

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Entity resources and planned performance

Australian Communications and Media Authority

SECTION 1: ENTITY OVERVIEW AND RESOURCES	149
1.1 Strategic direction statement	149
1.2 Entity resource statement	151
1.3 Budget measures.....	153
SECTION 2: OUTCOMES AND PLANNED PERFORMANCE	154
2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1.....	155
SECTION 3: BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	163
3.1 Budgeted financial statements.....	163
3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables	164

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is Australia's regulator for telecommunications, broadcasting, radiocommunications, unsolicited communications and certain online content. The ACMA's purpose is to contribute to maximising the economic and social benefits of communications infrastructure, content and services for Australia, ACMA does this by:

- maintaining, enforcing, and improving regulation to drive industry performance and protect consumers
- managing public resources to enable industry to deliver services to the community.

Australians rely on communications networks, broadcasting and online media, and digital technologies to access information and essential services. This reliance does, however, increase the risks that Australians are exposed to, such as the impact of exposure to mis and disinformation online and threats of identity theft.

Interconnectivity and communications mobility are integral to the lives of all Australians and there is growing demand for larger amounts of data and faster, more reliable internet connections, requiring significant, ongoing infrastructure investments by telecommunications companies.

The ongoing growth in consumer use of digital platforms continues to cause disruption to consumption of traditional broadcast media. Boundaries between digital platforms and traditional broadcast media are increasingly blurred and there is a greater focus on the appropriate regulatory framework for content delivered over all platforms.

To achieve the outcome of 'a communications and media environment that balances the needs of the industry and the Australian community through regulation, education and advice' the ACMA has adopted the following two key activities that are outlined in its Corporate Plan:

- support an efficient and reliable communications infrastructure
- build consumer trust in the use of communications content and services.

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is Australia's independent regulator for online safety. eSafety fosters online safety by exercising its powers under Australian Government legislation, primarily the *Online Safety Act 2021*, to protect Australians from serious online harms.

eSafety achieves its purpose through three key pillars: prevention; protection; and promoting proactive and systemic change.

- **Prevention:** Using a solid evidence base, eSafety designs and delivers educational materials to prevent online harms, working with key sectors and community members to build user capability and resilience through training programs, awareness raising and referrals.
- **Protection:** eSafety remediates online harms through investigations and regulatory schemes, working with industry to build accountability and compliance in response to reported and identified harms.
- **Promoting proactive and systemic change:** eSafety promotes proactive and systemic change, working with online industries, users, educators, governments and their agencies to reduce the threat surface for online harms, lift overall standards of online safety across industry and to deliver more positive online experiences for Australians.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total funding from all sources available to the ACMA 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 administered (on behalf of the Government or the public) and departmental (for the ACMA's operations) classification.

For more detailed information on special accounts and special appropriations, please refer to *Budget Paper No. 4 – Agency Resourcing*.

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: ACMA resource statement — Budget estimates for 2023-24 as at Budget May 2023

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Estimate \$'000
Departmental		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services ^(a)		
Prior year appropriations available	48,384	48,384
Departmental appropriation ^(b)	128,581	137,223
s74 External Revenue ^(c)	100	100
Departmental capital budget ^(d)	8,102	15,491
Equity injection ^(e)	-	2,000
Total Departmental annual appropriations	185,167	203,198
Special accounts ^(f)		
Opening balance	12,513	12,513
Appropriation receipts ^(g)	41,462	37,340
Total special accounts	53,975	49,853
less departmental appropriations drawn from annual/special appropriations and credited to special accounts	41,462	37,340
Total Departmental resourcing	197,680	215,711

Table 1.1: ACMA resource statement — Budget estimates for 2023-24 as at Budget May 2023 (continued)

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Estimate \$'000
Administered		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services ^(a)		
Prior year appropriations available	-	500
Outcome 1	8,214	6,020
Total administered annual appropriations	8,214	6,520
Administered special appropriations		
Outcome 1 ^(h)	24,300	8,300
Total administered special appropriations	24,300	8,300
Total administered resourcing	32,514	14,820
Total resourcing for the ACMA	230,194	230,531
	2022-23	2023-24
Average staffing level (number)	525	602

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.

- (a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2023-24.
- (b) Excludes Departmental Capital Budget (DCB).
- (c) Estimated external revenue receipts under section 74 of the PGPA Act.
- (d) Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No. 1) and form part of ordinary annual services items. Please refer to Table 3.5 for further details. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.
- (e) Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2023-24.
- (f) Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (SOETM) and other special accounts. For further information on special accounts, please refer to Budget Paper No. 4 - Agency Resourcing. Please also see Table 2.1.1 for further information on outcome and program expenses broken down by various funding sources, e.g. annual appropriations, special appropriations and special accounts.
- (g) Amounts credited to the special accounts from the ACMA's annual and special appropriations.
- (h) Includes section 77 refunds under the PGPA Act which are not included as expenditure.

1.3 Budget measures

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

Table 1.2: ACMA 2023-24 Budget measures

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

	Program	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000
Payment measures						
Fighting Scams ^(a)	1.2					
Departmental payments		-	4,313	2,043	2,063	2,081
Total		-	4,313	2,043	2,063	2,081
Minimising Online Gambling Harms ^(b)	1.2					
Departmental payments		-	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
Total		-	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
Online Safety ^(c)	1.1,1.2,					
Departmental payments	1.3	-	32,242	32,868	33,291	33,674
Total		-	32,242	32,868	33,291	33,674
Regulatory Powers to Combat Misinformation and Disinformation	1.2					
Departmental payments		-	2,264	1,894	1,854	1,870
Total		-	2,264	1,894	1,854	1,870
Total Payment measures						
Departmental		-	38,819	36,805	37,208	37,625
Total		-	38,819	36,805	37,208	37,625

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.

- (a) The lead entity for this measure is the Department of the Treasury. The full measure description and package details appear in the Budget Paper No. 2 under the Treasury portfolio. This measure includes \$2.0 million in equity injections funding in 2023-24.
- (b) The financial implications for this measure are not for publication (nfp) due to commercial sensitivities and not included in the totals.
- (c) Includes capital funding of \$1.8 million ongoing from 2023-24.

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 measures 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 ACMA can be found at:

<https://www.acma.gov.au/publications/2022-08/plan/corporate-plan-2022-23>

The most recent corporate plan for eSafety can be found at:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/corporate-plan-2022-23>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at:

<https://www.acma.gov.au/publications/2021-10/report/australian-communications-and-media-authority-and-office-esafety-commissioner-annual-report-2020-21>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: A communications and media environment that balances the needs of the industry and the Australian community through regulation, education and advice

Linked programs

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Programs

- Program 5.1 – Digital Technologies and Communications Services Program

Contribution to Outcome 1 made by linked program

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the Department) has responsibility for policy development and advice to promote an innovative and competitive communications sector including administering Portfolio legislation efficiently and effectively.

As the regulator of the media and communications sector, the ACMA ensures compliance with the Government’s policies and legislation, including:

- the administration of the Telecommunications Industry Levy under *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* and the *Telecommunications (Industry Levy) Act 2012* for the funding of public interest telecommunications services
- recouping costs of the Consumer Representation Grants Program allocated to the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) under section 593 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and costs related to the management of Australia’s membership and engagement with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), from licensed carriers under the *Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997*
- the administration of the Regional Broadband Scheme under the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* and *Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Act 2020*

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

This table shows how much the ACMA intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program, as well as by administered and departmental funding sources.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: Communications regulation, planning and licensing					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	50	50	50	50	50
Administered total	50	50	50	50	50
Departmental expenses					
Departmental appropriation	45,268	47,956	47,863	48,378	48,207
s74 External Revenue ^(a)	52	52	52	52	52
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ^(b)	3,412	3,412	3,412	3,412	3,413
Departmental total	48,732	51,420	51,328	51,842	51,672
Total expenses for program 1.1	48,782	51,470	51,378	51,892	51,722
Program 1.2: Consumer safeguards, education and information					
Administered expenses					
Special appropriations					
Telecommunications Act 1997 ^(c)	300	300	300	300	300
Administered total	300	300	300	300	300
Departmental expenses					
Departmental appropriation	41,786	44,267	44,182	44,656	44,499
s74 External Revenue ^(a)	48	48	48	48	48
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ^(b)	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,150
Departmental total	44,984	47,465	47,379	47,854	47,697
Total expenses for program 1.2	45,284	47,765	47,679	48,154	47,997
Program 1.3: Office of the eSafety Commissioner					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	6,214	6,520	2,500	2,500	2,500
Administered total	6,214	6,520	2,500	2,500	2,500
Departmental expenses					
Departmental appropriation	41,223	44,371	46,363	47,430	42,691
Special accounts					
Appropriation receipts less expenses made from appropriations credited to special accounts ^(d)	41,462	37,340	39,360	40,445	35,722
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ^(b)	(41,462)	(37,340)	(39,360)	(40,445)	(35,722)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ^(b)	290	290	290	290	290
Departmental total	41,513	44,661	46,653	47,720	42,981
Total expenses for program 1.3	47,727	51,181	49,153	50,220	45,481

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1 (continued)

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
Outcome 1 Totals by appropriation type					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services Appropriation Bill No. 1)	6,264	6,570	2,550	2,550	2,550
Special appropriations ^(c)	300	300	300	300	300
Total Administered expenses	6,564	6,870	2,850	2,850	2,850
Departmental expenses					
Departmental appropriation	128,277	136,594	138,408	140,464	135,397
s74 External Revenue ^(a)	100	100	100	100	100
Special accounts					
Appropriation receipts less expenses made from appropriations credited to special accounts ^(d)	41,462 (41,462)	37,340 (37,340)	39,360 (39,360)	40,445 (40,445)	35,722 (35,722)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ^(b)	6,852	6,852	6,852	6,852	6,853
Total Departmental expenses	135,229	143,546	145,360	147,416	142,350
Total expenses for Outcome 1	141,793	150,416	148,210	150,266	145,200
Movement of administered funds between years					
	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
Outcome 1:					
Program 1.3: Office of the eSafety Commissioner	(2,000)	500	500	500	500
Total movement of administered funds	(2,000)	500	500	500	500
Average staffing level (number)					
	2022-23	2023-24			
	525	602			

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

- (a) Estimated expenses incurred in relation to receipts retained under section 74 of the PGPA Act 2013.
- (b) Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation expenses, and amortisation expenses.
- (c) The ACMA receives funds through Special Appropriations for refunds under the PGPA Act — s77 and funding for 'Other Trust Monies' which, when used, are not expensed and therefore not included in this table.
- (d) Appropriations credited to the Online Safety Special Account excludes expenses met directly by the ACMA, and includes Departmental Capital Budget (DCB).

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the Budget year as government priorities change.

Table 2.1.2: Performance measures 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.

Outcome 1 – A communications and media environment that balances the needs of the industry and the Australian community through regulation, education and advice.		
Program 1.1 – Communications regulation, planning and licensing This program contributes to the outcome by the allocation and use of Australia’s critical public resources, radiofrequency spectrum and telephone numbers, to maximise their value to the Australian community.		
Key Activities	Support an efficient and reliable communications infrastructure.	
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current year 2022-23	The ACMA’s spectrum planning, allocation and licensing activity meets the needs of the communications industry	Target achieved.
	The ACMA’s contribution to the international spectrum framework supports the needs of the Australian communications industry	Target achieved.
	The ACMA’s activities contribute to telecommunications infrastructure providers having confidence that they are appropriately authorised and enabled to provide communication services	Target achieved.
Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget year 2023-24	The ACMA’s spectrum planning, allocation and licensing activity meets the needs of the communications industry	The spectrum management work program is informed by ACMA’s consultation with spectrum users, industry and government. The progress of delivering the spectrum management work program is published every 6 months. Apparatus licensing issue and renewal decisions meet the statutory requirements. Major spectrum allocations are held effectively. The ACMA’s communications infrastructure compliance activities are informed by a risk-based assessment of harm.

Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget year 2023-24 cont.	The ACMA's contribution to the international spectrum framework supports the needs of the Australian communications industry	Australia's international engagement activities are informed by the ACMA's consultation with industry and government. The ACMA's international engagement activities at International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and regional meetings support Australia's interests.
	The ACMA's activities contribute to telecommunications infrastructure providers having confidence that they are appropriately authorised and enabled to provide communication services	Telecommunications carrier licensing and submarine cable permit activities meet statutory requirements. Equipment regulation appropriately mitigates the risk of harm to communications networks and people using or working on those networks. Numbering services are available 99% of the time and 99.9% of numbering transactions are processed within 5 seconds.
Forward Estimates 2024-27	As per 2023-24	As per 2023-24.

Program 1.2- Consumer safeguards, education and information		
This program contributes to the outcome by ensuring efficient, effective and contemporary safeguards protect users of media and communication services so that the Australian community can confidently use those services.		
Key Activities	Build consumer trust in the use of communications content and services.	
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current year 2022-23	The ACMA's activities contribute to Australian consumers having confidence in the content and services available to them	Target expected to be met.
	The ACMA's activities contribute to Australian consumers having access to diverse media content and services	Target achieved.
	The ACMA's activities contribute to Australians' access to a competitive telecommunications market	Target achieved.

Budget 2023–24 | Portfolio Budget Statements

Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget year 2023-24	The ACMA's activities contribute to Australian consumers having confidence in the content and services available to them	80% or more of surveyed consumers report having confidence in the content and services available to them. BetStop, the national self-exclusion register, data checking service is available to the wagering industry 99.95% or more of the time for the year. The Do Not Call Register (DNCR) is available to the Australian public 99.5% or more of the time. 95% or more of investigations undertaken are completed within 6 months of the investigation being opened. The ACMA's compliance priorities concerning media and content services are on track or implemented on time.
	The ACMA's activities contribute to Australian consumers having access to diverse media content and services	Enforcement decisions to accept or give agreed measures, enforceable undertakings (EUs), remedial directions or injunctions deliver improved compliance by the relevant regulated entity. Community broadcasting licence renewal decisions are made within the statutory timeframes. Media control notifications and caption order applications are processed within statutory timeframes. Annual compliance results for Australian content and captioning reporting are finalised within 6 months of reports being received.
	The ACMA's activities contribute to Australians' access to a competitive telecommunications market	The ACMA's compliance priorities concerning telecommunications services are on track. Enforcement decisions to accept or give agreed measures, EUs, remedial directions or injunctions deliver improved compliance by the relevant regulated entity.
Forward Estimates 2024-27	As per 2023-24	As per 2023-24.
Material changes to Program 1.2 resulting from 2023-24 Budget Measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Powers to Combat Misinformation and Disinformation and Online Harms • Fighting Scams • Minimising Online Gambling Harms 		

Program 1.3 – The eSafety Commissioner		
To help safeguard all Australians from online harms and to promote safer, more positive online experiences.		
Key Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using a solid evidence base, eSafety designs and delivers educational materials to prevent online harms, working with key sectors and community members to build user capability and resilience through training programs, awareness raising and referrals. eSafety remediates online harms through our investigations and regulatory schemes, working with industry to build accountability and compliance in response to reported and identified harms. eSafety promotes proactive and systemic change, working with online industries, users, educators, governments and their agencies to reduce the threat surface for online harms, lift overall standards of online safety across industry and to deliver a more positive online experience. 	
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current year 2022-23	Australians are enabled by education, training and resources to prevent online harms	Target achieved.
	Educational programs, strategies and tools are based on an understanding of the specific needs of groups most at risk of online harm	Target achieved.
	eSafety's regulatory decision-making across our four reporting schemes is proportionate, consistent, fair and informed by evidence	Target achieved.
	eSafety takes effective action to remove material causing online harms.	Target achieved.
	Industry codes are registered, or industry standards are determined	Target achieved.
	The Basic Online Safety Expectations are operationalised	Target achieved.
Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget year 2023-24	Number of participants in front-line and professional learning training sessions	Greater than, or equal to, 10,100 participants in front-line and professional learning training sessions.
	Number of unique visitors to eSafety websites	Greater than, or equal to, 1.5million unique visitors to eSafety websites.
	Proportion of Be Connected learners satisfied with training courses	At least 90% of Be Connected learners satisfied with training courses.
	Proportion of resources informed by research and insights and involve co-design or collaboration with targeted cohorts and/or advocates	100% of resources informed by research and insights and involve co-design or collaboration with targeted cohorts and/or advocates.
	Publication of research reports and papers that build the evidence base relating to online safety for Australians	Publication of 6 research reports and papers that build the evidence base relating to online safety for Australians.

Budget 2023–24 | Portfolio Budget Statements

Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget year 2023-24 cont.	Proportion of participants in front-line professional learning training sessions rating eSafety's educational material and training as relevant or very relevant to their role	At least 90% of participants in front-line professional learning training sessions rating eSafety's educational material and training as relevant or very relevant to their role.
	Proportion of Child Cyberbullying (CB) and Adult Cyber Abuse (ACA) complaints or reports received, triaged and assigned to an investigator within 3-hour timeframe	At least 70% of CB and ACA complaints or reports received, triaged and assigned to an investigator within 3-hour timeframe.
	Proportion of Image-Based Abuse (IBA) complaints or reports responded to within two business days	At least 90% of IBA complaints or reports responded to within two business days.
	Proportion of critical Online Content Scheme (OCS) investigations finalised within two business days	At least 90% of critical OCS investigations finalised within two business days.
	Proportion of total IBA, ACA and CB complaints where material is removed	At least 80% of IBA, ACA and CB complaints have material removed.
	Proportion of industry sections with industry codes registered, or industry standards determined, for Class 1 material	100% of industry sections have industry codes registered, or industry standards determined, for Class 1 material.
	Issuing of non-periodic reporting notices	Issue 10 non-periodic reporting notices.
	Issuing of periodic reporting notices	Issue 1 set of 5 periodic notices across a 24-month period.
Forward Estimates 2024-27	As per 2023-24	As per 2023-24.
Material changes to Program 1.3 resulting from 2023-24 Budget Measure.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Safety 		

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of the ACMA'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 ACMA is budgeting for a break-even position in 2023-24 and the forward estimates, excluding depreciation and amortisation expenses, and adjustments for leases under the AASB 16 Leases accounting standard.

Through the 2023-24 Budget, the ACMA has been appropriated for four additional measures relating to powers to combat misinformation and disinformation, to fight SMS scams, to continue support the Minimising Online Gambling Harms, and additional funding for the Office of the eSafety Commissioner. These measures provide an additional \$38.8 million in departmental operating funding and capital funding to the ACMA in 2023-24.

The ACMA completed the 850/900MHz spectrum auction in December 2021. This auction will raise \$2.1 billion in cash receipts to Consolidated Revenue in 2023-24, with the administered revenue recognised the following year on the commencement of these 20-year licences on 1 July 2024. The outcome of the auction is initially recognised as a gain in accordance with AASB 138 Intangible Assets, and subsequently treated as a finance lease from the commencement of the licence under AASB 16 Leases. All proceeds from auctions are returned to consolidated revenue by the ACMA.

3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables

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

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	78,963	94,341	96,723	97,685	98,639
Suppliers	40,422	33,433	32,941	35,310	30,552
Depreciation and amortisation ^(a)	15,296	15,296	15,296	14,086	12,877
Finance costs	548	476	400	335	282
Total expenses	135,229	143,546	145,360	147,416	142,350
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	100	100	100	100	100
Total own-source revenue	100	100	100	100	100
Total own-source income	100	100	100	100	100
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(135,129)	(143,446)	(145,260)	(147,316)	(142,250)
Revenue from Government	128,581	137,223	139,375	141,551	136,559
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(6,548)	(6,223)	(5,885)	(5,765)	(5,691)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(6,548)	(6,223)	(5,885)	(5,765)	(5,691)
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements					
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of comprehensive income	(6,548)	(6,223)	(5,885)	(5,765)	(5,691)
plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (Departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ^(a)	6,852	6,852	6,852	6,852	6,852
plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets ^(b)	8,444	8,444	8,444	7,234	6,024
less: lease principal repayments ^(b)	(8,748)	(9,073)	(9,411)	(8,321)	(7,185)
Net cash operating surplus/ (deficit)	-	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where Bill 1 revenue appropriations for the depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities (and select corporate Commonwealth entities) were replaced with a separate capital budget provided through Bill 1 equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, please refer to Table 3.5 Departmental capital budget statement.
- (b) Applies to lease arrangements under AASB 16 Leases.

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

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	13,161	13,161	13,161	13,161	13,161
Trade and other receivables	49,329	49,329	49,329	49,329	49,329
Total financial assets	62,490	62,490	62,490	62,490	62,490
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	58,282	50,210	39,842	30,689	22,749
Property, plant and equipment	3,304	2,590	2,615	2,640	4,338
Intangibles	19,976	30,957	40,521	47,038	49,353
Other non-financial assets	3,973	3,973	3,973	3,973	3,973
Total non-financial assets	85,535	87,730	86,951	84,340	80,413
Total assets	148,025	150,220	149,441	146,830	142,903
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	5,554	5,554	5,554	5,554	5,554
Other payables	2,773	2,773	2,773	2,773	2,773
Total payables	8,327	8,327	8,327	8,327	8,327
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	55,710	46,637	37,226	28,905	21,720
Total interest bearing liabilities	55,710	46,637	37,226	28,905	21,720
Provisions					
Employee provisions	20,900	20,900	20,900	20,900	20,900
Other provisions	2,758	2,758	2,758	2,758	2,758
Total provisions	23,658	23,658	23,658	23,658	23,658
Total liabilities	87,695	78,622	69,211	60,890	53,705
Net assets	60,330	71,598	80,230	85,940	89,198
EQUITY					
Contributed equity	165,126	182,617	197,134	208,609	217,559
Reserves	2,175	2,175	2,175	2,175	2,174
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	(106,971)	(113,194)	(119,079)	(124,844)	(130,535)
Total equity	60,330	71,598	80,230	85,940	89,198

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	Retained earnings \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve \$'000	Contributed equity/ capital \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2023				
Balance carried forward from previous period	(106,971)	2,175	165,126	60,330
Adjusted opening balance	(106,971)	2,175	165,126	60,330
Comprehensive income				
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(6,223)	-	-	(6,223)
Total comprehensive income	(6,223)	-	-	(6,223)
Contributions by owners				
Equity Injection - Appropriation	-	-	2,000	2,000
Departmental Capital Budget (DCB)	-	-	15,491	15,491
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	17,491	17,491
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2024	-	-	17,491	17,491
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	(113,194)	2,175	182,617	71,598

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	128,581	137,223	139,375	141,551	136,559
Sale of goods and rendering of services	100	100	100	100	100
Net GST received	3,169	3,169	3,169	3,169	3,169
Total cash received	131,850	140,492	142,644	144,820	139,828
Cash used					
Employees	78,963	94,341	96,723	97,685	98,639
Suppliers	43,135	36,602	36,110	38,479	33,722
Interest payments on lease liability	548	476	400	335	282
Total cash used	122,646	131,419	133,233	136,499	132,643
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	9,204	9,073	9,411	8,321	7,185
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Total cash used	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(8,102)	(17,491)	(14,517)	(11,475)	(8,950)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Contributed equity	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Total cash received	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	8,748	9,073	9,411	8,321	7,185
Total cash used	8,748	9,073	9,411	8,321	7,185
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(646)	8,418	5,106	3,154	1,765
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	456	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	12,705	13,161	13,161	13,161	13,161
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	13,161	13,161	13,161	13,161	13,161

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
NEW CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS					
Capital budget - Bill 1 (DCB)	8,102	15,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Equity injections - Bill 2	-	2,000	-	-	-
Total new capital appropriations	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Provided for:					
Purchase of non-financial assets	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Total items	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
ASSETS					
Funded by capital appropriation – DCB ^(a)	8,102	15,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Funded by capital appropriation - equity injection ^(b)	-	2,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950
Total cash used to acquire assets	8,102	17,491	14,517	11,475	8,950

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) Does not include annual finance lease costs. Includes purchases from current and previous years' DCBs.
- (b) Does not include annual finance lease costs. Includes purchases from current year's Departmental equity injection.

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

	Asset Category				Total
	Land	Buildings	Other property, plant and equipment	Computer software and intangibles	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2023					
Gross book value	1,595	17,420	8,001	67,435	94,451
Gross book value - ROU assets	-	78,545	-	-	78,545
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(19,232)	(4,697)	(47,459)	(71,388)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	-	(20,046)	-	-	(20,046)
Opening net book balance	1,595	56,687	3,304	19,976	81,562
Capital asset additions					
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets					
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services ^(a)	-	2,661	1,775	11,055	15,491
By purchase - Appropriation equity ^(b)	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Total additions	-	2,661	1,775	13,055	17,491
Other movements					
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(2,289)	(1,489)	(3,074)	(6,852)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	-	(8,444)	-	-	(8,444)
Reclassification	-	-	(1,000)	1,000	-
Total other movements	-	(10,733)	(2,489)	(2,074)	(15,296)
As at 30 June 2024					
Gross book value	1,595	20,081	8,776	79,490	109,942
Gross book value - ROU assets	-	78,545	-	-	78,545
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(21,521)	(6,186)	(50,533)	(78,240)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	-	(28,490)	-	-	(28,490)
Closing net book balance	1,595	48,615	2,590	28,957	81,757

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2023-24 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, Departmental capital budget or other operational expenses.
- (b) 'Appropriation equity' refers to equity injections appropriations provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2023-24.

Table 3.7: Schedule of budgeted income and expenses administered on behalf of Government (for the period ended 30 June)

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Suppliers	4,264	4,320	300	300	300
Grants	2,250	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Other expenses	50	50	50	50	50
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government	6,564	6,870	2,850	2,850	2,850
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Taxation revenue					
Other taxes	1,262,953	1,284,881	1,306,964	1,347,329	1,365,100
Total taxation revenue	1,262,953	1,284,881	1,306,964	1,347,329	1,365,100
Non-taxation revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	17,259	17,804	17,479	17,479	12,922
Fees and fines	37,659	37,413	37,324	37,324	35,513
Interest	1,570	1,179	787	396	-
Total non-taxation revenue	56,488	56,396	55,590	55,199	48,435
Total own-source revenue administered on behalf of Government	1,319,441	1,341,277	1,362,554	1,402,528	1,413,535
Gains					
Resource received free of charge ^(a)	-	-	2,091,618	-	-
Total gains administered on behalf of Government	-	-	2,091,618	-	-
Total own-sourced income administered on behalf of Government	1,319,441	1,341,277	3,454,172	1,402,528	1,413,535
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	1,312,877	1,334,407	3,451,322	1,399,678	1,410,685

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) The 2024-25 gain is a result of the commencement of 850/900MHz spectrum licences. The winning bidders are expected to pay the full amount of the auction price in 2023-24 before the licences commence.

Table 3.8: Schedule of budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government (as at 30 June)

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	618	618	618	618	618
Taxation receivables	783,289	813,705	844,702	884,299	884,299
Trade and other receivables ^(a)	498,295	367,873	237,059	105,854	105,854
Other financial assets	23	23	23	23	23
Total financial assets	1,282,225	1,182,219	1,082,402	990,794	990,794
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	1,282,225	1,182,219	1,082,402	990,794	990,794
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Unearned revenue ^(b)	-	2,091,618	-	-	-
Other payables	98,906	98,906	98,906	98,906	98,906
Total payables	98,906	2,190,524	98,906	98,906	98,906
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government	98,906	2,190,524	98,906	98,906	98,906
Net assets/(liabilities)	1,183,319	(1,008,305)	983,496	891,888	891,888

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) The sale of the 26 GHz spectrum results in the recognition of a finance lease receivable, which is reduced through the expected instalment payments made by the winning auction bidders, the last instalment payment to be made in 2025-26.
- (b) The unearned revenue in 2023-24 relates to the cash expected to receive ahead of the commencement of the 850/900MHz licence sold at the auction held in December 2021.

Table 3.9: Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

	2022-23 Estimated actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Sales of goods and rendering of services	41,898	41,652	41,563	41,563	39,752
Rental Income ^{(a)(b)}	130,031	2,222,040	130,814	131,205	-
Interest ^(a)	1,570	1,179	787	396	-
Taxes	474,266	520,082	511,168	511,936	529,707
Other	13,020	13,565	13,240	13,240	8,683
Total cash received	660,785	2,798,518	697,572	698,340	578,142
Cash used					
Grant	2,250	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Suppliers	4,264	4,320	300	300	300
Other	50	50	50	50	50
Total cash used	6,564	6,870	2,850	2,850	2,850
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	654,221	2,791,648	694,722	695,490	575,292
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held	654,221	2,791,648	694,722	695,490	575,292
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period	618	618	618	618	618
Cash from Official Public Account for:					
- Appropriations	6,564	6,870	2,800	2,800	2,800
- Special accounts	50	50	50	50	50
Total cash from Official Public Account	6,614	6,920	2,850	2,850	2,850
Cash to Official Public Account for:					
- Appropriations	(660,785)	(2,798,518)	(697,522)	(698,290)	(578,092)
- Special accounts	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Total cash to Official Public Account	(660,835)	(2,798,568)	(697,572)	(698,340)	(578,142)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period	618	618	618	618	618

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) Approximately \$130m per annum relates to sale of the 26GHz spectrum, reflecting the accounting treatment under AASB 16 Leases. The winning bidders pay a premium to the auction price to make five annual cash instalments. The first instalment was paid in June 2021, the second instalment was made in July 2022, and the remaining three instalments are expected annually by 1 August in each relevant year.
- (b) The significant increase in 2023-24 relates to the sale of the 850/900MHz spectrum licences at auction in December 2021. The winning bidders are expected to make a full payment of the auction price ahead of the commencement of the licences on 1 July 2024.