

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Entity resources and planned performance

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Section 1: Entity overview and resources	95
1.1 Strategic direction statement	95
1.2 Entity resource statement	97
1.3 Budget measures	98
Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance	99
2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1	100
Section 3: Budgeted financial statements	103
3.1 Budgeted financial statements	103
3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables	104

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is one of the country's largest and most important cultural institutions. As the primary national public broadcaster, it reflects Australia's national identity and cultural diversity, informs, educates and entertains, facilitates public debate and fosters the performing arts.

The ABC plays a significant role in the lives of all Australians, not only through the broadcasting and digital media services it delivers, but also through direct engagement with local communities around the country. It underpins the creative industries and Australia's wider economy by buying services from writers, directors, actors, production companies and the businesses that serve them. Through its international services, it projects Australia's national values and identity to a wider world.

The ABC provides unique and critically important points of connection and support for communities throughout Australia, including arrangements with Federal, State and Territory authorities for the provision of emergency services information when local communities are affected.

The ABC's place in the Australian media environment is distinctive because of its Charter (section 6 of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* (the ABC Act)). The Charter and other provisions of the ABC Act give the ABC particular responsibilities, such as providing independent news and information. The ABC Act guarantees the editorial and administrative independence of the ABC from the government. The ABC Board is charged with a number of duties, including 'to ensure the functions of the Corporation are performed efficiently and with maximum benefit to the people of Australia', and 'to maintain the independence and integrity of the Corporation'.

The functions of the ABC, set out in subsection 6(1) of the ABC Act, are:

- to provide, within Australia, innovative and comprehensive broadcasting services of a high standard as part of the Australian broadcasting system, consisting of national, commercial and community sectors and to provide:
 - broadcasting programs that contribute to a sense of national identity and inform and entertain, and reflect the cultural diversity of, the Australian community
 - broadcasting programs of an educational nature.
- to transmit to countries outside Australia, broadcasting programs of news, current affairs, entertainment and cultural enrichment that will:
 - encourage awareness of Australia and an international understanding of Australian attitudes on world affairs

- enable Australian citizens living or travelling outside Australia to obtain information about Australian affairs and Australian attitudes on world affairs.
- to provide digital media services
- to encourage and promote the musical, dramatic and other performing arts in Australia.

In 2026, the ABC is guided by a renewed strategic direction that reflects the expectations of a rapidly changing Australia and evolving media landscape. Under this direction, the ABC is uniquely positioned to deliver high-quality, distinctive content that strengthens its public value and reinforces its place as a vital and trusted national institution.

The renewed strategy sets out a vision for the ABC to be a confident, bold and indispensable part of Australian life – a public service that unites communities through high-value journalism, powerful storytelling and content that reflects the diversity of experiences, places and perspectives across the nation. It is a strategy that focuses on trust, value and impact, recognising that the value of the ABC lies in the cultural, civic and social contribution that content makes. The strategy recognises the unique strength of the ABC to engage audiences across the region, reflecting the modern multicultural Australia to the Indo-Pacific and bringing stories from the region back to a domestic audience in Australia.

The modern media environment is dominated by global digital platforms delivering content at scale and with high production values, and the ABC's relevance must now be assessed in this broader global context. To meet the expectations for quality and impact, the ABC will continue to lift the ambition of its content across all platforms.

In this environment, the 2026 strategy will prioritise quality, distinctive and impactful content that elevates Australian stories and supports a sustainable Australian creative sector. The ABC will continue to serve local communities, share the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and showcase unique and diverse voices across all its content.

The ABC will continue to serve as the nation's town-square, a civic institution that brings Australians together across geography, background and belief and engages audiences outside of our borders. There has never been a greater need to build mutual understanding and sense of community amongst Australians and with our wider region. As artificial intelligence increasingly blurs the line between human and machine-generated content, the ABC will remain a reliable and trustworthy source of information.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to the entity 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 ABC's operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the 'Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1' tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis. Amounts presented below are consistent with amounts presented in the Appropriation Bills themselves.

Table 1.1: ABC resource statement - Budget estimates for 2026-27 as at Budget May 2026

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Estimate \$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	5,244	5,244
Funds from government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services Outcome 1 ^(a)	1,229,214	1,287,722
Total annual appropriations	1,229,214	1,287,722
Total funds from government	1,229,214	1,287,722
Funds from other sources		
Interest	24,616	26,199
Sale of goods and services	76,443	63,374
Other	7,658	7,888
Total funds from other sources	108,717	97,461
Total net resourcing for ABC	1,343,175	1,390,427
	2025-26	2026-27
Average staffing level (number)	4,413	4,454

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) 2026-27.

The ABC is not directly appropriated as it is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity. Appropriations are made to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (a Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entity), which are then paid to the ABC and are considered 'departmental' for all purposes.

1.3 Budget measures

Budget measures in Part 1 relating to the ABC are detailed in the *Budget Paper No. 2 - Budget Measures* and are summarised below.

Table 1.2: Australian Broadcasting Corporation 2026-27 Budget measures

Part 1: Measures announced since the 2025-26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)

	Program	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000	2028-29 \$'000	2029-30 \$'000
Payment measures						
Indo-Pacific	1.1					
Departmental payment		-	6,980	7,168	-	-
Total		-	6,980	7,168	-	-
Total payment measures						
Departmental		-	6,980	7,168	-	-
Total		-	6,980	7,168	-	-

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 ABC can be found at: <https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/d53cb5c5f8664c6b262fa0045c589a35>

The most recent annual performance statement is included in the most recent annual report, which can be found at: <https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/350ba8cafc4e8674d3477db4272d3e3f>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Informed, educated and entertained audiences - throughout Australia and overseas - through innovative and comprehensive media and related services

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

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

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: ABC General Operational Activities					
Revenue from government					
Ordinary annual services					
Appropriation Bill (No. 1)	1,016,527	1,071,046	1,100,534	1,119,652	1,125,854
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,333	1,142	1,001	836	741
Revenues from other independent sources	108,717	97,461	94,399	86,271	96,122
Total expenses for Program 1.1	1,126,577	1,169,649	1,195,934	1,206,759	1,222,717
Program 1.2: ABC Transmission and Distribution Services					
Revenue from government					
Ordinary annual services					
Appropriation Bill (No. 1)	212,687	216,676	223,307	229,271	234,482
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	-	(756)	(1,494)	(2,253)	(1,801)
Total expenses for Program 1.2	212,687	215,920	221,813	227,018	232,681
Outcome 1 Totals by resource type					
Revenue from government					
Ordinary annual services					
Appropriation Bill (No. 1)	1,229,214	1,287,722	1,323,841	1,348,923	1,360,336
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,333	386	(493)	(1,417)	(1,060)
Revenues from other independent sources	108,717	97,461	94,399	86,271	96,122
Total expenses for Outcome 1	1,339,264	1,385,569	1,417,747	1,433,777	1,455,398
	2025-26	2026-27			
Average staffing level (number)	4,413	4,454			

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

Includes impact of applying leases under AASB 16 Leases

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 is used by entities to describe the results they plan to achieve and the related key activities, as detailed in the current corporate plan (i.e. 2025-26), the context in which these activities are delivered, and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of the 2026-27 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

Outcome 1: Informed, educated and entertained audiences - throughout Australia and overseas - through innovative and comprehensive media and related services		
Program 1.1: ABC General Operational Activities The ABC will provide Australian and international audiences with innovative and high-quality radio, television and digital media services.		
Key Activities	Content creation, curation and distribution.	
Year	Performance measures^(a)	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025-26	Value of the ABC to the Australian Community	Target: >= 75% Expected actual: 75% Target expected to be met
	The ABC is trusted by all Australians	Target: >= 75% Expected actual: 75% Target expected to be met
	Weekly share of viewing - screen	Target: > 20.7% Expected actual: 20.7% Target expected to be met
	Weekly share of listening - audio	Target: > 16.9% Expected actual: 16.9% Target expected to be met
Year	Performance measures^(a)	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026-27	Value of the ABC to the Australian Community	>= 75%
	The ABC is trusted by all Australians	>= 75%
	Weekly share of viewing - screen	> 21%
	Weekly share of listening - audio	> 17.1%
Forward Estimates 2027-30	As per 2026-27	As per 2026-27
Material changes to Program 1.1 resulting from 2026-27 Budget Measures: Nil		

a) Refers to performance measures/targets reflected in the 2025-26 Corporate Plan, some of which may be subsequently revised once the 2026-27 Corporate Plan is finalised.

Program 1.2: ABC Transmission and Distribution Services		
The ABC will manage the broadcast and transmission of its radio and television services within Australia to maximise availability to audiences.		
Key Activities	The broadcast and transmission of the ABC's radio and television services.	
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2025-26	Percentage of the Australian population who are able to receive ABC analog radio transmissions	Target: At least 99% Expected actual: At least 99% Target expected to be met
	Degree to which the eight state and territory capital cities have access to ABC digital radio transmissions	Target: 100% Expected actual: 100% Target expected to be met
	Percentage of Australian homes able to receive ABC digital television transmissions ^(a)	Target: 100% Expected actual: 100% Target expected to be met
Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2026-27	Percentage of the Australian population who are able to receive ABC analog radio transmissions	At least 99%
	Degree to which the eight state and territory capital cities have access to ABC digital radio transmissions	100%
	Percentage of Australian homes able to receive ABC digital television transmissions ^(a)	100%
Forward Estimates 2027-30	As per 2026-27	As per 2026-27
Material changes to Program 1.2 resulting from 2026-27 Budget Measures: Nil		

a) Reporting of actuals will include the percentage reach for ABC digital television using terrestrial services (excluding satellite).

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of entity finances for the 2026-27 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 ABC's forward budgeted financial statements have been prepared to reflect the ABC's operational business outlook as it continues to focus on achieving the goals and objectives set out in the ABC Strategy.

The ABC is budgeting for an operating deficit of \$0.4 million in 2026-27 including the impact of accounting standard AASB 16 on leasing. The operating result excluding leasing transactions is a net break-even position, as reflected in the net cash appropriation arrangements note to Table 3.1.

Total revenue from government is budgeted at \$1,287.7 million in 2026-27, an increase of \$58.5 million from 2025-26. This mainly reflects a measure to extend Indo-Pacific Broadcasting, the first year of funding from previously announced measures to support news and media diversity and production of Australian children's and drama content, offset by measures terminating in 2025-26, as well as the net impact of government indexation parameter adjustments.

Own-source budgeted revenues of \$97.5 million in 2026-27 are principally comprised of revenues from ABC commercial activities, interest, as well as other minor amounts from co production arrangements, facilities hire, services provided, and commissions. These revenues are largely offset by related costs of sales or represent recoveries of costs incurred or are invested in content.

Total expenses are budgeted at \$1,385.6 million in 2026-27, a net increase of \$46.3 million from 2025-26. This includes the net impact of salary and wages increases, additional operational expenditure due to contractual increases and expenditure on content including from additional funding, as well as leasing transactions, savings initiatives and program amortisation costs.

The ABC's budgeted net asset position for 2026-27 of \$1.2 billion represents a minor decrease of \$0.4 million from the estimated actual for 2025-26, reflecting the budgeted operating deficit for 2026-27, which includes the impact of leasing transactions.

3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	628,076	649,451	668,919	680,172	700,578
Suppliers	536,275	560,774	576,382	581,947	582,405
Depreciation and amortisation	169,166	170,429	168,354	168,405	168,805
Finance costs	5,747	4,915	4,092	3,253	3,610
Total expenses	1,339,264	1,385,569	1,417,747	1,433,777	1,455,398
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	76,443	63,374	60,089	60,992	61,908
Interest	24,616	26,199	26,186	16,911	25,595
Other	7,658	7,888	8,124	8,368	8,619
Total own-source revenue	108,717	97,461	94,399	86,271	96,122
Total own-source income	108,717	97,461	94,399	86,271	96,122
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(1,230,547)	(1,288,108)	(1,323,348)	(1,347,506)	(1,359,276)
Revenue from government	1,229,214	1,287,722	1,323,841	1,348,923	1,360,336
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(1,333)	(386)	493	1,417	1,060
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(1,333)	(386)	493	1,417	1,060
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(1,333)	(386)	493	1,417	1,060
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements					
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of Comprehensive Income	(1,333)	(386)	493	1,417	1,060
<i>plus:</i>					
depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets ^(a)	72,066	71,529	70,654	70,105	70,105
<i>less:</i> lease principal repayments ^(a)	70,733	71,143	71,147	71,522	71,165
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

a) Applies leases under AASB 16 Leases.

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	5,244	5,244	5,244	5,244	5,244
Trade and other receivables	18,102	18,102	18,102	18,102	18,102
Other investments	237,428	224,028	207,486	188,944	200,102
Other financial assets	9,112	9,112	9,112	9,112	9,112
Total financial assets	269,886	256,486	239,944	221,402	232,560
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	740,453	752,507	765,968	779,253	796,158
Property, plant and equipment	524,343	448,759	375,480	302,352	238,461
Intangibles	151,607	156,008	163,672	170,410	176,591
Inventories	125,534	126,534	124,576	126,118	127,660
Tax assets	3,433	3,433	3,433	3,433	3,433
Other non-financial assets	28,608	28,608	28,608	28,608	28,608
Total non-financial assets	1,573,978	1,515,849	1,461,737	1,410,174	1,370,911
Total assets	1,843,864	1,772,335	1,701,681	1,631,576	1,603,471
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	98,753	98,753	98,753	98,753	98,753
Other payables	53,203	53,203	53,203	53,203	95,203
Total payables	151,956	151,956	151,956	151,956	193,956
Interest bearing liabilities					
Loans	767	767	767	767	767
Leases	358,052	286,909	215,762	144,240	73,075
Total interest bearing liabilities	358,819	287,676	216,529	145,007	73,842
Provisions					
Employee provisions	161,341	161,341	161,341	161,341	161,341
Other provisions	5,139	5,139	5,139	5,139	5,139
Total provisions	166,480	166,480	166,480	166,480	166,480
Total liabilities	677,255	606,112	534,965	463,443	434,278
Net assets	1,166,609	1,166,223	1,166,716	1,168,133	1,169,193
EQUITY					
Parent entity interest					
Contributed equity	93,640	93,640	93,640	93,640	93,640
Reserves	898,247	898,247	898,247	898,247	898,247
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	174,722	174,336	174,829	176,246	177,306
Total parent entity interest	1,166,609	1,166,223	1,166,716	1,168,133	1,169,193
Total equity	1,166,609	1,166,223	1,166,716	1,168,133	1,169,193

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity - summary of movement (Budget year 2026-27)

	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Contributed equity/capital	Total equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2026				
Balance carried forward from previous period	174,722	898,247	93,640	1,166,609
Adjusted opening balance	174,722	898,247	93,640	1,166,609
Comprehensive income				
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(386)	-	-	(386)
Total comprehensive income	(386)	-	-	(386)
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2027	174,336	898,247	93,640	1,166,223
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	174,336	898,247	93,640	1,166,223

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	1,229,214	1,287,722	1,323,841	1,348,923	1,360,336
Sale of goods and rendering of services	76,443	63,374	60,089	60,992	61,908
Interest	24,616	26,199	26,186	16,911	25,595
Net GST received	65,455	69,160	70,807	71,582	72,892
Other	7,658	7,888	8,124	8,368	50,619
Total cash received	1,403,386	1,454,343	1,489,047	1,506,776	1,571,350
Cash used					
Employees	638,076	649,451	668,919	680,172	700,578
Suppliers	513,747	561,774	574,424	583,489	583,947
Net GST paid	65,455	69,160	70,807	71,582	72,892
Interest payments on lease liability	5,747	4,915	4,092	3,253	3,610
Total cash used	1,223,025	1,285,300	1,318,242	1,338,496	1,361,027
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	180,361	169,043	170,805	168,280	210,323
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	118,800	111,300	116,200	115,300	128,000
Purchase of financial instruments					
Investments	(9,172)	(13,400)	(16,542)	(18,542)	11,158
Total cash used	109,628	97,900	99,658	96,758	139,158
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(109,628)	(97,900)	(99,658)	(96,758)	(139,158)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	70,733	71,143	71,147	71,522	71,165
Total cash used	70,733	71,143	71,147	71,522	71,165
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(70,733)	(71,143)	(71,147)	(71,522)	(71,165)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	-	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	5,244	5,244	5,244	5,244	5,244
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5,244	5,244	5,244	5,244	5,244

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded internally from departmental resources ^(a)	118,800	111,300	116,200	115,300	128,000
TOTAL	118,800	111,300	116,200	115,300	128,000
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	118,800	111,300	116,200	115,300	128,000
Total cash used to acquire assets	118,800	111,300	116,200	115,300	128,000

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

a) Funded from annual appropriations and may include internally developed assets and proceeds from the sale of assets.

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (Budget year 2026-27)

	Asset Category				Total
	Land	Buildings	Other property, plant and equipment	Computer software And intangibles	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2026					
Gross book value	255,881	511,444	641,005	344,520	1,752,850
Gross book value - ROU assets	22,680	52,619	746,540	-	821,839
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(82,549)	(425,974)	(192,913)	(701,436)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(1,699)	(17,923)	(437,228)	-	(456,850)
Opening net book balance	276,862	463,591	524,343	151,607	1,416,403
Capital asset additions					
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets					
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services ^(a)	-	44,688	23,390	43,222	111,300
Total additions	-	44,688	23,390	43,222	111,300
Other movements					
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(29,670)	(30,409)	(38,821)	(98,900)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	(243)	(2,721)	(68,565)	-	(71,529)
Total other movements	(243)	(32,391)	(98,974)	(38,821)	(170,429)
As at 30 June 2027					
Gross book value	255,881	556,132	634,395	387,742	1,834,150
Gross book value - ROU assets	22,680	52,619	746,540	-	821,839
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(112,219)	(426,383)	(231,734)	(770,336)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(1,942)	(20,644)	(505,793)	-	(528,379)
Closing net book balance	276,619	475,888	448,759	156,008	1,357,274

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026-2027 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, or other operational expense.

