond tenders during the six-month period to 31 December 2019, with an average tender volume of \$164 million and a range of \$160 million to \$170 million for each tender. LGFA also issued \$450 million of an April 2029 maturity via syndication in August 2019. This was our second syndicated issue following the successful April 2024 syndication undertaken in March 2019.

All tenders were successful although, in general, demand was less than in previous periods due to lower interest rates and tighter spreads to NZGBs. Offshore investors continue to hold LGFA bonds, but they have not increased their holdings in line with the increased issuance. The average bid-coverage ratio across the four bond tenders was 2.1 times and this compared to the average of 3.0 times for the 68 bond tenders held since LGFA first commenced issuance in February 2012.

The successful bid range (i.e. difference between the highest and lowest successful bid yield) for each maturity at each tender averaged between 0 bps and 3.8 bps, with an average of 1.9 bps across all maturities and tenders over the six-month period.

Issuance Dates	Issuance Volumes (NZ\$million)					
	Apr 22	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 29	Apr 33	Total
11-Dec (tender)	40	30	-	60	35	165
6-Nov (tender)	40	40	30	-	50	160
2-Oct (tender)	50	35	_	-	75	160
21-Aug (syndication)	-	-	-	450	-	450
17-Jul (tender)	60	60	_	-	50	170
Total issuance six-months to 31 Dec 2019	190	165	30	510	210	1105
Average tender bid coverage ratio	1.97x	2.49x	2.3x	1.82x	1.96x	2.1x
Average tender successful bid range	0.8 bps	1.1 bps	1.5 bps	1 bps	3.8 bps	1.9 bps

Being the debt funder of choice for New Zealand local government.

Councils access flexible lending through short-term and term lending products. Short-term are loans between 30 days and 364 days, while term lending is for any council-elected term between one year and the longest-dated LGFA bond maturity (currently 14 April 2033) for any drawdown date. Therefore, councils can borrow for terms ranging from 30 days to almost 14 years at any time they wish to drawdown.

As at 31 December 2019, short-term borrowing by councils totaled \$525.1 million, an increase of \$163.1 million from 30 June 2019.

We survey council members each year and the latest survey in July 2019 returned a 100% satisfaction result to the question "How would you rate LGFA in adding value to your borrowing requirements?" and 99% satisfaction result to the question "How satisfied are you with the pricing that LGFA has provided to your Council?"

2. LGFA will monitor the quality of the asset book so that it remains of a high standard by ensuring it understands each participating local authority's financial position and the general issues confronting the local government sector. This includes:

LGFA will review each participating local authority's financial position, its financial headroom under LGFA policies and endeavour to visit each Participating Local Authority on an annual basis;

LGFA completes a detailed financial assessment for each member council by reviewing annual plans, long-term plans and annual financial statements, and assigns an internal credit rating to each council as part of this review exercise.

As at 30 June 2019, all councils were compliant with LGFA financial covenants. A copy of each council's borrowing position and compliance with LGFA covenants were provided to LGFA shareholders and non-shareholder guarantors with the December 2019 quarterly report.

LGFA management met with 29 individual councils over the six-month period to 31 December 2019.

Implement the changes to the Foundation Policies that were approved at the November 2018 AGM to allow for lending to CCOs. Changes to operational policies and practices need to ensure that no additional risk is borne by lenders, guarantors or the Crown

LGFA expect to commence lending to CCOs in the first half of the 2020 calendar year, with implementation being delayed due to requiring shareholder approval at the November 2019 AGM and ensuring the process and controls are robust.

LGFA will analyse finances at the Council group level where appropriate and report to the Shareholder Council and shareholders as to which participating local authorities are measured on a group basis.

LGFA reviews the financial position of each council on a parent basis, the exception being Auckland Council. For Auckland Council, LGFA analyses the financial statements at both parent and group level.

LGFA will take a proactive role to enhance the financial strength and depth of the local government debt market and work with key central government and local government stakeholders on sector and individual council issues

LGFA management aim to meet with the management team of each council at least once a year. We are also available to present to elected officials at councils prior to them joining LGFA to remind them of their obligations.

LGFA have been involved in discussions between central government agencies around infrastructure funding and financing to assist both central and local government with this workstream.

LGFA presented at various capital market conferences and met with banks and investors on a regular basis.

Performance against 2019-20 additional objectives

In addition to the two primary performance objectives, LGFA has eight performance objectives which complement the primary objectives. This section sets out LGFA's performance for the six-month period to 31 December 2019 against the additional objectives set out in the 2019-20 Statement of Intent.

1. Operate with a view to making a profit sufficient to pay a dividend in accordance with its stated Dividend Policy

The LGFA Board has discretion to set the dividend and the policy is to pay a dividend that provides an annual rate of return to shareholders equal to LGFA's cost of funds plus 2%.

On 20 August 2019, LGFA directors declared a dividend for the year to 30 June 2019 of \$1,165,000 (\$0.0466 per share) calculated on LGFA's cost of funds for the 2018-19 year of 2.66% plus a 2% margin.

The 2019 dividend was lower than the previous year (2018: \$0.0514 per share) due to a lower interest rate environment resulting in a lower cost of funds for LGFA. While council borrowers benefit from lower borrowing costs, the dividend payment calculated is lower than it would other-wise be in an environment of higher interest rates.

LGFA's average cost of funds for the six-month period to 31 December 2019 was 1.78%.

2. Provide at least 75% of aggregate longterm debt funding for participating local authorities

Councils have strongly supported LGFA by joining as members and borrowing from LGFA. As at 31 December 2019, 63 of our 66 member councils have borrowed from LGFA.

In the six months to 31 December 2019, two councils joined LGFA. Taranaki Regional Council joined as a guarantor borrower while Kaikoura District Council joined as a non-guarantor borrower.

The following chart shows LGFA's share of new local government long-term debt issuance and is derived from survey data provided by PwC. LGFA's share of long-term borrowing by the sector including non-members of LGFA was 87.7% for the rolling 12-month period to 31 December 2019.

The market share is influenced by the amount of debt issued by the sector's largest domestic borrower, Auckland Council (in its own name). Auckland Council is required to issue debt under its own name as LGFA's foundation policies restrict

total loans outstanding to Auckland to a maximum of 40%. If Auckland Council's external borrowing is excluded, then LGFA's estimated market share for the period was 90.6%.

LGFA Market Share – rolling one year average



LGFA Rolling Annual Market Share Adjusted for Auckland Borrowing in Own Name

3. Achieve the financial forecasts (excluding the impact of AIL) set out in Section 4

For the six-month period to 31 December 2019, net interest income was \$435k above budget while total expenses were \$169k below budget. Excluding AIL, expenses were \$35k below budget. Net operating gain of \$6.110 million was \$598k above SOI target.

4. Ensure its products and services are delivered at a cost that does not exceed the forecast for issuance and operating expenses

Issuance and operating expenses for the six-month period to 31 December 2019 were \$169k under SOI budget.

Take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;

LGFA has a Health and Safety Staff Committee with regular reporting to the board on health and safety by the Risk and Compliance Manager. There were no health and safety incidents during the six-month period to 31 December 2019.

Maintain LGFA's credit rating equal to the New Zealand Government sovereign rating where both entities are rated by the same Rating Agency;

LGFA has credit ratings from S&P Global Ratings (S&P) and Fitch Ratings (Fitch). Both the S&P and Fitch ratings are the same as, and are capped by, New Zealand Government's credit ratings.

LGFA meets with both agencies each year and last met with Fitch in September 2019 and S&P in November 2019.

On 4 February 2019, S&P placed our long-term credit rating on positive outlook, following their decision to place the long-term credit rating of the New Zealand Government on positive outlook the previous week.

On 6 November 2019, Fitch reaffirmed our longterm credit rating as AA+ and classified LGFA as a corporate mission, government related entity (GRE) under its GRE rating criteria. Fitch equalises our ratings with those of the New Zealand Government.

S&P and Fitch ratings reports are available on our website (www.lgfa.co.nz/for-investors/ratings).

6. Introduce CCO lending by December 2019 and report quarterly, the volume of lending to CCOs to both the Shareholder Council and shareholders

LGFA expect to commence lending to CCOs in the first half of the 2020 calendar year, the implementation being delayed due to requiring shareholder approval at the November 2019 AGM.

7. Comply with its Treasury Policy as approved by the Board

There were no compliance breaches at any time during the six-month period to 31 December 2019.

Meet or exceed the Performance Targets outlined in section 5.

LGFA has achieved (or is on track to achieve at year-end) all of our ten performance targets in the six-month period to 31 December 2019.

Performance measure	Target	Result to 31 December 2019	Outcome
LGFA net interest income for the period to June 2020	> \$17.88 million	\$9.80 million	On track to be met
Annual issuance and operating expenses (excluding AIL)	< \$6.30 million	\$3.05 million	On track to be met
Total lending (short and long term) to participating councils	At least \$9.79 billion	\$10.15 million	✓ Met
Conduct an annual survey of councils	80% satisfaction score	Survey completed July 2019	Met. Survey outcome of 100%
Meet all lending requests from PLAs	100% of borrowing requests	100%	✓ Met
Achieve 75% market share of all council borrowing in New Zealand	75%	87.7%	✓ Met
Review each PLA financial position, its headroom under LGFA policies and arrange to meet each PLA at least annually	29 council visits year to date		On track to be met
No breaches of Treasury Policy, any regulatory or legislative requirements including Health & Safety	No breach.	No breach	On track to be met
Successfully refinance of existing loans to councils and LGFA bond maturities as they fall due		100%	On track to be met
Maintain a credit rating equal to the New Zealand Government rating where both entities are rated by the same credit rating entity	AA+/AA+	AA+/AA+	On track to be met



Financial statements Taukī pūtea

Statement of comprehensive income

For the six months ended 31 December 2019 in \$000s

	Note	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2019	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2018
Interest income			
Cash and cash equivalents		216	226
Marketable securities		2,072	1,229
Deposits		3,065	2,251
Derivatives		69,933	53,131
Loans to local government		109,786	124,053
Fair value hedge ineffectiveness	2	-	-
Total interest income		185,072	180,890
Interest expense			
Bills		3,521	4,610
Bond repurchase transactions		257	225
Lease liability		14	-
Bonds		169,918	164,513
Borrower notes		1,562	1,769
Total interest expense		175,272	171,117
Net interest income		9,800	9,773
Operating expenses			
Issuance and on-lending expenses	3	1,846	1,975
Operating expenses	4	1,851	1,723
Total expenses		3,697	3,698
Net operating profit		6,103	6,075
Total comprehensive income		6,103	6,075

These statements are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

The Board of Directors of New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited authorised these financial statements for issue on 27 February 2020.

Craig Stobo, Director

Board Chair

arcobo

Linda Robertson, Director Chair, Audit and Risk Committee

Statement of changes in equity

For the six months ended 31 December 2019 in \$000s

	Note	Share capital	Retained earnings	Total equity
Equity as at 30 June 2018		25,000	39,290	64,290
Adjustment on adoption of NZ IFRS 9			(35)	(35)
Equity as at 1 July 2018		25,000	39,255	64,255
Net operating profit			6,075	6,075
Total comprehensive income for the period			6,075	6,075
Transactions with owners			-	-
Dividend paid on 7 September 2018			(1,285)	(1,285)
Unaudited closing balance as at 31 December 2018		25,000	44,045	69,045
Equity as at 1 July 2019		25,000	49,149	74,149
Net operating profit			6,103	6,110
Total comprehensive income for the period			6,103	6,110
Transactions with owners			-	-
Dividend paid on 6 September 2019			(1,155)	(1,155)
Unaudited closing balance as at 31 December 2019	12	25,000	54,097	79,097

These statements are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2019 in \$000s

	Note	Unaudited as at 31 December 2019	Audited as at 30 June 2019
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and bank balances		45,398	56,198
Marketable securities		252,341	255,715
Deposits		302,081	136,216
Derivatives in gain		608,089	622,559
Loans to local government	5	10,150,107	9,310,617
Non-financial assets			
Prepayments		829	570
Other assets	10	539	457
Total assets		11,359,384	10,382,332
Equity			
Share capital	12	25,000	25,000
Retained earnings		47,994	49,149
Total comprehensive income for the period		6,103	
Total equity		79,097	74,149
Liabilities			
Financial liabilities			
Payables and provisions		336	563
Bills	6	402,759	503,225
Bond repurchases	9	1,034	24,625
Derivatives in loss		44,200	12,926
Bonds	7	10,665,097	9,612,394
Borrower notes	8	166,564	154,168
Non-financial liabilities			
Other liabilities		297	282
Total liabilities		11,280,287	10,308,183
Total equity and liabilities		11,359,384	10,382,332

These statements are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

Statement of cash flows

For the six months ended 31 December 2019 in \$000s

Note	e Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2019	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2018	
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Cash applied to loans to local government	(847,625)	(1,338,445)	
Interest paid on bonds issued	(184,896)	(180,956)	
Interest paid on bills issued	(3,498)	(4,610)	
Interest paid on borrower notes	(48)	-	
Interest paid on bond repurchases	(278)	(226)	
Interest received from loans to local government	117,942	121,772	
Interest received from cash & cash equivalents	215	226	
Interest received from marketable securities	1,711	1,627	
Interest received from deposits	1,534	2,884	
Net interest on derivatives	75,341	73,024	
Payments to suppliers and employees	(4,270)	(4,299)	
Net cash flow from operating activities 11	(843,872)	(1,329,003)	
Cashflow from Investing Activities			
Purchase of marketable securities	3,734	161,738	
Purchase of deposits	(164,334)	130,000	
Purchase of plant and equipment	-	-	
Net Cashflow from Investing Activities	(160,600)	291,738	
Cashflow from Financing Activities			
Cash proceeds from bonds issued	1,137,733	994,187	
Cash proceeds from bills issued	(100,489)	9,455	
Cash proceeds from bond repurchases	(23,570)	(523)	
Cash proceeds from borrower notes	10,882	16,800	
Dividends paid	(1,155)	(1,285)	
Cash applied to derivatives	(29,715)	(9,256)	
Lease payments	(14)	-	
Net Cashflow from Financing Activities	993,672	1,009,378	
Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash	(10,800)	(27,887)	
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdraft at beginning of year	56,198	50,280	
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Bank overdraft at end of year	45,398	22,393	
These statements are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements			

1 Statement of accounting policies

a. Reporting entity

The New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited (LGFA) is a company registered under the Companies Act 1993 and is subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

LGFA is controlled by participating local authorities and is a council-controlled organisation as defined under section 6 of the Local Government Act 2002. LGFA is a limited liability company incorporated and domiciled in New Zealand.

The primary objective of LGFA is to optimise the debt funding terms and conditions for participating local authorities.

The registered address of LGFA is Level 8, City Chambers, 142 Featherston Street, Wellington Central, Wellington 6011.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors on 27 February 2020.

b. Statement of compliance

The interim financial statements are for the sixmonths ended 31 December 2019 and are to be read in conjunction with the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP) and they comply with NZ IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting.

The financial results for the six-month period ended 31 December 2019 are unaudited.

c. Basis of preparation

Accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The judgements, estimates and assumptions used to prepare these interim financial statements are consistent with those used at 30 June 2019.

Measurement base

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis modified by the revaluation of certain assets and liabilities.

The financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis.

Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars rounded to the nearest thousand, unless separately identified. The functional currency of LGFA is New Zealand dollars.

Foreign currency conversions

Transactions denominated in foreign currency are translated into New Zealand dollars using exchange rates applied on the trade date of the transaction.

Changes in accounting policies

NZ IFRS 16 Leases. NZ IFRS 16 became effective from 1 July 2019 and did not have a material impact on the financial statements.

On adoption of NZ IFRS 16, LGFA recognised rightof-use assets and lease liabilities in relation to its property leases which had previously been classified as operating leases under NZ IAS 17 Leases.

In adopting NZ IFRS 16, LGFA elected to use the simplified retrospective approach which does not require restatement of comparative information. The lease liability is recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using LGFA's incremental borrowing rate, with the corresponding right-of-use asset recognised as an equal amount.

The following items in the balance sheet were impacted by the change of accounting on 1 July 2019: Other assets and Other liabilities both increased by \$0.157 million.

Lease payments previously included in other operating expense are now classified to financing and depreciation costs under NZ IFRS 16.

There have been no other changes to accounting policies.

Early adoption standards and interpretations

LGFA has not early adopted any standards.

Standards not yet adopted

LGFA does not consider any standards or interpretations in issue but not yet effective to have a significant impact on its financial statements.

d. Financial instruments

Financial assets

Financial assets, other than derivatives, are recognised initially at fair value plus transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand; cash in transit, bank accounts and deposits with an original maturity of no more than three months.

Purchases and sales of all financial assets are accounted for at trade date.

At each balance date, an expected credit loss assessment is performed for all financial assets and is calculated as either:

- Credit losses that may arise from default events that are possible within the next 12 months, where no significant increase in credit risk has arisen since acquisition of the asset, or
- Credit losses that may arise from default events that are possible over the expected life of the financial asset, where a significant increase in credit risk has arisen since acquisition of the asset.

Impairment losses on financial assets will ordinarily be recognised on initial recognition as a 12-month expected loss allowance and move to a lifetime expected loss allowance if there is a significant deterioration in credit risk since acquisition.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities, other than derivatives, are recognised initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Derivatives

Derivative financial instruments are recognised both initially and subsequently at fair value. They are reported as either assets or liabilities depending on whether the derivative is in a net gain or net loss position respectively.

Fair value hedge

Where a derivative qualifies as a hedge of the exposure to changes in fair value of an asset or liability (fair value hedge) any gain or loss on the derivative is recognised in profit and loss together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability.

The carrying amount of the hedged item is adjusted by the fair value gain or loss on the hedged item in respect of the risk being hedged. Effective parts of the hedge are recognised in the same area of profit and loss as the hedged item.

e. Other assets

Property, plant and equipment (PPE)

Items of property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of an item of property, plant and equipment, less any estimated residual value, over its remaining useful life.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets comprise software and project costs incurred for the implementation of the treasury management system. Capitalised computer software costs are amortised on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the software (three to seven years). Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as expenses.

f. Other liabilities

Employee entitlements

Employee entitlements to salaries and wages, annual leave and other similar benefits are recognised in the profit and loss when they accrue to employees.

g. Revenue and expenses

Revenue

Interest income

Interest income is accrued using the effective interest rate method.

The effective interest rate exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to that asset's net carrying amount. The method applies this rate to the principal outstanding to determine interest income each period.

Expenses

Interest expense

Interest expense is accrued using the effective interest rate method.

The effective interest rate exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to that liability's net carrying amount. The method applies this rate to the principal outstanding to determine interest expense each period.

Income tax

LGFA is exempt from income tax under Section 14 of the Local Government Borrowing Act 2011.

Goods and services tax

All items in the financial statements are presented exclusive of goods and service tax (GST), except for receivables and payables, which are presented on a GST-inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax, then it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the IRD is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The net GST paid to, or received from the IRD, including the GST relating to investing and financing activities, is classified as a net operating cash flow in the statement of cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

h. Segment reporting

LGFA operates in one segment being funding of participating local authorities in New Zealand.

i. Judgements and estimations

The preparation of these financial statements requires judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and income and expenses. For example, the present value of large cash flows that are predicted to occur a long time into the future depends critically on judgements regarding future cash flows, including inflation assumptions and the risk-free discount rate used to calculate present values.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other

factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Where these judgements significantly affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements, the reasons are outlined in note disclosures.

2 Hedge accounting

LGFA is exposed to interest rate risk from fixed rate borrowing and variable rate lending to councils. LGFA uses interest rate swaps to manage this interest rate risk. For hedge accounting purposes, LGFA has designated these swaps in fair value relationships to its fixed rate borrowing and council loans.

The gain or loss on the hedging instrument and the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk for fair value hedge relationships is shown in the table below.

in \$000s	Gain/(loss) Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2019	Gain/(loss) Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2018
Hedging instruments – interest rate swaps	465,184	301,917
Hedged items attributable to the hedged risk – fixed rate bonds / loans	(465,184)	(301,917)
Ineffectiveness recognised in profit or loss from fair value hedges	-	-

The gains or losses on the hedging instrument (interest rate swaps) and the hedged item (bonds or loans) are mapped to the same fair value account. For this reason, the statement of comprehensive income will only report any ineffectiveness arising from the fair value hedge.

3 Issuance and on-lending expenses

Issuance and on-lending expenses are those costs that are incurred as a necessary expense to facilitate the ongoing issuance of LGFA debt securities.

in \$000s	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2019	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2018
NZDM facility fee	308	303
NZX	235	200
Rating agency fees	301	297
Legal fees for issuance	223	164
Regulatory, registry, other fees	79	68
Trustee fees	50	50
Approved issuer levy ¹	650	893
	1,846	1,975

^{1.} The amount of Approved Issuer Levy is a function of the number of the offshore holders of certain LGFA bond maturities.

4 Operating expenses

Operating expenses are all other expenses that are not classified as 'Issuance and on-lending expenses'.

in \$000s	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2019	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2018
Information services	-	79
Information technology ¹	358	-
Consultants	52	105
Directors fees	199	189
Insurance	35	31
Legal fees	73	35
Depreciation	41	-
Other expenses	151	390
Auditors' remuneration		
Statutory audit	53	48
Advisory services	-	-
Personnel	889	846
	1,851	1,723

^{1.} Information technology aggregates all LGFA information technology-related expenses under a single category. Previously, these expenses were recorded across information services, consultants and other expenses.

5 Loans to local government

in \$000s	Unaudited as at 31 December 2019			ed as at ne 2019
	Short-term loans	Loans	Short-term loans	Loans
Ashburton District Council	15,041	27,371	10,025	27,465
Auckland Council	-	2,419,254	-	2,422,898
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	70,098	121,844	90,974	50,631
Buller District Council	-	20,009	-	20,013
Canterbury Regional Council	6,005	48,148	6,006	32,108
Central Hawkes Bay District Council	-	16,077	-	2,027
Christchurch City Council	50,096	1,870,057	27,110	1,721,759
Clutha District Council	-	5,025	-	5,020
Far North District Council	20,053	56,708	-	40,149
Gisborne District Council	-	58,819	5,982	42,819
Gore District Council	6,009	13,042	6,011	13,059
Greater Wellington Regional Council	-	401,294	-	401,676
Grey District Council	4,986	15,252	4,978	15,305
Hamilton City Council	-	386,329	-	356,737
Hastings District Council	-	149,487	-	105,985
Hauraki District Council	-	43,157	-	38,192
Hawkes Bay Regional Council	-	2,510	-	2,509
Horizons Regional Council	-	37,206	-	35,182
Horowhenua District Council	16,008	94,736	11,006	85,780
Hurunui District Council	4,991	32,108	-	32,140
Hutt City Council	-	179,569	-	179,746
Invercargill City Council	37,539	30,105	25,093	30,095
Kaipara District Council	-	44,145	999	44,189
Kapiti Coast District Council	-	215,635	-	210,804
Manawatu District Council	-	69,212	-	68,229
Marlborough District Council	27,857	73,219	26,545	73,252
Masterton District Council	-	55,182	-	50,248
Matamata-Piako District Council	-	21,575	2,546	21,597
Nelson City Council	-	65,192	-	65,264
New Plymouth District Council	-	114,980	-	99,535
Northland Regional Council	-	9,729	-	9,728
Opotiki District Council	-	7,117	-	5,125

in \$000s	Unaudited as at 31 December 2019		Audite 30 Jun	
	Short-term loans	Loans	Short-term loans	Loans
Otorohanga District Council	-	3,042	-	3,048
Palmerston North City Council	10,018	109,349	10,024	104,439
Porirua City Council	-	121,850	-	86,894
Queenstown Lakes District Council	20,046	95,656	20,076	85,644
Rangitikei District Council	_	3,020	-	3,013
Rotorua District Council	2,812	195,161	2,817	180,186
Ruapehu District Council	6,008	13,059	3,027	13,070
Selwyn District Council	5,022	10,037	5,097	10,053
South Taranaki District Council	-	105,371	-	80,383
South Wairarapa District Council	-	20,025	-	20,023
Stratford District Council	1,013	13,565	1,003	13,570
Taranaki Regional Council	3,962	-	-	-
Tararua District Council	4,006	25,094	4,020	21,104
Tasman District Council	41,136	137,109	25,380	127,172
Taupo District Council	-	115,322	-	115,452
Tauranga City Council	39,919	522,353	9,963	432,609
Thames-Coromandel District Council	5,009	51,188	-	51,244
Timaru District Council	12,522	67,262	17,568	67,313
Upper Hutt City Council	4,986	44,150	4,975	38,174
Waikato District Council	4,967	80,285	-	80,400
Waikato Regional Council	-	22,084	-	22,120
Waimakariri District Council	10,008	135,707	10,010	135,872
Waipa District Council	67,132	15,042	-	15,013
Wairoa District Council	-	9,037	1,514	3,519
Waitomo District Council	10,043	30,078	10,055	30,093
Wellington City Council	-	586,253	-	533,151
West Coast Regional Council	2,003	5,611	1,985	5,608
Western Bay Of Plenty District Council	-	90,331	-	90,478
Westland District Council	-	18,673	-	18,688
Whakatane District Council	5,007	57,214	5,008	57,298
Whanganui District Council	3,013	83,356	-	73,408
Whangarei District Council	9,981	132,434	9,976	122,543
	527,296	9,622,811	359,771	8,950,846

As at 31 December 2019, \$1,319 million of loans to local government are due to mature within 12 months. This comprises all short-term loans and \$792 million of loans.

6 Bills on issue

Unaudited as at 31 December 2019 in \$000's	Face value	Unamortised premium	Accrued interest	Total
8 January 2020	70,000	-	(17)	69,983
17 January 2020	58,500	-	(34)	58,466
24 January 2020	32,000	-	(32)	31,968
29 January 2020	13,000	-	(11)	12,989
5 February 2020	25,000	-	(34)	24,966
12 February 2020	50,000	-	(66)	49,934
3 March 2020	5,000	-	(11)	4,989
11 March 2020	50,000	-	(114)	49,886
8 April 2020	25,000	-	(72)	24,928
7 May 2020	25,000	-	(102)	24,898
13 May 2020	25,000	-	(103)	24,897
10 June 2020	25,000	-	(144)	24,856
	403,500	-	(741)	402,759

Audited as at 30 June 2019 in \$000's	Face value	Unamortised premium	Accrued interest	Total
4 July 2019	25,000	-	(4)	24,996
10 July 2019	85,000	-	(41)	84,959
17 July 2019	25,000	-	(23)	24,977
29 July 2019	25,000	-	(35)	24,965
5 August 2019	25,000	-	(48)	24,952
14 August 2019	50,000	-	(109)	49,891
23 August 2019	45,000	-	(117)	44,883
11 September 2019	50,000	-	(174)	49,826
4 October 2019	25,000	-	(124)	24,876
9 October 2019	25,000	-	(125)	24,875
7 November 2019	25,000	-	(168)	24,832
13 November 2019	25,000	-	(159)	24,841
4 December 2019	25,000	-	(203)	24,797
11 December 2019	25,000	-	(180)	24,820
22 January 2020	25,000	-	(266)	24,734
	505,000	-	(1,775)	503,225

7 Bonds on issue

Bonds on issue do not include \$450 million face value of issued LGFA bonds subscribed by LGFA and held as treasury stock. Refer Note 9: Treasury stock and bond repurchase transactions.

Unaudited as at 31 December 2019 in \$000's	Face value	Unamortised premium	Accrued interest	Fair value hedge adjustment	Total
15 April 2020	980,000	(981.00)	6,265.00		
15 May 2021	1,450,000	29,988.00	11,233.00		
14 April 2022	900,000	10,716.00	5,342.00		
15 April 2023	1,450,000	49,854.00	16,996.00		
15 April 2024	1,115,000	995.00	5,347.00		
15 April 2025	1,409,000	(33,923.00)	8,258.00		
15 April 2027	1,276,000	48,291.00	12,237.00		
20 April 2029	510,000	(11,628.00)	1,526.00		
14 April 2033	950,000	(7,780.00)	7,177.00		
Total	10,040,000	85,532	74,381	465,184	10,665,097

Audited as at 30 June 2019 in \$000's	Face value	Unamortised premium	Accrued interest	Fair value hedge adjustment	Total
15 April 2020	980,000	(2,674)	6,185		
15 May 2021	1,450,000	40,569	11,111		
14 April 2022	710,000	5,876	4,161		
15 April 2023	1,450,000	56,972	16,778		
15 April 2024	950,000	(3,895)	4,497		
15 April 2025	1,379,000	(38,648)	7,978		
15 April 2027	1,276,000	51,179	12,080		
14 April 2033	740,000	(35,533)	5,520		
Total	8,935,000	73,848	68,311	535,236	9,612,394

8 Borrower notes

Borrower notes are subordinated debt instruments which are required to be held by each local authority that borrows from LGFA in an amount equal to 1.6% of the aggregate face value of loans by that local authority.

LGFA may convert borrower notes into redeemable shares if it has made calls for all unpaid capital to be paid in full and the LGFA Board determines it is still at risk of imminent default.

9 Treasury stock and bond repurchase transactions

Periodically, LGFA subscribes for LGFA bonds as part of its tender process and holds these bonds as treasury stock. LGFA bonds held by LGFA as treasury stock are derecognised at the time of issue and no liability is recognised in the statement of financial position. As at 31 December 2019, \$450 million face value of issued LGFA bonds have been subscribed by LGFA and held as treasury stock.

LGFA makes these treasury stock bonds available to banks authorised as its tender counterparties to borrow under short-term repurchase transactions. The objective of the bond lending facility is to assist with improving secondary market liquidity in LGFA bonds. Bonds lent to counterparties are disclosed as a separate stock lending liability on the face of the statement of financial position.

Bond repurchase transactions:

Maturity date	Unaudited as at 31 December 2019	Audited as at 30 June 2019
15 April 2020	-	-
15 May 2021	-	-
14 April 2022	1,034	15,535
15 April 2023	-	-
15 April 2024	-	-
15 April 2025	-	-
15 April 2027	-	5,837
15 April 2029	-	-
14 April 2033	-	3,252
	1,034	24,625

10 Other assets

	Unaudited as at 31 December 2018	Audited as at 30 June 2018
Intangible assets ¹	382	457
Right-of-use lease asset	157	-
Total	539	457

^{1.} Intangible assets comprise acquired and internally developed software costs incurred on the implementation of LGFA's treasury management system.

11 Reconciliation of net profit to net cash flow from operating activities

in \$000s	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2019	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2018
Net profit/(loss) for the period	6,103	6,075
Cash applied to loans to local government	(847,625)	(1,338,445)
Non-cash adjustments		
Amortisation and depreciation	(1,700)	4,043
Working capital movements		
Net change in trade debtors and receivables	(248)	(196)
Net change in prepayments	(259)	(308)
Net change in accruals	(143)	(172)
Net Cash From operating activities	(843,872)	(1,329,003)

12 Share Capital

As at 31 December 2019, LGFA had 45 million ordinary shares on issue, 20 million of which remain uncalled. All ordinary shares rank equally with one vote attached to each ordinary share. Ordinary shares have a face value of \$1 per share.

Shareholder information

	31 December 2019		30 June 20	19
New Zealand Government	5,000,000	11.1%	5,000,000	11.1%
Auckland Council	3,731,960	8.3%	3,731,960	8.3%
Christchurch City Council	3,731,960	8.3%	3,731,960	8.3%
Hamilton City Council	3,731,960	8.3%	3,731,960	8.3%
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	3,731,958	8.3%	3,731,958	8.3%
Greater Wellington Regional Council	3,731,958	8.3%	3,731,958	8.3%
Tasman District Council	3,731,958	8.3%	3,731,958	8.3%
Tauranga City Council	3,731,958	8.3%	3,731,958	8.3%
Wellington City Council	3,731,958	8.3%	3,731,958	8.3%
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	3,731,958	8.3%	3,731,958	8.3%
Whangarei District Council	1,492,784	3.3%	1,492,784	3.3%
Hastings District Council	746,392	1.7%	746,392	1.7%
Marlborough District Council	400,000	0.9%	400,000	0.9%
Selwyn District Council	373,196	0.8%	373,196	0.8%
Gisborne District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Hauraki District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Horowhenua District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Hutt City Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Kapiti Coast District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Manawatu District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Masterton District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
New Plymouth District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Otorohanga District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Palmerston North District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
South Taranaki District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Taupo District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Thames-Coromandel District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Waimakariri District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Waipa District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Whakatane District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
Whanganui District Council	200,000	0.4%	200,000	0.4%
	45,000,000	100%	45,000,000	100%

13 Related parties

Identity of related parties

LGFA is related to the local authorities set out in the Shareholder Information in note 12.

LGFA operates under an annual Statement of Intent with the respective local authorities that sets out the intentions and expectations for LGFA's operations and lending to participating local authorities.

Shareholding local authorities, and non-shareholder local authorities who borrow more than \$20 million, are required to enter into a guarantee when they join or participate in LGFA. The guarantee is in respect of the payment obligations of other guaranteeing local authorities to the LGFA (cross guarantee) and of the LGFA itself.

Related party transactions

LGFA was established for the purpose of raising funds from the market to lend to participating councils. The lending to individual councils is disclosed in note 5, and interest income recognised on this lending is shown in the statement of comprehensive income.

The purchase of LGFA borrower notes by participating councils. Refer note 8.

The Treasury (New Zealand Debt Management) provides LGFA with a committed credit facility and is LGFA's derivatives counterparty.

Other disclosures

Net Tangible Assets

Net tangible assets per \$1,000 of listed bonds as at 31 December 2019 is \$7.54 (30 June 2019: \$7.95).

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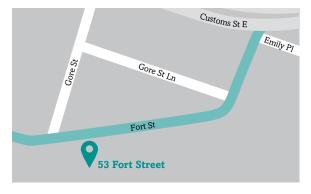
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