



Australian Government

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

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Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

INCOMING GOVERNMENT BRIEFING 2025

Cities

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Australian Government

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

Secretary
Jim Betts

The Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Cities
Australian Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of the department, congratulations on your appointment and welcome to the portfolio. We look forward to supporting you in your capacity as Minister for Cities.

Your portfolio is one of the Commonwealth's key contributors to the nation's economy, with cities accounting for about 80 per cent of GDP and where 73 per cent of the population lives.

Incoming Government Briefing

I refer you to the attached Incoming Government Briefing that comprises information about the Cities portfolio.

The *'Your portfolio'* volume introduces the structure and role of the portfolio. It contains a suite of program briefs providing an overview of existing programs and associated funding administered by the department.

The briefing also provides information on *the department*, including its budget and the leadership team.

The *'Your priorities'* volume^{s47C}

s47C

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss the content of the briefing in more detail at a time convenient for you.

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Department support**

We will work with you and your office over the coming weeks to understand how the department can best meet your specific support requirements.

Should you require it, the department is able to immediately provide support officers while you are settling your staffing allocation and recruiting staff. This can include the provision of policy officers with subject matter knowledge in key areas, as well as administrative support staff to establish your office.

Consistent with previous arrangements, the department will provide ongoing experienced employees as Departmental Liaison Officers to work in your office on an annual rotational basis.

Our Corporate team will prioritise implementing key systems and processes, and provide a briefing for your Chief of Staff and Office Manager setting out the administrative support arrangements we will provide for you and your office.

Portfolio meetings

Establishing a strong and productive working relationship between your office and the department is a first order priority for me. I would like to propose scheduling a regular Portfolio Business Meeting, as an option for you and your Chief of Staff to consider, to work through key Cabinet and portfolio issues. The department is also able to assist with coordinating introductory meetings with the heads of your portfolio agencies.

I can be contacted directly on s22(1)(a)(ii) L, and my office is available to assist with any queries your office may have s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au and s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au).

I look forward to working closely with you and your office to deliver the Government's agenda.

Yours sincerely



Jim Betts

13 May 2025

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Establishing your office

Establishing your office

Our first priority is to assist you in establishing your office.

While you reach agreement with the Prime Minister's office on the number of staff allocated to your office, and staff are being appointed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* in the first three months, the department will support the establishment of your office through the provision of a 'transition team'.

Where you hold a number of portfolios, there will be discussions across relevant agencies and with the Department of Parliamentary Services and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet about how best to service your office, including which agency will take a lead support role.

The department provides a range of services to support you and the effective operation of your office.

Within the next 48 hours: Senior staff will be in contact with you and your office in the next day or so to commence discussions about your immediate and ongoing support requirements. Your incoming Chief of Staff will be separately provided with a detailed overview of available services.

The department will provide you and your Chief of Staff with a networked laptop, mobile phone and iPad. We have a dedicated Premier Support function to assist with your IT and mobile communications needs 24/7 in your Parliament House and Ministerial Offices. We will arrange for ICT access and provisional security clearances for your transition team.

Within the next 2 weeks: The department will support your media team with media services; support you to select one or more Departmental Liaison Officers to help manage the flow of briefing and correspondence between your office and the department; provide access and support to use the Parliamentary Document Management System (PDMS+) and the Cabinet system (CabNet+); and arrange briefings for staff on security and document handling.

These departmental services are in addition and separate to services provided by the Department of Parliamentary Services at Parliament House and the support provided by the Department of Finance's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority. The services provided by these agencies may include briefing your key staff on Cabinet and security issues; determining your Parliament House office location and when it will be set up for you; allocating your Commonwealth Parliamentary Office/ Ministerial Office (this can take two weeks); coordinating secure communications for all your offices; and arranging a car with a driver.

The primary points of contact to assist you with establishing your office are:

Maree Bridger

Chief Operating Officer

Phone: (02) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Kate Feros

Assistant Secretary, Government Services

Phone: (02) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Premier Support: s22(1)(a)(ii), mobile: s22(1)(a)(ii) |
s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)



Cities

About the department

Budget outcomes
Department budget
Organisational structure
Leadership team
Departmental staff

Your portfolio

Programs at a glance
Major program briefs
Other boards and structures
Significant ministerial roles

Your priorities

s47C



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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.

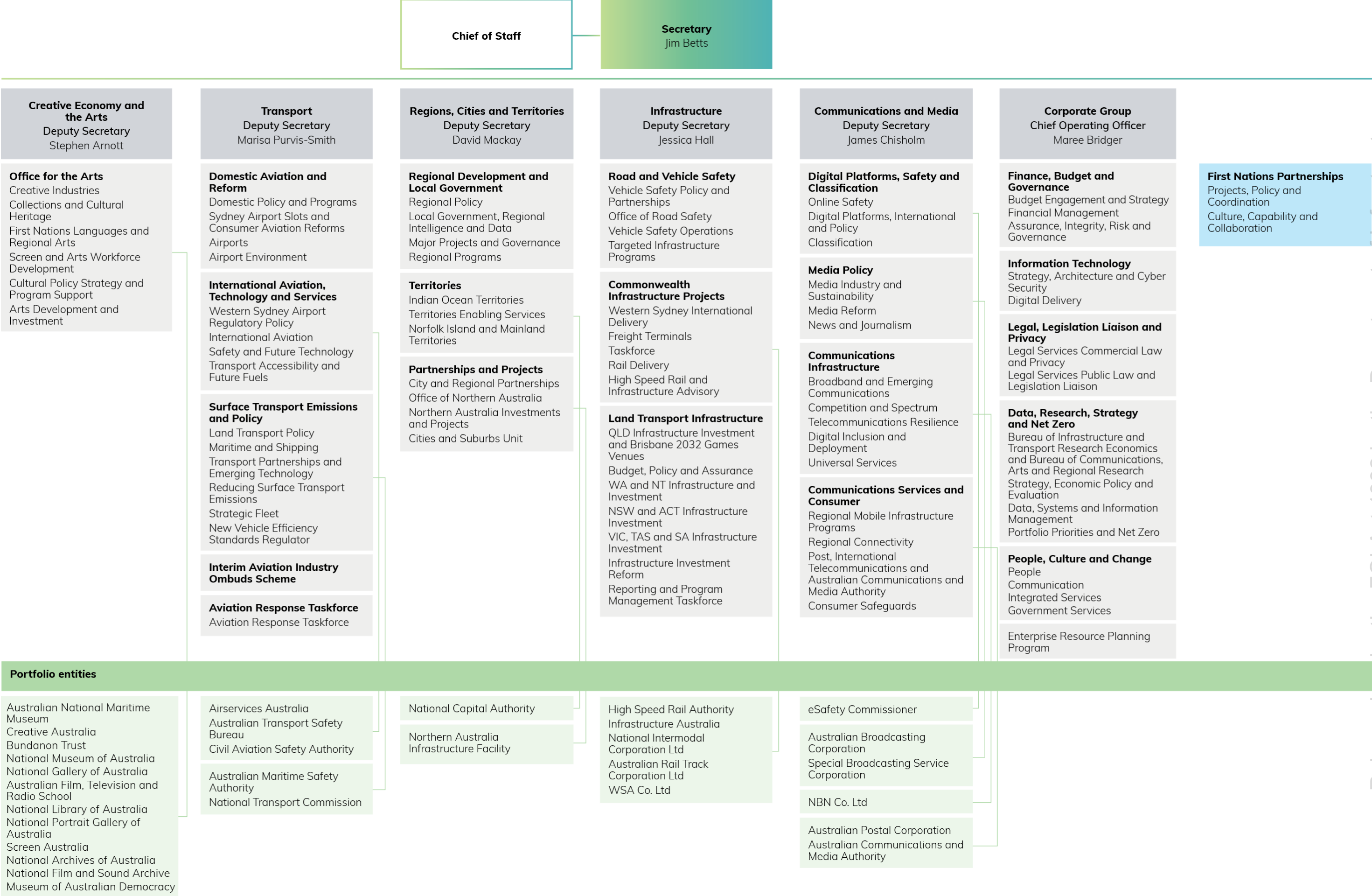
Other funding administered by the department

	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.

s47C, s47E(d)

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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.

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

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

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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.

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

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



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.

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

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

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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.

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

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



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.

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

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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.

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

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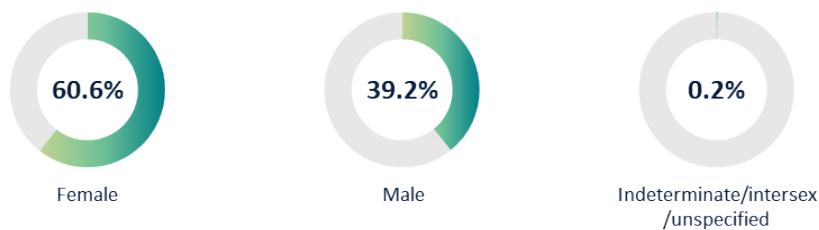
Departmental staff

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.

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 significant position crucial to advancing domestic policy objectives, which is summarised in this section. The department supports your participation as well as the effective operation of this forum.

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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

Thriving Suburbs

-

30 June 2027

Yes ☒No ☐

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

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.

Program 3.3 – Cities

Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program

\$101.0

30 June 2027

Yes ☐No ☒

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

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.

Support for City Deals

\$0.3

30 June 2026

Yes ☐No ☒

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

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.

Launceston City Deal

\$4.1

30 April 2027

Yes ☐No ☒

David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories;

This agreement between the Australian and Tasmanian governments and the City of Launceston supports investing for a lively city with better education and job

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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
opportunities, regional economic growth and rising incomes.				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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
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.	\$50.1	31 March 2029	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)
National Capital Investment Framework (announced in PEFO)	\$100.0	30 June 2029	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories;

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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
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.				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.	\$81.4	30 September 2030	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)
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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 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"/>	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Major program briefs

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

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

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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 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.

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.

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.

The funding will be delivered through a Federation Funding Agreement – Infrastructure Schedule with the ACT Government.

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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Other boards and structures

Outcome 3

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

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

- Mr Mike Zorbas, Member.

Contact: David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
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Significant ministerial roles

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>

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

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Pages 27-39 deleted pursuant to s22(1)(a)(i)

Exempt material – section 47C

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Appointments

Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
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Outcome 3**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. 	David Mackay, Deputy Secretary, Regions, Cities and Territories; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
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Pages 41-52 deleted pursuant to s22(1)(a)(i)

Exempt material – section 47C

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