

# **Australia Council**

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## **Australia Council**

## Section 1: Entity overview and resources

#### 1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australia Council (the Council) is the Australian Government's principal arts investment, development, funding, and advisory body with a purpose to champion and invest in arts and creativity to benefit all Australians. The Council has a national leadership role in supporting and building Australia's cultural infrastructure by fostering excellence in the arts, increasing national and international engagement with Australian art and artists, and advocating for the social, cultural and economic value of arts and creativity. The Council achieves this by:

- investing in artists and organisations through grants, fellowships and awards that enable art to be created and experienced
- advocating for the social, cultural and economic value of the arts and creativity
- advising government on matters connected with the arts
- managing Government-directed initiatives and frameworks in support of the arts
- delivering strategic development activity that builds industry capacity, increases markets and audiences for Australian creative work and enables more people to be inspired by and benefit from their creative engagement
- conducting research and analysis that deepens the understanding of the role and value of arts and creativity
- encouraging, facilitating and recognising public sector, private sector, philanthropic and commercial support for, and investment, in the arts
- supporting artists, creative and cultural workers by providing advice on issues of pay, safety and welfare in the arts and culture sector
- collaborating with state, territory and local governments
- partnering with others to increase investment in and support for creativity.

#### Creative Australia

On 30 January 2023 the Australia Government launched the new National Cultural Policy, *Revive: A place for every story, a story for every place.* Under *Revive,* the functions of the Australia Council will significantly expand to deliver on key areas under the National Cultural Policy – including the establishment of independent bodies and funds for First Nations arts and culture, arts workers, contemporary music and for writers.

The *Australia Council Amendment (Creative Australia) Act* 2023 enables the Council to operate under the name Creative Australia and to commence work on Creative Workplaces and Music Australia from 1 July 2023. These bodies will be critical in building partnerships and expertise that will both support artists directly and benefit

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Australian audiences. Consultation with the sector will continue, and will inform a further Bill to establish governance arrangements that will be introduced later in 2023.

The Act also provides authority for Creative Australia to deliver the functions of Creative Partnerships Australia and assume responsibility for the Australian Cultural Fund from 1 July 2023. The transfer will leverage the Australia Council's expertise and unites arts philanthropy and arts funding within the one entity.

#### 1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total funding from all sources available to the Council for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by departmental (for the Council's operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the 'Budgeted expenses by Outcome 1' tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis.

Table 1.1: Australia Council resource statement — Budget estimates for 2023-24 as at Budget May 2023

	2022-23	2023-24
	Estimated	Estimate
	actual	
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	12,087	12,135
Funds from Government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services (a)		
Outcome 1	220,531	257,974
Total annual appropriations	220,531	257,974
Total funds from Government	220,531	257,974
Funds from other sources		
Interest	1,800	300
Sale of goods and services	10	-
Other	2,640	5,726
Total funds from other sources	4,450	6,026
Total net resourcing for Australia Council	237,068	276,135
	2022-23	2023-24
Average staffing level (number)	108	143

Prepared on a resourcing (that is, appropriations available) basis.

All figures shown above are GST exclusive - these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

Australia Council is not directly appropriated as it is a corporate Commonwealth entity. Appropriations are made to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (a non-corporate Commonwealth entity), which are then paid to Australia Council and are considered 'departmental' for all purposes.

<sup>(</sup>a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2023-24.

## 1.3 Budget measures

Budget measures relating to the Council are detailed in Budget Paper No. 2 and are summarised below.

Table 1.2: Australia Council 2023-24 Budget measures

Part 1: Measures announced since the 2022-23 October Budget

		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Program	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Receipt measure						
Revive - National Cultural Policy						
and Location Incentive	1.1					
Departmental receipts		-	526	539	550	562
Total		-	526	539	550	562
Total receipt measure						
Departmental		-	526	539	550	562
Total		-	526	539	550	562
Payment measure						
Revive - National Cultural Policy						
and Location Incentive	1.1					
Departmental payments		-	22,507	45,544	62,640	72,614
Total		-	22,507	45,544	62,640	72,614
Total payment measure						
Departmental		-	22,507	45,544	62,640	72,614
Total		-	22,507	45,544	62,640	72,614

Prepared on a Government Finance Statistics (Underlying Cash) basis.

Figures displayed as a negative (-) represent a decrease in funds and a positive (+) represent an increase in funds.

## Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

#### Note:

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance*, *Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance measure described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity's corporate plans and annual performance statements — included in annual reports — to provide a complete picture of an entity's planned and actual performance.

The most recent corporate plan for the Australia Council can be found at: <a href="https://australiacouncil.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ACA\_302079\_Corporate-Plan-2022-26.pdf">https://australiacouncil.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ACA\_302079\_Corporate-Plan-2022-26.pdf</a>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at: <a href="https://australiacouncil.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Annual-Report-2021-22\_Accessible-1.pdf">https://australiacouncil.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Annual-Report-2021-22\_Accessible-1.pdf</a>

## 2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Supporting Australian artists and arts organisations to create and present excellent art that is accessed by audiences across Australia and abroad

#### **Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1**

This table shows how much the Council intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual	•	estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Program 1.1: To champion and invest in	Australian art	s and creati	ivity		
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation					
Bill No. 1)	220,531	257,974	289,049	311,236	326,228
Revenues from other independent					
sources	4,450	6,026	5,439	6,050	5,462
Total expenses for Program 1.1	224,981	264,000	294,488	317,286	331,690
Outcome 1 totals by resource type					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation					
Bill No. 1)	220,531	257,974	289,049	311,236	326,228
Revenues from other independent					
sources	4,450	6,026	5,439	6,050	5,462
Total expenses for Outcome 1	224,981	264,000	294,488	317,286	331,690

#### Table 2.1.2: Performance measure for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 1. It also provides the related key activities as expressed in the current corporate plan where further detail is provided about the delivery of the activities related to the program, the context in which these activities are delivered and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of 2023-24 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

	Supporting Australian artists and arts ent art that is accessed by audiences			
Program 1.1 –	To champion and invest in Australian art evelop Australia's arts sector and raise the	s through grants and initiatives		
Key Activities	Administering the Governments' National Performing Arts Partnership Framework.  Administering Government programs, including National Regional Touring Programs and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy.  Undertaking research and knowledge management activity to inform policy and program analysis and awareness of Australia's arts sector.  Delivering an integrated suite of programs that support artists and arts organisations across the arts sector, including:  Peer assessed grant funding for individual artists, groups and arts organisations  Four Year core program funding for small-to-medium arts organisations  Strategic national and international market, audience and artistic development activity  Capacity building activity for arts leaders and organisations  First Nations arts initiatives.			
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results		
Current year 2022-23	Live attendances at Australia Council supported activities in Australia	Target: 15 million. Target expected to be met.		
	New Australian artistic works with a public			
	outcome (performed, exhibited, published or recorded) supported	Target: 4,500 works.  Target expected to be met.		
	outcome (performed, exhibited, published	<b>3</b> ,		
	outcome (performed, exhibited, published or recorded) supported  Number of applications for culturally diverse projects and events supported	Target expected to be met.  Target: 250 applications supported with \$10 million investment.		
	outcome (performed, exhibited, published or recorded) supported  Number of applications for culturally diverse projects and events supported and total amount invested  Number of applications for First Nations projects and events supported and total	Target expected to be met.  Target: 250 applications supported with \$10 million investment.  Target expected to be met.  Target: 180 applications supported with \$13 million investment.		
	outcome (performed, exhibited, published or recorded) supported  Number of applications for culturally diverse projects and events supported and total amount invested  Number of applications for First Nations projects and events supported and total amount invested	Target expected to be met.  Target: 250 applications supported with \$10 million investment.  Target expected to be met.  Target: 180 applications supported with \$13 million investment.  Target expected to be met.  Target: 5,700 works.		

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Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current year 2022-23 cont.	Number of countries where Australia Council supported arts activities are delivered	Target: 25 countries. Target expected to be met.
Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget year 2023-24	Live attendances at Australia Council supported activities in Australia	15 million.
	New Australian artistic works with a public outcome (performed, exhibited, published or recorded) supported	4,500 works.
	Number of applications for culturally diverse projects and events supported and total amount invested	250 applications supported with \$10 million investment.
	Number of applications for First Nations projects and events supported and total amount invested	180 applications supported with \$13 million investment.
	New Australian artworks supported	5,700 works.
	Total amount invested in projects creating new Australian artwork	\$7.5 million.
	Number of initiatives delivered that strengthen ties with other countries	15 initiatives.
	Number of countries where Australia Council supported arts activities are delivered	25 countries.
Forward Estimates 2024-27	As per 2023-24 This is to be reassessed for the next budget when there is more clarity on the impact of the National Cultural Policy and the transfer of functions from Creative Partnerships Australia	As per 2023-24 This is to be reassessed for the next budget when there is more clarity on the impact of the National Cultural Policy and the transfer of functions from Creative Partnerships Australia.

## Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of the Council's finances for the 2023-24 Budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

#### 3.1 Budgeted financial statements

#### 3.1.1 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

The Council's 2023-24 Budget has been built on the principle of a balanced, breakeven budget, that is, annual expense matches the annual revenue forecast to be received.

On 1 July 2023, the functions of Creative Partnerships Australia will transfer to the Council. The implementation of the National Cultural Policy - *Revive* will commence in 2023-24.

#### Comprehensive income statement

The Council's base appropriation will increase by \$37.5 million in 2023-24, from \$220.5 million to \$258.0 million. The increase is due to the transfer of functions from Creative Partnerships Australia to the Council (\$5.0 million), the implementation of Revive - National Cultural Policy (\$22.0 million), and indexation (net of the applicable annual efficiency dividend). The impact of Revive- National Cultural Policy is shown in section 1.3: Budget measures.

Other revenue of \$6.0 million for 2023–24 includes returned grant monies, interest income, donations to the Australian Cultural Fund and third-party income for the Venice Biennale and Creative Workplaces. Creative Workplaces is being established as part of the National Cultural Policy. The Australian Cultural Fund is a program being transferred in from Creative Partnerships Australia.

The Council's total expenses are budgeted at \$264.0 million, compared to \$225.0 million in 2022–23 and comprise:

- grant expenditure of \$223.3 million budgeted to support individual artists,
   National Performing Arts Partnership Framework organisations, small to medium
   arts organisations and for initiatives to increase national and international
   audiences and markets for Australian arts. Budgeted expenditure will increase by
   \$30.3 million, due to indexation, the implementation of the National Cultural
   Policy (notably Music Australia and the restoration of the 2014 funding cuts to the
   Australia Council) and the transfer of functions from Creative Partnerships
   Australia (including the Australian Cultural Fund).
- supplier expenses of \$18.2 million, will increase by \$3.6 million in 2023–24 as decreases in expenditure for Purrumpa and the Whole of Government Cost Saving measure are offset by expenditure related to Revive National Cultural Policy

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funding and Creative Partnership Australia functions.

- employee benefits expense of \$19.9 million, will increase by \$5.0 million in 2023-24 due to additional employees relating to the commencement of the National Cultural Policy and the transfer of functions from Creative Partnership Australia, together with expected annual salary increases.
- depreciation and amortisation expenses of \$2.5 million in 2023-24 are \$0.1 million higher than 2022-23 due to capital expenditure in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

#### **Budgeted Departmental balance sheet**

Financial assets are budgeted at \$23.2 million with cash and cash equivalent balances expected to be \$21.2 million by the end of the year. This includes cash balances transferred from Creative Partnerships Australia.

Non-financial assets are budgeted to decrease to \$20.7 million due to depreciation of \$2.5 million offsetting capital expenditure of \$0.8 million.

The capital expenditure investment in 2023–24 is predominantly business systems and equipment.

Reserves (other than retained surplus), increase by \$6.4 million to \$16.1 million at 30 June 2024 and comprise \$6.3 million of private sector donation income received for the rebuild of the Venice Pavilion (completed in 2015), \$3.4 million in the asset revaluation reserve and \$6.4 million from Creative Partnerships Australia (includes \$5.8 million for the Australian Cultural Fund).

#### **Budgeted financial statements tables** 3.2

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual		estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	14,870	19,868	21,338	23,267	24,465
Suppliers	14,621	18,181	20,393	23,626	25,617
Grants	192,958	223,343	250,063	267,648	278,833
Depreciation and amortisation	2,404	2,498	2,602	2,674	2,725
Finance costs	128	110	92	71	50
Total expenses	224,981	264,000	294,488	317,286	331,690
LESS:					
OW N-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Interest	1,800	300	300	300	300
Sublease income	10	-	-	-	
Other	2,640	5,726	5,139	5,750	5,162
Total own-source revenue	4,450	6,026	5,439	6,050	5,462
Total own-source income	4,450	6,026	5,439	6,050	5,462
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(220,531)	(257,974)	(289,049)	(311,236)	(326,228)
Revenue from Government	220,531	257,974	289,049	311,236	326,228
Total comprehensive income/(loss)					
44 11 4 1 1 4 41 4 4 11					
attributable to the Australian					
Government	-	-	-	-	-
Government lote: Impact of net cash appropriation arr	angements	-	-	-	
Government Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arr Total comprehensive income/(loss) -	angements	-	-	-	
Government lote: Impact of net cash appropriation arr Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of comprehensive	angements	-	-	-	
Government Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arr Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of comprehensive income	angements -	-	-	-	
Government Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arr Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of comprehensive income plus: depreciation/amortisation	-	- 1 584	- 1 584	- 1 584	1 58/
Government Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arr Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of comprehensive income	1,584 (1,456)	- 1,584 (1,547)	- 1,584 (1,642)	- 1,584 (1,742)	1,584 (1,845

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.
(a) Applies to leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual	Daagot	estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	12,135	21,231	21,944	22,730	22,718
Trade and other receivables	1,834	1,973	1,973	1,973	1,973
Total financial assets	13,969	23,204	23,917	24,703	24,691
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	18,323	16,267	14,214	12,159	10,105
Property, plant and equipment	3,309	3,632	3,435	3,140	3,447
Intangibles	68	146	167	155	151
Prepayments	609	627	627	627	627
Total non-financial assets	22,309	20,672	18,443	16,081	14,330
Total assets	36,278	43,876	42,360	40,784	39,021
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	788	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236
Grants	2,724	2,724	2,724	2,724	2,724
Other payables	1,597	1,597	1,597	1,597	1,597
Total payables	5,109	5,557	5,557	5,557	5,557
Interest-bearing liabilities					
Leases	11,145	9,598	7,956	6,214	4,369
Total interest bearing liabilities	11,145	9,598	7,956	6,214	4,369
Provisions					
Employee provisions	2,246	2,850	2,976	3,142	3,224
Other provisions	770	770	770	770	770
Total provisions	3,016	3,620	3,746	3,912	3,994
Total liabilities	19,270	18,775	17,259	15,683	13,920
Net assets	17,008	25,101	25,101	25,101	25,101
EQUITY					
Reserves	9,688	16,090	16,090	16,090	16,090
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	7,320	9,011	9,011	9,011	9,011
Total equity	17,008	25,101	25,101	25,101	25,101

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity — summary of movement (Budget year 2023-24)

movement (budget year 2023-24)				
	Retained	Asset	Other	Total
	earnings	revaluation	reserves	equity
		reserve		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2023				
Balance carried forward from previous period Adjustment for transfer of functions from	7,320	3,365	6,323	17,008
Creative Partnerships Australia	1,691	-	6,402	8,093
Adjusted opening balance	9,011	3,365	12,725	25,101
Estimated closing balance as at				
30 June 2024	9,011	3,365	12,725	25,101
Closing balance attributable to the			·	
Australian Government	9,011	3,365	12,725	25,101

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

30 June)					
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual	<b>#</b> 1000	estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	220,531	257,974	289,049	311,236	326,228
Interest	1,800	300	300	300	300
Net GST received	18,682	21,737	24,341	26,215	27,400
Other	2,650	5,587	5,139	5,750	5,162
Total cash received	243,663	285,598	318,829	343,501	359,090
Cash used					
Employees	14,870	19,263	21,213	23,101	24,382
Suppliers	15,937	19,387	22,228	25,752	27,923
Interest payments on lease liability	128	110	92	71	50
Other	210,324	243,444	272,569	291,736	303,928
Total cash used	241,259	282,204	316,102	340,660	356,283
Net cash from/(used by) operating				,	
activities	2,404	3,394	2,727	2,841	2,807
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and					
equipment and intangibles	900	844	372	313	974
Total cash used	900	844	372	313	974
Net cash from/(used by) investing					
activities	(900)	(844)	(372)	(313)	(974)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received	-	8,093	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	8,093	-	-	-
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	1,456	1,547	1,642	1,742	1,845
Total cash used	1,456	1,547	1,642	1,742	1,845
Net cash from/(used by) financing	.,	1,0 11	-,	-,	.,
activities	(1,456)	6,546	(1,642)	(1,742)	(1,845)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	48	9,096	713	786	(12)
Cash and cash equivalents at the					` ,
beginning of the reporting period	12,087	12,135	21,231	21,944	22,730
Cash and cash equivalents at the end					
of the reporting period	12,135	21,231	21,944	22,730	22,718

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

Table 0.0. Departmental oupliar be		the period chaca ob durie,			
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual		estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL					
ASSETS					
Funded internally from departmental					
resources <sup>(a)</sup>	900	844	372	313	974
TOTAL	900	844	372	313	974
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO					
ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET					
MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	900	844	372	313	974
Total cash used to acquire assets	900	844	372	313	974

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Funded from annual appropriations and may include donations and contributions, gifts, internally generated assets, and proceeds from the sale of assets.

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (Budget year 2023-24)

	Asset Category						
<del>-</del>	Land	Buildings	Other	Computer	Total		
			property,	software			
			plant and	and			
			equipment	intangibles			
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000		
As at 1 July 2023							
Gross book value	149	9,294	5,697	916	16,056		
Gross book value - ROU assets	-	15,835	=	-	15,835		
Accumulated depreciation/							
amortisation and impairment	-	(890)	(2,388)	(848)	(4,126)		
Accumulated depreciation/							
amortisation and impairment - ROU assets		(6,066)			(6,066)		
	440	, ,	2 200	-	, ,		
Opening net book balance	149	18,173	3,309	68	21,699		
Capital asset additions							
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets							
By purchase - appropriation ordinary							
annual services (a)	_	_	724	120	844		
Total additions			724	120	844		
_			124	120	044		
Other movements		(474)	(404)	(40)	(04.4)		
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(471)	(401)	(42)	(914)		
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	_	(1,584)			(1,584)		
Total other movements		(2,055)	(401)	(42)	(2,498)		
As at 30 June 2024		(2,033)	(401)	(42)	(2,490)		
Gross book value	149	0.204	6 404	1.006	16,000		
	149	9,294	6,421	1,036	16,900		
Gross book value - ROU assets	-	15,835	-	-	15,835		
Accumulated depreciation/		(1,361)	(2.790)	(890)	(E 040)		
amortisation and impairment Accumulated	-	(1,301)	(2,789)	(090)	(5,040)		
depreciation/amortisation and							
impairment - ROU assets	_	(7,650)	_	-	(7,650)		
Closing net book balance	149	16,118	3,632	146	20,045		

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2022-23 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, departmental capital budgets or other operational expenses.