



Australian Government

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

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

INCOMING GOVERNMENT BRIEFING 2025

Regional Development



Regional Development

Your portfolio

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Your priorities

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About the department

The functions and work of the department touch the lives of Australians every day.

We work with our partners to enable connected, productive, safe, sustainable and culturally vibrant communities in our cities, regions and territories to improve the lives of Australians. Across the department and with our portfolio entities, we work collaboratively to deliver our programs, projects and services in the major infrastructure, transport, communications and arts sectors, supporting our regions, cities and territories.

This includes:

- steering nation-wide infrastructure projects that sustain economic and social development, disaster resilience and recovery, and create long-term productivity benefits for producers, businesses and communities;
- striving for the safe use of the transport network and supporting our transport modes to achieve long-term commercial sustainability, productivity improvements and decarbonisation;
- connecting and empowering communities across Australian cities, regions and territories to improve productivity and liveability;
- ensuring Australia's media policy settings are fit-for-purpose and Australians have access to the benefits of modern telecommunications and postal services; and
- working with the arts and cultural community realise the economic, cultural, educational and social importance of a vibrant sectors.

The department has a national footprint with people located in each state and territory capital city, regional areas, and non-self-governing territories. This broad coverage fosters greater collaboration both within the department and with our partners, strengthening our diversity and, most importantly, contributing to better outcomes for all Australians.

The department is working across government and with First Nations communities and organisations to deliver on our commitments under the National Closing the Gap Agreement, including the implementation of the four Priority Reforms to transform the way in which we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations.

We aim to provide you with high-quality advice on policy, implementation and delivery. Our advice is evidence-based and informed by research, consultation, analysis and broader governmental objectives. We identify trends, gaps and emerging issues as well as risk in markets and society.

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Outcomes



Outcome 1

Improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure



Outcome 2

An efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations



Outcome 3

Strengthening the sustainability, capacity and diversity of Australia's cities and regions including northern Australia, including through facilitating local partnerships between all levels of government and local communities; through investment in infrastructure and measures that stimulate economic growth; and providing grants and financial assistance



Outcome 4

Good governance and service delivery in the Australian territories including through the maintenance and improvement of the laws and services for non-self governing territories, and the overarching legislative framework for self-governing territories



Outcome 5

Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services



Outcome 6

Participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression

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Department budget

	2025–26 (\$ million)
Total resourcing	16,557
Administered	15,881
Departmental	676
Departmental appropriation	511
Departmental (capital)	16
*Non-operating resourcing (Prior year appropriations, section 74 external revenue, special accounts)	149

*These amounts do not contribute to the department's ordinary operating funding.

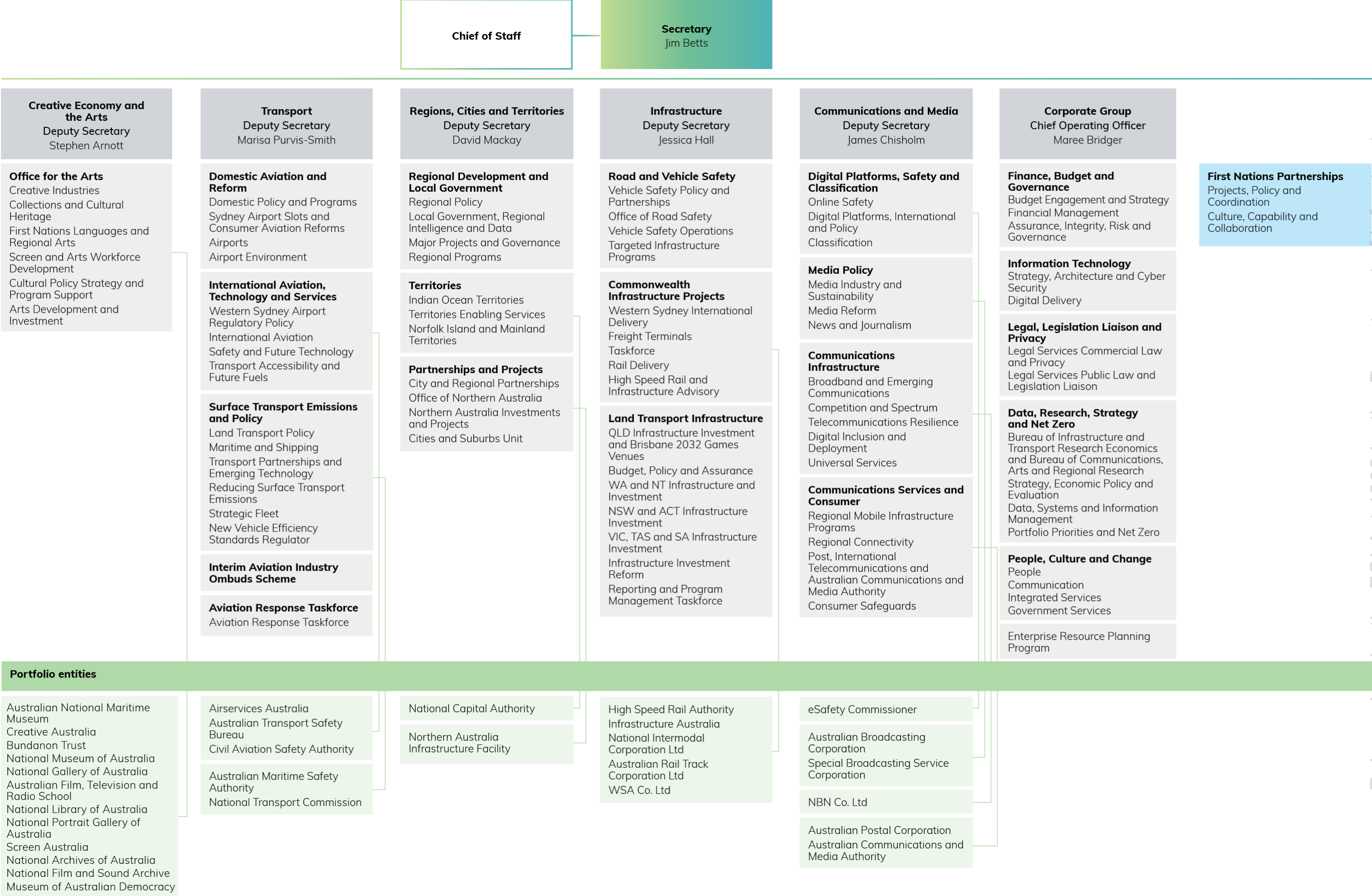
Other funding administered by the department

	2025–26 (\$ million)
Administered funding paid to states and territories through the Treasury and National Partnership payments (not included in the total resourcing)	15,150
Funding paid through the department to portfolio entities	2,766

In 2023 the department commissioned independent financial analysis to inform a Functional Review (the Review) of the department, which was completed in 2024. Undertaking the Review was a recommendation of the 2023 capability review of the department by the Australian Public Service Commission.

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Leadership team

The department's executive comprises the Secretary and six Deputy Secretaries. Deputy Secretaries support the Secretary and oversee portfolio policy, regulatory and operational responsibilities across all business divisions.



Jim Betts,
Secretary

Jim commenced as Secretary in July 2022.

Jim has more than 35 years public service experience in government agencies across the UK, Victoria, New South Wales and now the Australian Public Service.

Prior to becoming Secretary, Jim was a partner at strategy consultancy EY Port Jackson Partners, having previously led the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) from 2019 to 2021 where as Secretary he oversaw the state's infrastructure program and led development of two State Infrastructure Strategies. From 2013 to 2019, Jim was Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure NSW and, before that held a number of senior Victorian Government roles including Secretary for the Transport Department and Director of Public Transport.

Jim is a Commissioner on the National Transport Commission and sits on the Boards of Roads Australia and Infrastructure Partnerships Australia. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Modern History (Hons) from Oxford and a Masters in Management Science from Imperial College, London.

02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)



Jessica Hall,
Deputy Secretary
Infrastructure

Jessica is the Deputy Secretary for Infrastructure.

This role includes responsibility for over \$120 billion of Commonwealth investment in transport infrastructure including Commonwealth-only infrastructure projects, such as Western Sydney International Airport, land transport infrastructure jointly funded with other jurisdictions, and Olympic and Paralympic sports infrastructure; as well as road and vehicle safety policy and regulation.

Previously, Jessica was First Assistant Secretary in several roles across the department, including in Surface Transport Policy during COVID, where she negotiated opening state borders to the movement of freight. She has had senior roles in the science, and education portfolios, including reforming the international students market in Australia, and has amassed over 20 years of experience in addressing economic, regulatory and social policy matters within the Australian Public Service.

Jessica has completed an Executive program in infrastructure financing at Harvard Kennedy School, and attained Masters degrees in both International Law and Asian Studies.

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Marisa Purvis-Smith,
Deputy Secretary
Transport

Marisa is the Deputy Secretary for Transport.

This role includes responsibility for International Aviation, Technology & Services, Domestic Aviation & Reform, and Surface Transport Emissions and Policy Divisions. Between November 2024 and April 2025, Marisa led the Aviation Response Taskforce responsible for the Government's response to Rex Airline's voluntary administration. This is now included within Transport Group.

Marisa brings a wealth of experience, including a strong understanding of government, regional and community issues, including as Deputy Secretary of Water Infrastructure and Northern Australia and First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development, Local Government and Regional Recovery. Prior to joining the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Marisa worked in the federal Treasury in a range of roles, including tax policy, tax costings and analysis, Commonwealth-State relations, and economic forecasting.

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David Mackay,
Deputy Secretary
Regions, Cities and
Territories

David is the Deputy Secretary for Regions, Cities and Territories.

This role includes responsibility for over \$3 billion in grants programs, for governance, infrastructure, and service delivery in Australia's non-self-governing territories, and for policy advice on economic growth and living standards in Australia's regions and cities. The group comprises approximately 400 staff located in cities and regional centres across Australia, and in the external territories. Prior to this role, David served as First Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Investment, and for Cities.

David has also held senior executive roles in the Attorney-General's Department, in the Department of Health and Ageing, and in the Department of Finance. He has served in senior leadership roles in the New Zealand Treasury, and in McKinsey & Company's Australian public sector practice.

David is the Commonwealth-appointed Director of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and is a Councillor of the Institute of Public Administration Australia (ACT). He holds degrees in Arts and Communications from the University of Sydney and Monash University, is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and is an alumnus of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

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James Chisholm,
Deputy Secretary
Communications and Media

James is the Deputy Secretary for Communications and Media.

This role includes responsibility for broadband, telecommunications, media and digital platform industry policy, infrastructure investment and consumer policy, radio-communications policy, online safety as well as oversight of the government's shareholding interests in Australia Post and the National Broadband Network.

Prior to joining the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, James was the Chief Executive Officer of the Net Zero Economy Agency. James previously worked in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in a number of roles leading on matters including environment; energy and climate policy; resilience and climate management; agriculture and water; industry policy; infrastructure; regional development; communications; tax and employment policy; trade; and digital technology.

James spent a number of years in the Department of Treasury in the areas of competition policy, financial markets policy and international finance and development. James has also worked as a lawyer in the private sector and at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

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Stephen Arnott,
Deputy Secretary
Creative Economy and the Arts

Stephen is the Deputy Secretary for Creative Economy and the Arts.

Stephen has more than 20 years' experience in the Australian Public Services in arts, screen, creative industries, communications and technology policy areas.

Stephen was promoted to the Senior Executive Services in 2009. He was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2005 for his work reforming Australia's symphony orchestras. Previously Stephen helped run a small business providing data security services to corporate clients in Sydney. Stephen has a doctorate in French Philosophy from the University of New England where he lectured in both philosophy and psychology for a number of years.

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Maree Bridger,
Chief Operating Officer

Maree is the Chief Operating Officer.

Maree has worked in the Australian Public Service for 17 years across a range of policy, program, regulatory, corporate and service delivery functions and she has held senior roles at Services Australia, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Australian Customs Service.

Prior to joining the Australian Public Service Maree had 17 years in the private sector and held a variety of roles at the Shell Company, Osborne Computers and Austar United Communications. She also spent eight of these years working as a management consultant, with a specific focus on organisational change, strategic planning, maximising competitive advantage and building organisational capability.

Maree has a Bachelor of Economics from ANU, an Executive MBA from the AGSM at UNSW and is a Certified Practicing Accountant.

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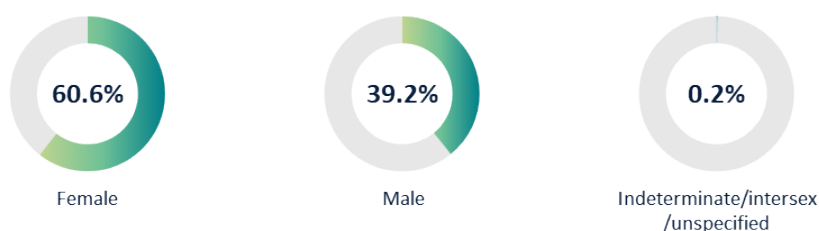
Departmental staff

As at 31 March 2025 the department had a total employee headcount of 2,426 people¹, excluding staff on long-term unpaid leave or temporary transfer to external agencies. Over 78.2 per cent of these staff are located in the ACT, but the department has staff located in all other states and territories as well as internationally.

Staff levels



Department gender split



Ongoing vs non-ongoing



Location of staff



¹ While the above section refers to ASL as a way of aligning staffing data more readily to the department's budget allocation, this data is based on headcount – the actual employees of the department.

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Your portfolio

‘Your portfolio’ volume provides an overview of the administrative, governance and funding arrangements for the portfolio. This includes:

Programs at a glance and major program briefs

The **Programs ‘at a glance’** section lists all programs and summarises funding, and program length. The program funding outlined in this section relates to administered funding and special accounts.

Major program briefs have been prepared for significant programs and provide further information on the programs’ current status and full funding profile as at the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2025.

Portfolio entities

The portfolio encompasses oversight of an entity governed under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Other boards and structures

This section provides you with an overview of the various boards and governance bodies associated with the portfolio, including statutory boards, advisory councils, committees and panels.

Significant ministerial roles

You hold a number of significant positions crucial to advancing domestic and international policy objectives, which are summarised in this section. The department supports your participation as well as the effective operation of these forums.


Portfolio legislation

Included in this section are details of your portfolio’s legislation. The legislation outlined below is current as at 4 May 2025 and may not match the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) created on 13 October 2022 (as amended on 29 July 2024).

The AAOs will be updated by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to align with the swearing in of the Ministry.

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Programs 'at a glance'

Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
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Outcome 3**Program 3.1 – Regional Development**

Building Better Regions Fund This grants program was established in 2016, and is an open competitive regional grants program designed to deliver funding across two streams: infrastructure projects and community development activities.	-	30 June 2025	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Community Development Grants Programme This is a closed non-competitive grants program that delivered Australian Government Election and Government commitments, made between 2013 and 2022, for community infrastructure upgrades.	\$213.0	30 June 2026	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Securing Raw Materials Program This program provides businesses with up to \$5 million to relocate or expand into regional Australia, and partner with a regional university or research organisation to research or develop innovative and locally sourced raw materials.	-	30 June 2025	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Rebuilding Regional Communities This program funds a stream within the Strengthening Rural Communities program managed by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and supports community-led initiatives.	-	30 September 2025	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Stronger Communities Programme The Stronger Communities Programme is a closed, non-competitive grants program to support community organisations and local governments to deliver projects that support social benefits for local communities. Up to \$150,000 was available in each of the 151 Federal electorates. The program commenced in 2015 and there have been eight previous rounds. Round 9, which is currently underway, will provide up to \$22.7 million in 2024-25.	-	31 December 2025	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Support for the Regional Australia Institute Funding for the Regional Australia Institute to bolster its research and policy capacity in key regional priorities, make evidence and policy on regional issues more accessible, and extend knowledge and best practice across regional Australia.	\$2.0	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Recovery Program This program uses a partnership approach to deliver coordinated investments with other levels of government to support recovery and growth in nine regions across Australia.	-	30 December 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Albury Wodonga Regional Projects This program supports projects in the Albury Wodonga region that deliver economic and education benefits and improve the liveability of the community.	\$34.0	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Central Australia Plan – Community Infrastructure Package (NT) This is a bilateral agreement that supports the construction of community infrastructure projects that improve regional development, economic, social, and cultural outcomes across the Central Australia Region.	\$30.6	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Growing Regions The Growing Regions program commenced in 2023–24. The program provides funding of between \$500,000 and \$15 million to local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations for capital works projects that enhance amenity and liveability in regions outside Australia's Greater Capital City Statistical Areas. State and territory governments are delivering the program under the Infrastructure—Federation Funding Agreement.	-	30 June 2027	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Thriving Suburbs The Thriving Suburbs Program commenced in 2024–25. The program provides funding of between \$500,000 and \$15 million to local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations for capital works projects that enhance liveability, strengthen social cohesion and support local amenity in areas within Australia's Greater Capital City Statistical Areas. State and territory governments are delivering the program under the Infrastructure—Federation Funding Agreement.	-	30 June 2027	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Port Augusta Wharf Upgrade (SA) This project is a partnership between the Australian and South Australian governments to upgrade the heritage-listed wharf and reinvigorate the waterfront.	\$12.0	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Priority Community Infrastructure Program / Investing in our Communities Program The Priority Community Infrastructure and Investing in Our Communities programs were established by the Australian Government to deliver its 2022 Election Commitments for community and sporting infrastructure projects.	\$702.5	30 June 2027	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program The program focusses on a partnership approach, bringing together governments, businesses and communities to deliver multi-purpose precincts that are place-based, tailored to local needs and positioned around a shared vision, need or theme.	\$151.0	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Barkly Regional Deal This agreement supports the delivery of several economic, social and cultural projects to improve the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region by stimulating economic growth and improving social outcomes, including reducing overcrowding and improving child safety.	\$5.6	13 April 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia Committees This national network of Committees is made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.	\$92.9	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Program 3.2 – Local Government				
Supplementary Funding for South Australian Roads This funding is provided to South Australia to address an anomaly in the allocation of fixed historical road shares under the Financial Assistance (FA) Grant program. Under the FA Grant, South Australia is provided with only 5.5 per cent of the funding total even though it manages 11.7 per cent of the local road network. The Australian Government has provided supplementary funding in each year since 2004–05, except during the indexation pause period from 2014–15 to 2016–17.	\$20.0	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Financial Assistance Grant This program has provided untied funding to local government since 1974–75, allowing councils to meet local priorities. The program has two components with funding distributed between the states and territories according to population (i.e. on a per capita basis) and for local roads (according to fixed historical shares).	\$14,628	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
<i>Program 3.3 – Cities</i>				
Housing Support Program This program supports achievement of the National Housing Accord's target through delivering enabling infrastructure and providing amenities to support new housing development or improve building planning capability. The residual funding is unallocated.	\$15.0	30 June 2025	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Redevelopment of the Bruce Park Pavilion, Frankston Redesign of a two-storey pavilion for tennis, football and cricket, with female-friendly changerooms, accessible public toilets and additional rooms and storage.	\$5.0 (Announced in PEFO)	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Bruce Precinct Master Plan The output will identify optimal land uses within the precinct, complementing an Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Master Plan to be developed by the Minister for Sport and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).	\$8.0	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Support for City Deals This program supports the delivery of all city and regional deals through targeted due diligence and assurance work, such as business cases, strategic reviews and engagement with local stakeholders, including Traditional Owner groups.	\$0.3	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Launceston City Deal This agreement between the Australian and Tasmanian governments and the City of Launceston supports investing for a lively city with better education and job opportunities, regional economic growth and rising incomes.	\$4.1	30 April 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program This program focusses on a partnership approach, bringing together governments, businesses and communities to deliver multi-purpose precincts that are place-based, tailored to the local needs and positioned around a shared vision, need or theme.	\$101.0	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Hobart and Launceston Urban Renewal Co-investments (Macquarie Point and UTAS Launceston Stadium) These are partnerships between the Australian and Tasmanian governments to revitalise the cities of Hobart and Launceston. The funding represents capped contributions towards the Macquarie Point Precinct in Hobart (\$240m) and the Launceston Stadium (\$65m - \$60m remaining to be paid).	\$292.0	30 June 2028	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Darwin City Deal This agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the City of Darwin enhances the region's position as an attractive place to live, study, work and do business.	-	16 November 2028	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Hobart City Deal This agreement between the Australian and Tasmanian governments and the Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils, encourages investment to leverage Hobart's natural amenity and build on its position as a vibrant, liveable and connected global city.	-	28 February 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Adelaide City Deal This agreement between the Australian and South Australian governments and the City of Adelaide support the growth of Adelaide's innovation, tourism and cultural economy.	\$89.6	19 March 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Geelong City Deal The agreement between the Australian and Victorian governments, the City of Greater Geelong, and delivery partners, supports the region's continued economic diversification by unlocking the significant economic potential of the visitor economy, a revitalised city centre and emerging industries.	\$50.2	31 March 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
National Capital Investment Framework This partnership with the Australian Capital Territory supports infrastructure priorities across a range of portfolios within the Territory, including planning for a new convention and entertainment centre precinct and construction of a new aquatic centre.	\$100.0 (Announced in PEFO)	30 June 2029	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Perth City Deal This agreement between the Australian and Western Australian governments and the City of Perth supports Perth's long-term prosperity by adding vibrancy and amenity to the CBD, as well as supporting the city's economic, social and environmental sustainability.	\$81.3	30 September 2030	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Townsville City Deal This agreement between the Australian and Queensland governments and the City of Townsville, working with the private sector, supports economic growth, delivers major infrastructure, creates new and sustainable jobs, and enhances the liveability of the city.	\$27.5	31 December 2031	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Western Sydney City Deal This agreement between the Australian and NSW governments and the councils of the Western Parkland City, supports opportunities in education, business and employment for Western City and its people.	-	30 March 2038	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
South East Queensland City Deal This agreement between the Australian and Queensland governments and the Council of Mayors (SEQ), in partnership with the private sector, supports the SEQ region to connect locally and compete globally.	\$179.0	31 March 2042	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Program 3.4 – Northern Australia				
Queensland Academy for Health Sciences This project is a partnership between the Australian and Queensland governments to establish a new Academy for Health Sciences in Rockhampton and boost the pipeline of health workers in regional Queensland.	\$80.0 (Announced in PEFO)	30 June 2028	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Pilbara Ports Common User Upgrades (WA) This Federation Funding Agreement supports common user port upgrades in the Pilbara, including for Lumsden Point and the Port of Dampier.	\$430.0	30 June 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (NT) The Australian Government's \$1.5 billion investment into common user marine infrastructure at the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (Middle Arm) is not targeted at one industry over another; it offers opportunities for a range of industries including gas, green hydrogen and renewable storage, as well as advanced manufacturing, carbon capture and storage, minerals processing and other land uses.	\$1,500.0 (Provisioned in Contingency Reserve)	Not yet known	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Logistic Hubs (NT) This program supports development of a network of Regional Logistics Hubs across the Northern Territory to support development of industries and communities.	\$440.0 (Provisioned in Contingency Reserve)	Not yet known	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Program	Total funding over forward estimates 2025–26 to 2028–29 (\$m) Administered	Program terminating date or 'ongoing'	Major brief prepared	Contact
Outcome 4				
Program 4.1 – Services to Territories				
Office of Administrator, Northern Territory The role of the Administrator is very similar to a State Governor and includes statutory duties (for example, providing assent to proposed laws of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory), representational duties (for example, awarding honours) and ceremonial duties (for example, becoming a patron of public institutions).	\$2.0	Ongoing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Services to Indian Ocean Territories The Australian Government is responsible for the delivery of state-type services to the Indian Ocean Territories. *Funding to Director of Parks for mining rehabilitation.	\$452 \$4.8 - CI Phosphate Special Account* \$73.8 - Special Account	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Services to Jervis Bay Territory The Australian Government is responsible for the delivery of state-type services to the Jervis Bay Territory.	\$26.7 \$4.8 - Special Account	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Services to Norfolk Island The Australian Government is responsible for the delivery of state-type services to Norfolk Island.	\$270 \$0.749 - Special Account	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Major program briefs

Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) and Community Development Grants Programme (CDG)

Outcome 3

Description The Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) is an open competitive regional grants program designed to deliver funding across two streams: infrastructure projects and community investments. The Community Development Grants Programme (CDG) is a closed non-competitive program that delivered Australian Government Election and Government commitments through grants for community infrastructure upgrades.

Status

BBRF The BBRF Program was established in 2016. The Australian Government announced on 24 October 2022 that the Program would be discontinued with the previously announced Round 6 no longer proceeding. Projects funded in Rounds 4 and 5 will continue to be completed in line with the terms of their grant agreement and grant opportunity guidelines with all project completion and acquittals taking place by the Program end date of 30 June 2025.

As at 31 March 2025:

- 934 projects have been completed under Rounds 1-4;
- Round 4: of the 163 projects committed and contracted: 145 have been completed; 9 are underway; and 9 have withdrawn or terminated; and
- Round 5: of the 298 projects committed and contracted: 240 have been completed; 25 are underway; and 33 have withdrawn or terminated.

Funding over the life of the Program has been \$1.04 billion.

CDG The CDG Program commenced in December 2013. The Australian Government announced on 24 October 2022 that the CDG Program would close on the 30 June 2026 in line with the broader redesign of grants programs. Projects funded will continue to be completed in line with the terms of their grant agreement and grant opportunity guidelines with all project completion and acquittals taking place by program end date of 30 June 2026.

As at 31 March 2025, of the 1,481 projects committed under this Program: 1,356 have been completed; 124 are underway; and one project is pending transfer to be delivered through a potential Federation Funding Agreement.

Funding over the life of the Program has been \$2.4 billion.

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Program funding**

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
BBRF – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	-	-	-	-
CDG – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	213	-	-	-

Contact

Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government;

02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Stronger Communities Programme

Outcome 3

Description The Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) is a closed, non-competitive grants program to support community organisations and local governments to deliver projects that support social benefits for local communities. Up to \$150,000 was available in each of the 151 Federal electorates. The Program commenced in 2015 and there have been eight previous rounds. Round 9, which is currently underway, will provide up to \$22.7 million in 2024–25.

Community consultation is a critical element of the SCP, with each Federal Member of Parliament (MP) required to establish a community consultation committee or consult an existing committee, to identify and nominate projects for consideration.

s47C

Status SCP Rounds 1 to 8 have closed.

The Australian Government announced SCP Round 9 on 18 December 2024, which opened for applications on 14 February 2025 and closed on 17 April 2025. Projects must be executed and payment of the grant made (which is paid on execution) by 30 June 2025, and completed by 31 December 2025.

The Business Grants Hub in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) administers the Program on behalf of the department, with a manager in DISR appointed as the Program delegate. Successful projects are notified by DISR to the nominating Member of Parliament.

As at 17 April 2025:

- 17,487 projects were committed under Rounds 1-8 of the Program: 16,767 have completed, one is under investigation, and 719 have withdrawn or terminated.
- No Round 9 projects have been committed, completed or contracted. Project nominations have closed and applications are being assessed.

Funding over the life of the Program will be \$188,760,000 (including the amount to be committed for Round 9). There is no authority for further funding rounds.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	-	-	-	-

Contact Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Growing Regions

Outcome 3

- Description** The Growing Regions Program provides \$600 million over four years to local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations for capital works projects. The Program will deliver community and economic benefits through investment in community-focused infrastructure that enhances amenity and liveability in regions outside Australia's Greater Capital City Statistical Areas.
- Status** The Program commenced in 2023–24. Under the Program, 112 projects were selected through an open competitive process over two funding rounds, announced in May 2024 and January 2025, respectively. The Program ends on 30 June 2027, by which time all projects must be complete and acquitted. As at Budget 2025–26, the \$206 million of Australian Government funding for Round 1 projects and the \$3 million of administrative funding have been transferred to relevant state and territory governments, who are administering the delivery of projects through funding arrangements under the Growing Regions Program Schedule of the Infrastructure—Federation Funding Agreement. As of 7 May 2025, it is expected that the \$387 million of Australian Government funding for Round 2 projects and the \$4 million of administrative funding will have transferred to relevant state and territory governments.

State and territory governments are responsible for working with approved project proponents to prepare and execute a funding agreement, and make payments based on agreed milestones. They also provide monthly reporting to the department and submit variations through for ministerial consideration. State and territory governments received a one-off administrative payment of \$150,000 and 1 per cent of their jurisdiction's projects funding to facilitate this arrangement.

As at 28 February 2025:

- of the 40 projects committed under Round 1 of the Growing Regions Program: none have been completed; 26 are contracted; 14 are yet to be contracted; and none have withdrawn or terminated; and
- none of the 72 projects committed under Round 2 of the Growing Regions Program have been contracted received milestone payments, completed, withdrawn or terminated.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	-	-	-	-

- Contact** Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Thriving Suburbs

Outcome 3

Description The Thriving Suburbs Program commenced in 2024–25 and provides \$350 million over three years to local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations for capital works projects. The Program will deliver enhanced liveability, strengthen social cohesion and support local amenity in urban, suburban and peri-urban communities within Australia's Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs).

Status The Program commenced in 2024–25. Under the Program, 70 projects, providing \$318 million of Australian Government funding, were selected through an open competitive process through one funding round and announced in December 2024. The Program ends 30 June 2027, by which time all projects must be complete and acquitted.

As at 7 May 2025, the \$318 million in project funding and \$4 million in administrative funding will have transferred to relevant state and territory governments, who are administering the delivery of projects through funding arrangements under the Thriving Suburbs Program Schedule of the Infrastructure—Federation Funding Agreement.

State and territory governments are responsible for working with approved project proponents to prepare and execute a funding agreement, and make payments based on agreed milestones. They also provide monthly reporting to the department and submit variations for ministerial consideration. State and territory governments received a one-off administrative payment of \$150,000 and 1 per cent of their jurisdiction's projects to facilitate this arrangement.

As at 28 February 2025, none of the 70 projects committed under the Program have contracted, completed, received a milestone payment, withdrawn or terminated.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	-	-	-	-

Contact Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Priority Community Infrastructure Program and Investing in our Communities Program

Outcome 3

Description	The Priority Community Infrastructure (PCIP) and Investing in Our Communities (liOC) Programs were established by the Australian Government to deliver its 2022 Election Commitments for community and sporting infrastructure projects. PCIP primarily delivers projects with \$5 million or more in Australian Government funding, while liOC primarily delivers projects with a commitment of less than \$5 million.
Status	Both programs opened on 8 February 2023 and applications closed on 30 November 2023. The Programs will end on 30 June 2027. They are each being delivered as a closed, non-competitive program. Only applicants nominated by the Government were invited to apply.
PCIP	<p>As at 31 March 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 93 projects committed under the Program: six are complete; 85 are contracted and underway; and two have been withdrawn. Of the \$939 million total program funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$901 million had been contracted, with \$38 million committed but not yet contracted (relating to second stage of two-stage projects); and \$140 million had been paid to recipients.
liOC	<p>As at 31 March 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 356 projects committed under the Program: 124 are complete; 225 are contracted and underway; one is yet to be contracted; five were not approved; and one was withdrawn. Of the \$306 million total program funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only \$500,000 has not yet been contracted (for one project); and \$92 million had been paid to recipients.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
PCIP – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	380	203	-	-
liOC – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	104	16.0	-	-

Contact	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

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Regional Development Australia Committees Program

Outcome 3

Description The Australian Government provides funding for this national network of 50 Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) under the RDA Program, for the operation and activities it requires the RDAs to perform. RDAs work across all levels of government and with community to drive economic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in regions through facilitating investment opportunities in community, industry and the environment.

RDAs are legally separate entities formed under state and territory legislation. They are incorporated associations responsible for their own activities and employment arrangements, in line with their funding obligations to the Commonwealth and Rules of Association. However, the six Victorian RDAs are independent non-incorporated advisory bodies of the Victorian Government.

Status The RDA Program commenced on 1 July 2009 and is ongoing. Current funding agreements expire on 30 June 2025. New funding agreements were prepared and executed by the department with RDAs in April 2025. The new agreements commence on 1 July 2025.

RDA Chair appointments for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2027 were made in February 2025, by the then Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories (in conjunction with funding partners in Victoria and South Australia). There is one exception for the RDA Brisbane Chair appointment term, which is from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2027.

Chair appointments have a two-year extension option (to 31 December 2029) which is exercisable by the Australian Government Minister responsible for the RDA Program (in conjunction with funding partners in Victoria and South Australia).

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	22.3	23.0	23.5	24.1

Contact Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Financial Assistance Grant

Outcome 3

Description	<p>The Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) Program pays an annual allocation of untied funding through the states and territories to each local governing body in Australia. Receiving local governments have discretion to spend the funds on locally identified priorities.</p> <p>The FA Grant is administered in accordance with the <i>Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995</i> (the Act) and consists of two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the general-purpose component, which is allocated to the states and territories according to population (i.e. on a per-capita basis); and the local roads component, which is allocated on fixed historical shares. <p>The states and territories distribute the funding to local governments in their jurisdiction on a horizontal fiscal equalisation basis in accordance with the Act.</p>
Status	<p>The FA Grant is an ongoing program that commenced on 1 July 1974 and has since provided more than \$70 billion of Commonwealth support to the sector (including 2024–25). There are 546 local governing bodies as at 2024–25.</p> <p>Payments are made in four equal quarterly installments to jurisdictions for immediate distribution to local governing bodies. Payments occur in August, November, February and May. The last payment was made on 17 February 2025 and the final installment is scheduled to be made on 15 May 2025.</p> <p>On 28 June 2024, the Australian Government brought forward and paid to the states and territories \$2.8 billion, being 85 per cent of the 2024–25 allocation of \$3.3 billion.</p> <p>As at 31 March 2025, the Program has paid \$380 million to local government in 2024–25.</p>

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	3,453	3,588	3,724	3,863

Contact	<p>Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

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Housing Support Program

Outcome 3

Description	<p>The Housing Support Program (HSP) is a \$1.5 billion fund that supports National Cabinet's Housing Accord commitment to build 1.2 million homes by 2029. The Program is designed to support enabling infrastructure and planning reforms.</p> <p>For the initial \$500 million for the Program there were two streams identified: \$50 million to support planning and \$450 million to support enabling infrastructure and community amenities. To be eligible, primary applicants needed to be a state, territory or local government. To be meritorious projects needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help bring forward new housing supply or; • support innovative planning reforms to help bring online future housing supply; and • demonstrate that the work could be completed in the specified period and that it would not be funded without Commonwealth intervention. <p>For the \$1 billion Priority Works Stream, funding was made available to states and territories as a one-off payment on a per capita basis (with a minimum \$25 million for smaller states and both territories) to assist with unlocking housing supply with a particular focus on critical infrastructure works. Up to 25 per cent of funding was available for social housing investment.</p>
Status	<p>Stream 1 funded 80 projects targeting planning capability. As at 1 April 2025, the Commonwealth has signed Federation Funding Agreements (FFAs) with all states except Victoria, which is briefing its Minister on the agreement issued by the Commonwealth. There were no successful Stream 1 projects in the ACT or NT.</p> <p>Stream 2 (Community Enabling Infrastructure) supported 36 projects. To date, the Commonwealth has signed agreements with the NT, NSW and QLD. The Commonwealth has provided a signed schedule to VIC, and negotiations are ongoing with TAS and WA. There were no successful projects in SA or the ACT.</p> <p>The \$1 billion Priority Works Stream has moved to the delivery stage with states required to provide bi-annual progress reports. There are no further funding rounds available and all projects are expected to be delivered by 30 June 2026 (2027 for the Priority Works Stream).</p>

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	15	-	-	-

Contact	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

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Macquarie Point

Outcome 3

- Description** The Australian Government has made a capped funding commitment of \$240 million for urban redevelopment at the Macquarie Point precinct in Hobart.
- Status** A Federation Funding Agreement (FFA) schedule is in place with the Tasmanian Government that confirms the Australian Government's commitment to the precinct and makes clear the preconditions of our funding, which include:
- provisions for affordable housing;
 - consideration of transport connectivity; and
 - wharf upgrades that support Antarctic operations and polar research programs.

Funding is profiled to commence from 2025–26, and the FFA schedule does not yet contain any financial milestones. We expect to renegotiate the FFA schedule to include specific financial milestones once the Tasmanian Government has completed their detailed design and master planning for the redevelopment of the Macquarie Point site. The master plan is expected to be completed mid-2025.

The Tasmanian Government is working on the development of a stadium within the Macquarie Point Precinct. The Tasmanian Government commissioned an independent review of the stadium by Dr Nicholas Gruen that was published in January 2025. The review found current costings and timeframes were unrealistic and estimated construction costs to be around \$1 billion. There has been no formal response from the Tasmanian Government to the review. To date, the project is progressing as initially planned.

Program funding

Macquarie Point is funded under the 'Hobart and Launceston Urban Renewal Co-investments' Budget item.

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	80.0	100	60.0	-

Contact Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

National Capital Investment Framework

Outcome 3

Description	The National Capital Investment Framework is a commitment between the Australian Government and the Australian Capital Territory Government to work together to address the Territory's emerging infrastructure needs, prioritise those needs for funding opportunities and work together to enable a more wholistic partnership.
Status	<p>On 22 July 2023, the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, and the ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, jointly announced the National Capital Investment Framework.</p> <p>Since the Framework's inception, the ACT Chief Minister has put forward a number of proposals seeking Commonwealth support and has also referenced existing Australian Government commitments (roads projects), which are funded through the Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP) as part of the Framework.</p> <p>In the 2025–26 Budget, the Australian Government committed \$100 million over four years from 2025–26 to support delivery of the Canberra Aquatic Centre and the Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct under the Framework.</p> <p>The funding will be delivered through a Federation Funding Agreement – Infrastructure Schedule with the ACT Government.</p>

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	12.1	12.5	27.5	47.9

Contact	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
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Services to Indian Ocean Territories

Outcome 4

Description The Australian Government is responsible for the delivery of state government-type services to the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT). The IOTs is the collective name for Christmas Island (CI) and Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).

Status Services to the Indian Ocean Territories is an ongoing program. State government-type services are delivered primarily through three mechanisms:

- Service Delivery Arrangements (SDA) with the Western Australian Government: (as at 30 June 2024, 39 state agencies provided 55 services to the IOTs, including education, consumer protection and land planning).
- Direct service provision by the Australian Government: the department, through the IOTs Administration, delivers a range of services including health, power generation and distribution (CI), community infrastructure, Magistrates Courts, Collector of Public Money, employee and public housing maintenance and management, motor vehicle registry (CI) and land management.
- Contracts with the private sector for specialised services: This includes airport management (Toll), air services (Virgin Australia Regional Airlines) and ports management (Linx).

The department owns and manages a portfolio of Territory assets and delivers major infrastructure projects including Tower Crane on Christmas Island to enable the delivery of critical services to a satisfactory level of reliability and performance for the IOT community.

Program funding

Funding for services to the Indian Ocean Territories is broken up into two accounts: Services to Indian Ocean Territories; and Indian Ocean Territories Special Account 2023.

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Services to Indian Ocean Territories	110	113	113	116
Indian Ocean Territories Special Account	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Services to Jervis Bay Territory

Outcome 4

- Description** The Australian Government is responsible for the delivery of state government-type services to the Jervis Bay Territory.
- Status** Services to Jervis Bay Territory is an ongoing program that ensures governance and legislative arrangements are fit for purpose to support provision of essential infrastructure and delivery of health, education and corrections services to the residents of the Jervis Bay Territory.

Program funding

Funding for services to the Jervis Bay Territory is broken up into two accounts: Services to Jervis Bay Territory; and Jervis Bay Territory Special Account 2023.

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Services to Jervis Bay Territory	7.5	6.3	6.4	6.5
Jervis Bay Territory Special Account	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

- Contact** Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Services to Norfolk Island

Outcome 4

- Description** The Australian Government is responsible for the delivery of state government-type services to Norfolk Island.
- Status** Services to Norfolk Island is an ongoing program. The Government delivers state government-type services to Norfolk Island through various arrangements with government and private service providers, including:
- an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Queensland Government covering education, health support and corrective services, and apprenticeships and traineeships;
 - a Service Delivery Agreement with the Norfolk Island Regional Council for the provision of services relating to courts and legal services, registry services, licensing and regulatory enforcement, ports management and emergency services;
 - private service providers to deliver specific services such as child welfare, early childhood education and care, and workers compensation management;
 - the Australian Federal Police deliver community policing;
 - the department manages some functions directly or in collaboration with other agencies, including biosecurity, Commonwealth reserves management and key infrastructure assets; and
 - maintenance and capital works for Commonwealth assets on island.

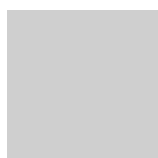
Program funding

Funding for services to Norfolk Island is broken up into two accounts: Services to Norfolk Island; and Norfolk Island Territories Special Account 2023.

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Services to Norfolk Island	65.6	66.8	68.1	69.6
Norfolk Island Special Account	0.185	0.188	0.188	0.188

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Portfolio entities

Regional Development portfolio

Non-corporate Commonwealth entity	National Capital Authority
Corporate Commonwealth entity	
Commonwealth company	

National Capital Authority (NCA)

Outcome 4

Description

The National Capital Authority (NCA) is a non-corporate Australian Government agency within the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts portfolio. The NCA operates under the *ACT Planning and Land Management Act 1988* (the PALM Act) and performs a range of functions in respect of protecting the Commonwealth's interest in planning, promoting, enhancing, and maintaining Canberra as the National Capital. It prepares and administers a National Capital Plan.

The functions of the NCA provide an enduring framework to secure the planning and development of Canberra as the capital; to accommodate the Seat of Government and associated national and cultural requirements; to provide national public places for all Australians to visit and enjoy; to enhance the unique character and symbolic meaning of the capital; and to develop appreciation of the capital as a reflection of our democracy and national life.

Your role and responsibilities

Under the PALM Act, you:

- are responsible for the effectiveness and efficiency of the NCA;
- can issue written directions to the NCA about its performance. The NCA is accountable to you and you may provide the NCA with a Statement of Expectation,¹ outlining the Australian Government's priorities for the agency to ensure it operates with transparency and accountability (note: the last Statement of Expectation was signed on 19 March 2024); and
- are responsible for recommending appointments to senior NCA positions (such as the Chief Executive Officer and NCA Board membership) to the Prime Minister and Governor-General for approval (see Regional > critical decisions).

¹ RMG 128 states that Statements of Expectations should be refreshed with every change in Minister, change in regulator leadership, change in Commonwealth policy or every two years.

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With your approval, the NCA manages National Land designated as being required for the special purposes of Canberra as the National Capital.

Board members and leadership

Name: National Capital Authority Board

Type: Management Board

Description: The *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (the PALM Act) provides that the Authority consist of a Chair, a Chief Executive and three other members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor-General. The Authority is often referred to as the NCA Board. The Board provides the leadership and strategic direction of the NCA in the execution of its statutory functions. Members' backgrounds are in planning, environmental management, property and contract management and marketing and communication.

Member's name	Position	Current term expiry date
Mr Terry Weber	Chair	12 June 2025
Ms Karen Doran PSM	Chief Executive	1 April 2029
Ms Jenny Smithson	Member	10 June 2025
Mr James Willson	Member	30 September 2025
Prof Helen Lochhead AO	Member	26 April 2028

Funding profile

As at 2025–26 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Departmental Appropriation	10.2	10.5	10.7	10.8
Departmental Capital Budget	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Total Departmental	10.9	11.2	11.4	11.6
Ordinary Annual Services	22.4	23.8	25.0	26.2
Administered Capital Budget	16.0	16.3	16.5	16.7
Administered Assets and Liabilities	96.1	-	-	-
Total Administered	135	40.1	41.5	42.9
Total Appropriations	146	51.3	52.9	54.4
Average Staffing Level	68	-	-	-

Contacts

Department contact: Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contact: Karen Doran, Chief Executive; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Other boards and structures

Outcome 3

Program 3.1 – Regional Development

Name: Regional Development Australia Committees (RDA) Network

Established by/under: Funding agreement

Type: Structures linked to the Australian Government through statutory contracts, agreements and delegations **Appointed by:** The Minister (Chairs).

Description: The Regional Development Australia (RDA) Program is a national network of 50 committees across Australia's capital cities and regions, including the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), Norfolk Island and Jervis Bay Territory.

The Commonwealth Minister responsible for the Program appoints Chairs. In Victoria, this is done in conjunction with the State Government Minister responsible for the Program. In regional South Australia (SA), this is done in conjunction with the Minister responsible for the Program and the President of the Local Government Association of SA (LGASA).

Deputy Chairs are appointed by Chairs after agreement is provided by the Commonwealth Minister. For Victoria, agreement is also provided by the State Minister. For regional SA, agreement is also provided by the State Minister and the President of LGASA. All other members are appointed by the Chairs.

The RDAs work across all levels of government and with community to drive economic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in regions through facilitating investment opportunities in community, industry and the environment. The committees include:

- ACT and NSW: Southern NSW and ACT;
- NSW: Central Coast; Central West; Far West; Hunter; Illawarra Shoalhaven (including Jervis Bay Territory); Mid North Coast (including Norfolk Island); Murray; Northern Inland; Northern Rivers; Orana; Riverina; Sydney;
- NT: Northern Territory;
- QLD: Brisbane; Central and Western Queensland; Darling Downs and South West; Gold Coast; Greater Whitsundays; Ipswich and West Moreton; Logan and Redlands; Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast; Townsville and North West; Tropical North; Wide Bay Burnett;
- SA: Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island; Adelaide Metropolitan; Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains; Eyre Peninsula; Far North; Limestone Coast; Murraylands and Riverland; Yorke and Mid North;
- TAS: Tasmania;
- VIC: Barwon South West; Gippsland; Grampians; Hume; Loddon Mallee; Melbourne;
- WA: Goldfields Esperance; Great Southern; Kimberley; Mid West and Gascoyne; Peel; Perth; Pilbara; South West; Wheatbelt; and
- IOT: Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation.

Members:

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Regional Development Australia Committees (RDA) Network**

- A list of members for all 50 committees is available upon request.

Contact: Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government Division;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Program 3.3 – Cities**Name: Urban Policy Forum**

Established by/under: Minister

Type: Non-statutory advisory structure

Appointed by: The Minister.

Description: The Urban Policy Forum (UPF) is an advisory group comprised of experts with experience in a range of urban policy, planning, housing and development matters. The objectives of the UPF are to:

- support and champion the Australian Government's urban policy agenda;
- support a coherent vision for national urban policy through provision of advice to the Australian Government and relevant Minister on implementation of the National Urban Policy (the Policy), including by:
 - facilitating cross-sector consultation, collaboration and partnerships to support successful implementation of initiatives in the Policy; and
 - providing input into reviews of the Policy or its implementation.
- advise the Australian Government and Minister on other policies and programs requiring a coherent and integrated approach within urban areas.

To date, the UPF has focused on providing advice on the development of the now released Policy, and development of the State of Australian Cities report. They are now focused on providing advice and input for the implementation of the Policy.

Members were appointed by the Minister on 8 May 2023, for an initial period of two years. If the Minister wishes to continue the UPF, new appointments will need to be made.

Members:

- Prof Barbara Norman, Chair;
- Prof Dr Neil Argent, Member;
- Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black, Member;
- Vice-Chancellor Sally Capp AO, Member;
- Ms Bronwen Clark, Member;
- Mr Matt Collins, Member;
- Ms Elle Davidson, Member;
- Mr Michael Fotheringham, Member;
- Ms Rebecca Moore, Member;
- Ms Davina Rooney, Member;
- Ms Alison Scotland, Member;
- Mr Rob Stokes, Member; and

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Urban Policy Forum**

- Mr Mike Zorbas, Member.

Contact: Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division;

02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Outcome 4

Program 4.1 – Services to Territories

Name: Administrator of the Northern Territory

Established by/under: *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** Governor-General.

Description: The Administrator of the Northern Territory (NT Administrator) undertakes statutory duties (for example, providing Royal Assent to proposed laws of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory), appointing the Chief Ministers and members of the Cabinet after an election, representational duties (for example, awarding honours) and ceremonial duties (for example, becoming a patron of public institutions).

Under the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* the Governor-General may, on the Minister's recommendation, appoint one or more persons to act in the office of Administrator should the office be vacant or whenever the Administrator is absent from duty or from the Territory (such as for international travel). These officers are referred to as dormant Commissioners. Customarily, the Chief Justice of the NT Supreme Court is appointed as first dormant Commission holder.

Appointees:

- His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Crosbie Heggie AO PSM, Administrator;
- Her Honour Chief Judge Elizabeth Jane Morris AM, Commissioner; and
- the Hon Michael Grant AO, Commissioner.

Contact: David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Name: Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands)

Established by/under: *Christmas Island Act 1958* and Administration Ordinance 1968 (CI) and *Cocos (Keeling) Act 1955* and Administration Ordinance 1975 (CKI)

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** Governor-General.

Description: The Administrator is the most senior Australian Government representative on CI and CKI, and is responsible for progressing the implementation of the Government's agenda on island. They have a communication and advocacy role with the local communities and exercises delegated decision-making powers and functions on behalf of the Minister. The position is a statutory appointment made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Australian Government.

A Deputy Administrator (generally a Senior Executive Officer of the department) is appointed by the Minister to fulfil the Administrator's duties in instances where the Administrator is absent from duty or unable to exercise and perform their role.

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands)**

The establishing legislation also allows the Minister to appoint an Acting Administrator during a vacancy in the office or if the Administrator is unable to fulfil their role however the established protocol is that the Deputy Administrator would fill the role in the first instance.

Administrators:

- Ms Farzian Zainal, Administrator; and
- Ms Kim Forbes, Deputy Administrator.

Contact: David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Name: Administrator of Norfolk Island

Established by/under: Norfolk Island Administrator Ordinance 2016

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** Governor-General.

Description: The Administrator is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Australian Government under the Norfolk Island Administrator Ordinance 2016 and is the most senior Australian Government representative on Norfolk Island. The Administrator is responsible for progressing the implementation of the Government's agenda on island.

The Administrator exercises powers and performs functions under a range of laws in force on Norfolk Island, including delegated powers and functions of the Minister.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Administrator, or if the Administrator is absent from Norfolk Island or otherwise unable to perform his duties, the Minister may appoint an Acting Administrator to fulfil his functions.

Administrator:

- Mr George Plant, Administrator.

Contact: David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Name: Norfolk Island Governance Committee

Established by/under: The Minister established the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) in October 2023 following a non-statutory community election to select community representatives to sit on the committee.

Type: Non-statutory advisory structure **Appointed by:** The Minister.

Description: The NIGC is a formal avenue for the Norfolk Island community to have input into Australian Government decisions directly affecting the community, while the local government body, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, remains under administration.

On 27 November 2023, the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSCNCET) released *Restoring Democracy: Report of the Inquiry into local governance on Norfolk Island*. The JSCNCET recommended a new, bespoke model of local governance be developed for Norfolk Island. Since

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Norfolk Island Governance Committee**

November 2023, the primary focus of the NIGC has been to provide recommendations to government on the design of the new governance model for Norfolk Island.

Six members, including three community representatives, were initially appointed to the NIGC for a term of up to three years or until such time as a new local government is elected, whichever occurs first. However, one community representative resigned in November 2024. The NIGC has asked the remaining community representatives to lead on filling the vacant role. A representative from the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet is included, as the Queensland Government is the Australian Government's primary state services delivery partner, through an intergovernmental agreement.

Committee members:

- Mr George Plant, Chair;
- Ms Chelsea Evans, Community Member;
- Mr Chris Magri, Community Member;
- Ms Rachel Welsh, Queensland Government Member; and
- Ms Kim Forbes, Australian Government Member.

Contact: David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Name: Norfolk Island Regional Council Administrators

Established by/under: The applied *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)(NI)

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** The Minister.

Description: The Norfolk Island Regional Council (Council) is currently under administration. The Council Administrators have all the functions of the Council, including all the functions of a councillor and the mayor, and are tasked with continuing to strengthen Council's operations, performance and financial sustainability while preparing for the transition to the proposed new bespoke local governance model for Norfolk Island.

Following two independent audits in 2020 and a Public Inquiry in 2021, the councillors were dismissed and an administrator, Mr Mike Colreavy, was appointed for a three-year term to 6 December 2024.

Mr Colreavy's final report confirmed completion of the implementation of most recommendations from the audits. The remaining 21 require an Australian Government decision, or injection of significant additional funding. In December 2024, the government extended the Council's period of administration for an additional 12 months under the leadership of a new administration team, comprised of Mr Scott Mason as Lead Council Administrator and Mr Gary Mottau as Council Administrator with responsibility for finance and governance. Mr Mason and Mr Mottau commenced on 6 December 2024 following the conclusion of Mr Colreavy's term.

Appointees:

- Mr Scott Mason, Lead Council Administrator; and
- Mr Gary Mottau, Council Administrator for finance and governance.

Contact: Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Supreme Court of Norfolk Island****Established by/under:** *Norfolk Island Act 1979***Type:** Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** Governor-General on advice of the Federal Executive Council.**Description:** The Supreme Court of Norfolk Island is the superior court of record of Norfolk Island. It is constituted by a Chief Justice and such other Judges as are appointed by the Governor-General.**Appointees:**

- Mr Robert Bromwich, Chief Justice;
- Mr Michael Wigney, Judge; and
- Ms Wendy Abraham, Judge.

Contact: Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)**Name: Court of Petty Sessions of Norfolk Island****Established by/under:** *Court of Petty Sessions Act 1969 (NI)***Type:** Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** The Minister.**Description:** The Court of Petty Session of Norfolk Island is the inferior court of record of Norfolk Island. The court exercises criminal and civil jurisdiction over all summary offences and all civil claims to the value of \$60,000. It is constituted by a Chief Magistrate and such other Magistrates as are appointed by the Minister.**Appointees:**

- Ms Wendy Cull, Chief Magistrate;
- Ms Maureen Tavener, Magistrate;
- Mr Hamish Martin, Magistrate; and
- Mr Brian McGrath, Magistrate.

Contact: Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)**Name: Canberra National Memorials Committee****Established by/under:** Australian Capital Territory National Land (National Memorials, Territory Divisions and Public Places) Ordinance 2022

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees **Appointed by:** The Governor-General for acting appointments and appointments of up to 2 persons living in the ACT.

The Minister for an appointment under section 18 of the Ordinance.

Description: The Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC) approves the location and character of national memorials, and nomenclature of divisions of, and public places, in the ACT.

The Ordinance sets out membership, committee responsibilities and appointment processes.

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Canberra National Memorials Committee**

The CNMC is chaired by the Prime Minister, and the Minister are a member. The National Capital Authority (NCA) is the secretariat for the committee. In practice, the CNMC meetings are attended by the Minister, the Secretary of the department and chair of the NCA. The committee last met in 2022 but is expected to meet later in 2025 to discuss the design for the National Memorial commemorating victims of child sexual abuse.

Committee members:

- the Prime Minister, Chair;
- the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Member;
- the Leader of the Government in the Senate, Member;
- the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Member;
- the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, Member;
- the Secretary of the department, Member;
- one person appointed by the Minister under section 18 of the Ordinance (currently Mr Terry Weber), Member; and
- up to two persons living in the ACT appointed by the Governor-General, Members.

Contact: Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Significant ministerial roles

Local Government Ministers' Forum (LGMF)

Purpose	<p>The Local Government Ministers' Forum (LGMF) brings together Commonwealth, state and territory ministers, with responsibility for local government, to identify and respond to matters of national significance to the local government sector.</p> <p>Each year, the forum develops a forward work plan on up to five priority matters that would benefit from a national approach. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint analysis of data and recommendations on common action; • identifying and sharing of best practice; and • collaboration on policy products to support local governments.
Current status	<p>LGMF meets twice per year around April and October, with the option for additional meetings where urgent matters arise.</p> <p>LGMF is typically held in person with jurisdictions taking turns to host. The last meeting was on 1 November 2024, in Melbourne where the 2024 work plan was concluded.</p> <p>While priority matters for 2025 were agreed by ministers at the last meeting, decisions on specific actions were deferred until after the federal election.</p> <p>No date has been set for the next meeting.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>You chair LGMF, setting the agenda for meetings and ensuring it operates effectively and collaboratively to deliver outcomes of national significance.</p> <p>Your leadership of LGMF ensures the Australian Government's interests in local government are represented with the states and territories and that appropriate national consideration is given to key local government issues.</p>
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>The department provides secretariat support for LGMF and works with state and territory officials to prepare agendas and develop any required papers and supporting documents to deliver on work plan priority matters.</p>
Contact	<p>David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Planning Ministers' Meeting

Purpose	<p>The Planning Ministers' Meeting brings together the Australian Government, state and territory planning ministers and the Australian Local Government Association (as an expert advisor) to discuss nationally significant planning matters, including priorities tasked by National Cabinet.</p> <p>At the February 2024 meeting, Planning Ministers endorsed a work plan to guide work through to February 2025.</p> <p>The range of planning matters raised in this forum have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s47B(a) [REDACTED] • disaster resilience and climate adaptation in land use planning; • development of a shared governments' vision for the sustainable growth of our cities which was included in the National Urban Policy released on 29 November 2024; and • telecommunications planning. <p>The Planning Ministers' Meeting is not a formal National Cabinet subgroup, but provides an important forum for cross-jurisdictional engagement on planning matters and is required to report to National Cabinet on referred matters.</p>
Current status	<p>Key items progressing through Planning Ministers' Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s47B(a) [REDACTED] • Development of a national framework for communications infrastructure has now progressed to an implementation plan, led by the Mobile Telecommunications Working Group. • Development of an approach to embed nationally agreed principles for considering disaster and climate risk in land use planning is being led by the New South Wales Government with guidelines being consulted on.
Your role and responsibilities	<p>You facilitate the Planning Ministers' Meeting. You are responsible for finalisation of meeting agendas, encouraging discussion and participation by all members at meetings, and facilitating decision-making by consensus. Recently, a non-Cabinet Minister in the portfolio has assisted by taking carriage of discussion on items related to urban policy and disaster and climate risk.</p>
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>Secretariat for the Planning Ministers' Meeting is provided by the department.</p>
Contact	<p>David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Regional Development Australia (RDA) Awards

Purpose	<p>The Regional Development Australia (RDA) Awards commenced in 2024, and were well received by Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs).</p> <p>The awards acknowledge the significant contributions that RDAs make in support of their communities, and promote locally-led innovations, solutions and best practice that can be shared and adapted across the network of 50 RDA Committees.</p> <p>In 2024, there were four RDA award categories, which aligned with the Regional Investment Framework: Investing in People; Investing in Places; Investing in Services; and Investing in Industries and Local Economies.</p>
Current status	<p>Planning for the 2025 RDA Awards is underway, which includes consideration of award categories, reviewing and updating processes, timing options and costs.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>The RDA Awards are presented as part of the annual RDA National Forum, which you host. The forum is an annual event which brings together RDA Committee representatives from across Australia to discuss and share approaches to regional priorities and economic development opportunities and challenges. The forum is typically held in a non-sitting period in the latter part of the calendar year.</p> <p>You will have an opportunity to announce and present the RDA Award winners and to provide an address to RDAs as part of the forum.</p>
Resourcing/funding information	<p>The department oversees administration of the RDA Awards and facilitates, in partnership with RDAs, the development and implementation of the National Forum where the RDA awards will be announced.</p> <p>The RDA National Forum and Awards are part of a long-standing practice of utilising a small portion of the RDA Program administered appropriation, to fund capacity building initiatives that support Committees in their delivery of outcomes for Government. In 2024, the total cost for delivering these initiatives was approximately \$132,000 (GST incl), and it is anticipated that costs will be similar in 2025.</p>
Contact	<p>Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development & Local Government Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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The National Awards for Local Government (NALG)

Purpose	<p>The National Awards for Local Government (NALG) is in its 39th year. As the peak awards for the sector, the NALG are an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the achievements of local governments.</p> <p>The NALG reflect the changing economic, social and environmental issues facing communities today through the 13 award categories.</p> <p>This year the <i>Outstanding Rural and Remote Council Award</i> was introduced to specifically recognise the significant contributions of smaller councils in rural and remote areas. Councils with a population of 15,000 or less, that have submitted an entry in any one of the other 12 categories, will be automatically considered for this award.</p>
Current status	<p>Entries for the NALG closed on 17 March 2025. Public voting closed on 28 April 2025.</p> <p>Winners will be announced and presented with their awards at a breakfast event in Canberra on Wednesday 25 June 2025. The event will precede the opening of the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>You will have an opportunity to host the NALG awards presentation breakfast. There will be media opportunities associated with announcing the 2025 awards recipients.</p>
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>The department administers the NALG. The estimated budget for the NALG is \$22,000 (GST incl), which is met through departmental funds.</p>
Contact	<p>Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Appointment of Administrators for the Indian Ocean Territories, Norfolk Island and Northern Territory

Purpose	<p>Administrators for Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) (collectively referred to as the Indian Ocean Territories or the IOT), Norfolk Island (NI) and Northern Territory (NT) are sworn in by the Governor-General of Australia for a period of three years.</p> <p>The NT Administrator carries out key statutory, civic and ceremonial responsibilities for the Northern Territory, as part of their public office role.</p> <p>The Administrators for the IOT and NI represent the Australian Government on island and are responsible for advocating for the Government's agenda.</p>
Current status	<p>All three Administrators commenced their three-year terms in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT Administrator—His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM; • NI Administrator—Mr George Plant; and • IOT Administrator—Ms Farzian Zainal.
Your role and responsibilities	<p>You play a key role in the appointment of Administrators for the IOT and NI. You decide on the selection process and are responsible for managing the decision through the Cabinet approval process.</p> <p>The positions are statutory appointments made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Australian Government.</p> <p>s47C</p> <p>You are responsible for appointing a Deputy Administrator (IOT) and an Acting Administrator (IOT and NI) if required. Both these positions fulfil duties if the relevant Administrator is absent from duty or unable to perform their role. The current Deputy Administrator (IOT) is Ms Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division. There is currently no Acting Administrator for NI.</p> <p>You are able to authorise departmental officers to manage administrative processes on their behalf (such as IOT and NI Administrator leave and travel).</p> <p>The Governor-General has powers to appoint the NT Administrator and Acting Administrators under the <i>Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978</i>.</p> <p>You are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approving the NT Chief Minister's nominee for the role of NT Administrator; • approving the NT Administrator's travel and leave; and

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• acting arrangements when the NT Administrator is absent from duty or unable to exercise and perform their role.	
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>The department manages the appointment process for the IOT, NI and NT Administrators, according to your decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2025–26 there is \$477,000 administered funding for the NT Administrator’s salary, allowances, travel outside of the NT and superannuation as set by the Remuneration Tribunal (the NT Government provides funding for costs associated with Government House and its staff).• In 2025–26 there is \$1.23 million to meet the costs of the NI Administrator and his office.• Funding to meet the costs of the IOT Administrator and their office is included in the services to the IOT and subject to an internal budget allocation.
Contact	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Minister is legally the employer of staff in the Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA)

Purpose	<p>Under the <i>Christmas Island Act 1958</i> and the <i>Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955</i>, Administration Ordinances were first issued in 1958, with the most recent edition issued on 18 June 2004, which make you the employer of staff in the Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA).</p> <p>Staff employed by IOTA are Commonwealth employees, but not members of the Australian Public Service (non-APS employees). IOTA employs 144 Administration staff and 29 Registered Nurses across offices on both islands.</p> <p>IOTA staff provide the following key state-type services to the IOT communities: power; health; land, planning and heritage; disability and ageing, community services and housing.</p> <p>Your day-to-day powers to manage IOTA staff were delegated to Senior Executive Officers within the Territories Division of the department through the Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory Delegation Instrument No.2 amended on 1 May 2015.</p> <p>You retain the responsibility for setting the terms and conditions of employment through Enterprise Agreements (EA), these are separate to the EAs for departmental staff.</p> <p>The IOT Administration staff and Registered Nursing staff have separate EAs.</p>
Current status	<p>The IOT (Administration) EA is currently the subject of negotiation, with two ballots held for a new EA in January and March 2025, which have <u>not</u> been supported by the majority of staff. An analysis of the ballot outcomes will be undertaken to determine the way forward.</p> <p>The IOT (Registered Nurses) EA is currently the subject of early negotiations, with comparative analysis work being undertaken in preparation for the recommencement of bargaining at the end of the caretaker period.</p> <p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>Bargaining representatives consist of union (Union of Christmas Island Workers (UCIW) and Australian Nurses Federation (ANF)) and employee representatives.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>You are responsible for signing off any EA offer put to staff for ballot, as well as negotiating with the Minister for the Public Service should an exemption from the Australian Government Workplace Relations Policy 2023 (the current policy) be sought.</p>
Resourcing/funding information	<p>The department supports you in these roles, preparing proposals, seeking advice from the Australian Public Service Commission regarding consistency with the current policy, undertaking negotiations with bargaining representatives and conducting ballot processes.</p>
Contact	<p>David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Norfolk Island Regional Council Administrator appointments

Purpose	<p>The Norfolk Island Regional Council is a local government body on Norfolk Island. In December 2021, following two independent audits and a public inquiry, the council was placed under administration until December 2024.</p> <p>Following the Government's November 2024 announcement that a new, bespoke model of governance would be developed for Norfolk Island, council's administration period was extended to December 2025.</p> <p>A new administration team was appointed from 6 December 2024 to lead council's transition to the new governance model. Mr Scott Mason was appointed as Lead Council Administrator and Mr Gary Mottau appointed as Council Administrator with responsibility for finance and governance.</p>
Current status	<p>Mr Mason and Mr Mottau have been appointed as Council Administrators until 31 December 2025. They provide quarterly reports to you on the status of the council's performance and progress against audit recommendations, and its readiness to transition to the proposed new governance model in December 2025.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>You are responsible for exercising all the powers of the state Governor and the state Minister under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW) (NI) as applied on Norfolk Island. This includes either extending the appointments of Mr Mason and Mr Mottau as Council Administrators, or appointing another Council Administrator or Administrators in their place, in the event the council's administration period is extended further. The Council Administrators are accountable to you.</p>
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>Council Administrator salaries are funded from the Services to Norfolk Island administered budget. Travel expenses and other reasonable expenses are also covered under the terms of their appointment.</p>
Contact	<p>David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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Portfolio legislation

Regional Development

Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995

Purpose	Provides financial assistance to states for local government, improving their financial capacity, service equity, and effectiveness, including support for Indigenous communities.
Contact	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act 1974

Purpose	Provides financial assistance to states for urban and regional development projects, including water supply, sewerage, and flood mitigation.
Contact	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Territories

Ashmore and Cartier Islands Acceptance Act 1933

Purpose	Provides for the acceptance of Ashmore and Cartier Islands as a Territory of the Commonwealth and the government of the Territory, including applying Northern Territory (NT) laws to the Territory, empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory, and conferring on the NT courts, jurisdiction in and in relation to the Territory.
Contact	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

A.C.T. Self-Government (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988

Purpose	Makes certain transitional arrangements and amends certain Acts in consequence of the enactment of the <i>Australian Capital Territory (Self-</i>
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Government) Act 1988, which provides for the self-government of the Australian Capital Territory.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988

Purpose Repeals the *National Capital Development Commission Act 1957* and provides for the planning of and the management of land in the Australian Capital Territory following self-government. Also establishes the National Capital Authority, which must, amongst other things, prepare and administer the National Capital Plan and, on behalf of the Commonwealth, manage certain areas of National Land required for the special purposes of Canberra as the National Capital.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988

Purpose Provides for the self-government of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), including establishing the ACT Legislative Assembly (the Assembly) and the ACT Executive. Importantly, the Commonwealth is not bound by the laws of the Assembly except as provided by the regulations (see section 27 of the Act).

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Canberra Water Supply (Googong Dam) Act 1974

Purpose Authorises the construction of the Googong Dam in New South Wales (NSW) to supply water to the Australian Capital Territory, respecting historical agreements between the Commonwealth and New South Wales.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Christmas Island Act 1958

Purpose Provides for the acceptance of Christmas Island as a Territory of the Commonwealth and the government of the Territory, including applying Western Australian (WA) laws to the Territory, empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the

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Territory, and conferring on the WA courts, jurisdiction in and in relation to the Territory.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Christmas Island Agreement Act 1958

Christmas Island Agreement Act 1976

Purpose The *Christmas Island Agreement Act 1958* approves and terminates an agreement between Australia and New Zealand relating to phosphate extraction and related matters on Christmas Island, including the constitution and termination of the Christmas Island Phosphate Commission. The *Christmas Island Agreement Act 1976* amends that agreement.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955

Purpose Provides for the acceptance of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands as a Territory of the Commonwealth and the government of the Territory, including applying Western Australian (WA) laws to the Territory, empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory, and conferring on the WA courts, jurisdiction in and in relation to the Territory.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Coral Sea Islands Act 1969

Purpose Declares the Coral Sea Islands as a Territory of the Commonwealth and provides for the government of the Territory, including empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory and conferring on the Norfolk Island courts, jurisdiction in and in relation to the Territory.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE***Jervis Bay Territory Acceptance Act 1915***

Purpose	Provides for the acceptance of the territory at Jervis Bay that was surrendered to the Commonwealth by New South Wales as a Territory of the Commonwealth known as the Jervis Bay Territory and provides for the government of the Territory. This includes applying Australian Capital Territory (ACT) laws to the Territory, empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory, and conferring on the ACT courts, jurisdiction in and in relation to the Territory.
Contact	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Norfolk Island Act 1979

Purpose	Provides for the government of Norfolk Island, including empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of Norfolk Island.
Contact	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Northern Territory Acceptance Act 1910

Purpose	Provides for the acceptance of the Northern Territory as a Territory of the Commonwealth and the carrying out of the agreement to surrender the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth by South Australia.
Contact	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Northern Territory (Self Government) Act 1978

Purpose	Provides for the self-government of the Northern Territory (NT), including establishing the NT Legislative Assembly, the NT Administrator and the Executive Council of the NT.
Contact	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Parliament Act 1974

Purpose	Determines the site for the construction of the new and permanent Parliament House at Capital Hill within the Parliamentary zone.
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Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) |
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Removal of Prisoners (Territories) Act 1923

Purpose Provides for the removal of prisoners from Territories of the Commonwealth (other than the Northern Territory) to states or other territories for sentencing or the residue thereof.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) |
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1922

Purpose The *Seat of Government Act 1908* (the Act) provides for the acceptance of the Territory described in the Act that was surrendered to the Commonwealth by New South Wales known as the Australian Capital Territory for the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth. The *Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1922* ratifies an agreement for the variation of the agreement for the surrender and acceptance of that Territory for the purposes of the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) |
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Seat of Government Act 1908

Purpose Determines that the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth is the district of Yass-Canberra in New South Wales.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) |
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910

Purpose Provides for the provisional government of the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth, including empowering the Governor-General to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Australian Capital Territory with respect to specified matters.

Contact Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) |
s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Territories Law Reform Act 2010

Purpose	Amends the law relating to Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands to implement a number of reforms, containing a number of application and transitional provisions.
Contact	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**

Pages 59-105 deleted pursuant to s22(1)(a)(i)

Exempt material – section 47C

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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Appointments

Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Outcome 3		
Program 3.1 – Regional Development		
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Adelaide Metropolitan	December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Chris Sampson, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Brisbane	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Andrew Morphet, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Barwon South West	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Grant Sutherland, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central and Western Queensland	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Andrew Martin, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central Coast	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Anna Cruckshank, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central West	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Reg Kidd, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Darling Downs and South West	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Stuart Mackenzie OAM, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Eyre Peninsula	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far West	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Chair vacancy. December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Byron Hooker, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Gippsland	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Raelene Hanratty, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Goldfields Esperance	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Shane Reilly, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Gold Coast	September 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Chris Davis, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Grampians	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Great Southern	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Alex Ogg, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Greater Whitsundays	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Stephen Cutting, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hume	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Illawarra Shoalhaven	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Nicola Sloan, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Ipswich and West Moreton	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Kimberley	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Limestone Coast	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Erica Vickery, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Loddon Mallee	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Craig Niemann, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Logan and Redlands	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon Gary Hardgrave, Chair; and Mrs Kim Kerwin, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Melbourne	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Linc Horton, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Mid North Coast	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Richard O'Leary, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Mid West and Gascoyne	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Dalene Wray AM, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Geoff Lowe, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Inland	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Rivers	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Territory	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Jeffrey Caldbeck, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Peel	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Jade Creevey, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Perth	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Pilbara	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Patricia Wilkinson, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) SA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Southern NSW and ACT	December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Ross MacDiarmid AM, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) South West	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Kate Shaw, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sydney	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Kylie Hargreaves, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tasmania	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Townsville and North-West Queensland	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Mary Brown, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tropical North	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr William (Brett) Moller, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt	September 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Karen Strange, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wide Bay Burnett	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Melissa Brooke, Deputy Chair. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Yorke and Mid North	Current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Deputy Chair vacancy. 	Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Program 3.3 – Cities		
Urban Policy Forum	May 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Barbara Norman, Chair; Prof Dr Neil Argent, Member; Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black, Member; Vice-Chancellor Sally Capp AO, Member; Ms Bronwen Clark, Member; Mr Matt Collins, Member; Ms Elle Davidson, Member; Mr Michael Fotheringham, Member; Ms Rebecca Moore, Member; Ms Davina Rooney, Member; Ms Alison Scotland, Member; Mr Rob Stokes, Member; and Mr Mike Zorbas, Member. 	Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Outcome 4		
Program 4.1 – Services to Territories		
Canberra National Memorials Committee	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Terry Weber, Member. 	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation	September 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Thomas Battcher, Deputy Chair. 	Kim Forbes, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
National Capital Authority (NCA)	June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Jenny Smithson, Member; and Mr Terry Weber, Chair. September 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr James Willson, Member. 	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Norfolk Island Regional Council	December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Scott Mason, Lead Council Administrator; and Mr Gary Mottau, Council Administrator with responsibility for finance and governance. 	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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Pages 114-155 deleted pursuant to s22(1)(a)(i)

Exempt material – section 47C

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts