



# LGFA

## An overview

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) is an agency specialised in financing the New Zealand local government sector. LGFA was established to raise debt on behalf of local authorities ("councils") on terms that are more favourable to them than if they raised the debt directly.

LGFA was incorporated as a limited liability company under the Companies Act 1993 on 1 December 2011, following the enactment of the Local Government Borrowing Act 2011. As LGFA is majority owned by councils, it constitutes a "council-controlled organisation" under the Local Government Act 2002.

### CREDIT RATINGS

Domestic Currency AA+ / Foreign Currency AA (Positive Outlook) – Standard & Poor's  
Domestic Currency AA+ / Foreign Currency AA (Stable Outlook) – Fitch Ratings  
These credit ratings are the same as the New Zealand sovereign ratings.

### OWNERSHIP

As at 16 December 2019 LGFA had 45 million ordinary shares on issue, 20 million of which remain uncalled. There are currently 31 shareholders, comprising the New Zealand Government at 20% and 30 councils at 80%. Any councils wanting to become new shareholders are required to purchase shares from existing council shareholders.

### CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The capital structure of LGFA comprises fully paid shares, unpaid shares, retained earnings and borrower notes.

### BORROWER NOTES

Borrower Notes are subordinated convertible debt instruments which each council that borrows from LGFA must subscribe for (in an amount equal to 1.6% of the total borrowing from LGFA by that council) LGFA will redeem Borrower Notes when the councils' related borrowings are repaid or no longer owed to LGFA. Currently there are NZ\$152 million of Borrower Notes on issue.

### GUARANTEE STRUCTURE

LGFA's obligations in relation to its Securities issued are guaranteed by the councils that are Guarantors under the Guarantee. Other than the New Zealand Government, each shareholder in LGFA must be a Guarantor. In addition any council that borrows in aggregate NZ\$20 million or more from LGFA must be a Guarantor. The guarantee will be in favour of the obligations of LGFA. Any call under the guarantee will be allocated across all the guarantors on a pro rata basis in relation to their rates ("property tax") revenue.

### LIQUIDITY FACILITY

The New Zealand Debt Management Office provides LGFA with a committed liquidity facility. The facility has an initial term of 10 years from December 2011. The facility's maximum aggregate principal amount is set at NZ\$1 billion unless LGFA selects a lower amount; and will vary depending on LGFA's credit rating (the available facility may reduce if LGFA's credit rating decreases). LGFA has selected a maximum aggregate principal amount of NZ\$600 million for the period to February 2020.

#### AS AT 16 DECEMBER 2019

- Enabled by Local Government Borrowing Act 2011
- Owned by 30 Local Authorities and New Zealand Government
- Same credit rating as New Zealand Sovereign
- Supported by New Zealand Government liquidity facility
- RBNZ Repo Eligible
- NZD Bonds are listed on the NZX Debt Market

Year to June 30	Funding p.a. (NZ\$m)	Securities on issue (NZ\$m)
FY 2015	1,500	4,955
FY 2016	1,265	6,220
FY 2017	1,285	7,535
FY 2018	1,229	8,119
FY 2019	2,485	9,335
FY 2020	1,640 est.*	9,774 est.*
FY 2021	1,650 est.*	9,924 est.*
FY 2022	1,350 est.*	10,274 est.*

\*SOI FORECAST



NEW ZEALAND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
FUNDING AGENCY

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## FUNDING

LGFA operates with the primary objective of optimising the debt funding terms and conditions for participating councils. To date this has been undertaken via tender operations and mainly issuing bonds with identical coupons and maturities as NZ Government Bonds. As at 16 December 2019 there are NZ\$10.49 billion of LGFA bonds on issue across nine maturities. These bonds are listed on the NZX Debt market and to date LGFA has only issued in NZD.

LGFA also issues 3 month and 6 month LGFA Bills via monthly tenders and private placements. As at 16 December 2019 there are \$403 million LGFA Bills on issue.

### ABOUT NEW ZEALAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are 78 local authorities in New Zealand comprising:

**11 Regional Councils** – 7 in the North Island and 4 in the South Island;

**12 City Councils** – 8 in the North Island and 4 in the South Island;

**54 District Councils** – 34 in the North Island and 20 in the South Island;

**1 Unitary Territorial Authority** – Auckland Council

Councils in New Zealand provide water, wastewater, storm water, regional transport and rubbish collection services, local amenities and parks.

Councils typically borrow to fund infrastructure investment in those areas.

Summary financial statistics for the sector at June 2017 are:

**Total sector assets** of \$138.1 billion

**Total sector debt** of \$15.2 billion

**Total sector revenue** of \$9.5 billion

**Total rates (property tax) revenue** of \$5.6 billion

### LGFA PARTICIPANTS

- As at 16 December 2019 there are 65 Participating Local Authorities ("PLAs").
- There are 63 borrowers amongst the PLAs with MacKenzie District and Taranaki Regional the only non-Borrower.
- There are 53 Guarantors of LGFA. The only non-Guarantors (due to their small amount of borrowing) are Northland and West Coast Regional Councils and Grey, Central Hawkes Bay, Otago, Buller, Rangitikei, Stratford, Wairoa, MacKenzie, Clutha and Westland District Councils.
- There are 31 shareholders, comprising 30 councils (80% shareholding) and the New Zealand government (20% shareholding).
- Auckland Council is limited to a maximum of 40% of LGFA's total Local Authority assets.
- No more than the greater of NZ\$100 million or 33% of a council's borrowings from LGFA will mature in any 12 month period.
- The 65 council members cover 97% of New Zealand local government sector debt.

## NEW ZEALAND STATISTICS

**Population 4.94 million** as at December 2019

**Nominal GDP \$297 billion** as at June 2019

**Nominal GDP growth 2.4%** as at June 2019

**Nominal GDP per capita \$60,121** as at June 2019

**CPI inflation 1.5%** as at September 2019

**Unemployment rate 4.2%** as at September 2019

**Total merchandise exports \$59.4 billion** as at June 2019

**Total merchandise imports \$64.4 billion** as at June 2019

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### BORROWERS as at 16 December 2019

Lending	NZ\$ m	%
Auckland	2,407	22.8
Christchurch	1,912	18.6
Wellington	585	5.5
Tauranga	560	5.3
Greater Wellington	400	3.8
Hamilton	385	3.6
Bay of Plenty	262	2.5
Kapiti Coast	227	2.1
Tasman	218	2.1
Rotorua	194	1.8
53 others	3,366	31.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,568</b>	<b>100</b>

### LGFA Bonds on Issue as at 16 December 2019

Coupon	Maturity	NZ\$ m
3%	15/04/2020	1,030
6%	15/05/2021	1,500
2.75%	14/04/2022	950
5.5%	15/04/2023	1,500
2.25%	15/04/2024	1,165
2.75%	15/04/2025	1,459
4.5%	15/04/2027	1,326
1.5%	20/04/2029	560
3.5%	14/04/2033	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,490</b>

### Shareholders as at 16 December 2019 (Paid-Up)

Shareholders	%
New Zealand Government	20.00
Auckland	7.46
Christchurch	7.46
Hamilton	7.46
Bay of Plenty	7.46
Greater Wellington	7.46
Tasman	7.46
Tauranga	7.46
Wellington	7.46
Western Bay of Plenty	7.46
21 Others	12.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>