



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

Communications



Communications

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s47C



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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Australian Government****Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts****Secretary
Jim Betts**

The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Communications
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 Communications.

Your portfolio is one of the Commonwealth's key contributors to the nation's economy and touches every Australian region and community. It underpins our society, and enables communication and creative industries.

Incoming Government Briefing

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

The '**Your portfolio**' volume introduces the structure and role of the portfolio. It contains an overview of each portfolio entity, including each entity's funding profile and management board. It also includes 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}

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

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), 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)

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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.

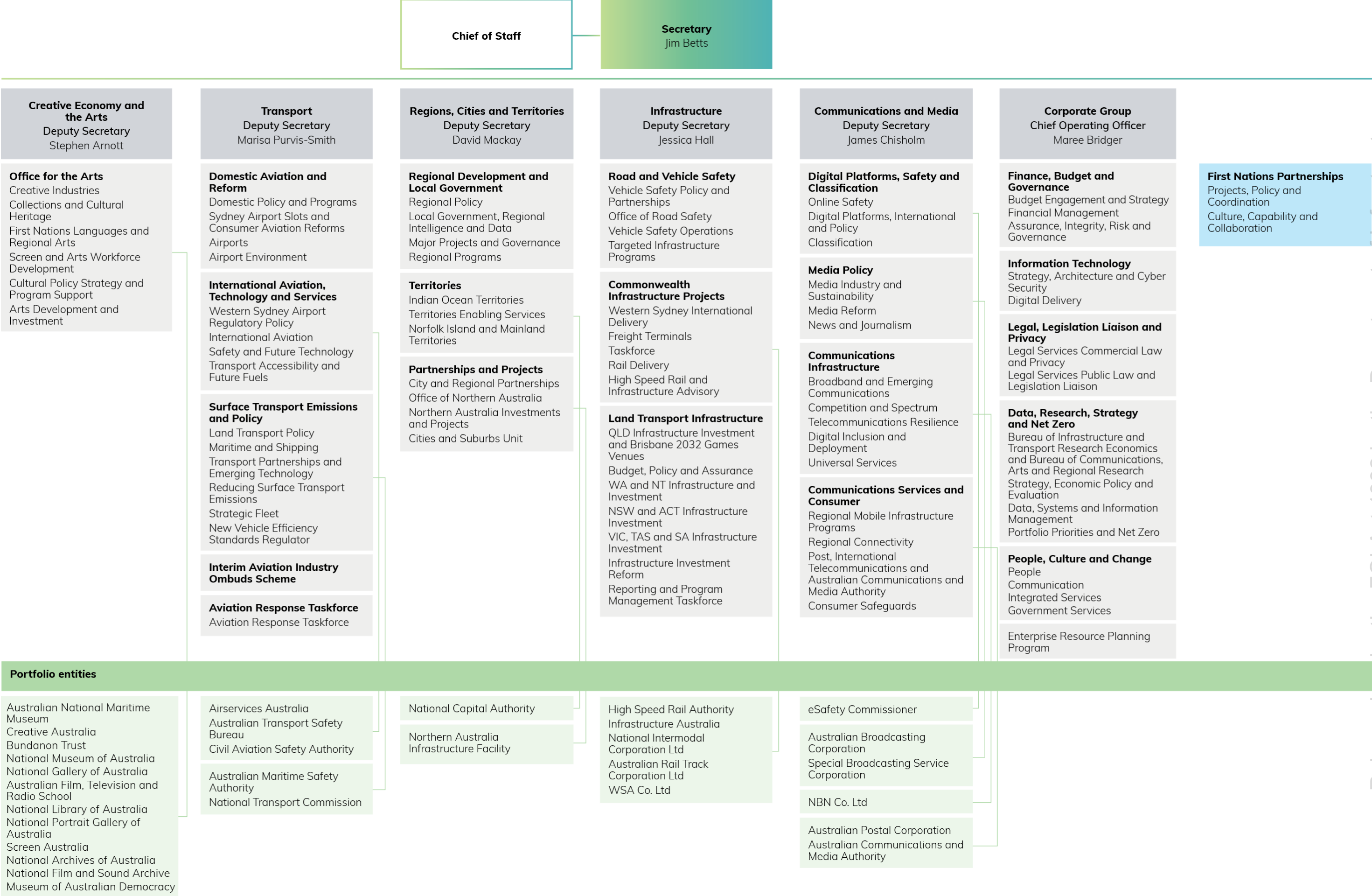
Other funding administered by the department

	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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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.

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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:s22(1)(a)(ii)@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.

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

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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)

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

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About the department

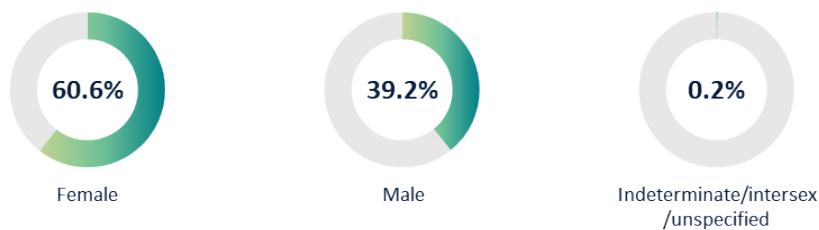
Departmental staff

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.

Your portfolio

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

Portfolio entities

The portfolio encompasses oversight of several entities governed under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. We have summarised the entities within your portfolio, including each entity's funding profile, and management board.

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.

Regulatory functions

This section outlines the Minister and the department's direct regulatory responsibilities.

Programs at a glance and major program briefs

Programs 'at a glance' 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.

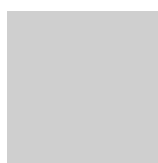
Significant ministerial roles

You hold a number of significant positions that are critical to advancing domestic and international policy objectives. These 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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Portfolio entities

Communications Portfolio

Non-corporate Commonwealth entity	Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)	eSafety Commissioner	
Corporate Commonwealth entity	Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)	Australian Postal Corporation
Commonwealth company	NBN Co Limited		

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Description

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is an independent statutory authority and a body corporate under the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* (ABC Act). It is classified as a Corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). The ABC's functions are set out in its Charter (section 6, ABC Act). It requires the ABC to:

- provide within Australia, innovative and comprehensive broadcasting services of a high standard as part of the Australian broadcasting system, including broadcasting programs that contribute to a sense of national identity, inform, entertain and reflect the cultural diversity of the Australian community, and broadcasting programs of an educational nature;
- transmit to countries outside Australia, broadcasting programs of news, current affairs, entertainment and cultural enrichment that will encourage awareness of Australia and an international understanding of Australian attitudes to world affairs, and enable Australian citizens living or travelling outside Australia to obtain information about Australian affairs and Australian attitudes on world affairs;
- provide digital media services; and
- encourage and promote the musical, dramatic and other performing arts in Australia.

Your role and responsibilities

Under the ABC Act you:

- determine selection criteria for the appointment of the Chairperson and Non-Executive Directors to the ABC Board (the Board) (section 24W);
- receive recommendations from the independent Nomination Panel following a merit-based selection process to fill vacancies on the Board (section 24B), and make recommendations to the Governor-General on Deputy Chairperson and Non-Executive Director appointments to the Board (section 12). The Prime Minister is responsible for recommending candidates for appointment to the position of the Chairperson;
- have no statutory role in the appointment or reappointment of the ABC Managing Director, as the Board is responsible for making that appointment;

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- may grant leave to the Chairperson of the Board to be absent from a meeting of the Board upon such conditions as to remuneration or otherwise as you think fit (section 15);
- may give directions to the ABC to broadcast a particular matter or content that you consider to be in the national interest (section 78);
- may direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority to conduct an investigation into the degradation of the ABC's signal quality (section 79AA); and
- have other powers relating to specific operational and financial dealings of the ABC (sections 25, 25A, 25B, 27).

Board members and leadership

Name: ABC Board

Type: Management Board

Description: The Board is responsible for ensuring the proper and efficient performance of the ABC's functions. The Board and its functions are established under the ABC Act. The Board consists of the Managing Director, the Chairperson, the staff-elected Director and not fewer than four, nor more than six other Non-Executive Directors (including the Deputy Chairperson).

Member's name	Position	Current term expiry date
Mr Kimberley (Kim) Williams AM	Chairperson	6 March 2029
Ms Georgina (Georgie) Somerset AM	Deputy Chairperson and Non-Executive Director	5 August 2025 22 February 2027
Mr Hugh Marks	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)	9 March 2030
Mr Settimio (Mario) D'Orazio	Non-Executive Director	12 May 2026
Ms Laura Tingle	Staff-Elected Director (ex officio)	30 April 2028
Ms Nicolette Maury	Non-Executive Director	15 October 2028
Ms Louise McElvogue	Non-Executive Director	15 October 2028
Ms Katrina Sedgwick OAM	Non-Executive Director	1 October 2029
Vacant	Non-Executive Director	N/A

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Funding profile**

As at 2025–26 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Revenue from Government	1,229.2	1,264.1	1,298.8	1,326.2
Other Revenue*	107.8	100.8	97.3	97.6
Total Revenue	1,337.0	1,364.9	1,396.1	1,423.8
Average Staffing Level	4,413	-	-	-

* The ABC generates other revenue mainly from commercial activities, such as merchandise sales and program licence fees, and cannot carry paid advertising on its broadcasting services.

Contacts

Department contact: Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 §22(1)(a)(ii) | §22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contact: Mr Kim Williams AM, Chairperson; §22(1)(a)(ii) and Mr Hugh Marks, Managing Director; §22(1)(a)(ii)

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Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

Description

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) regulates aspects of telecommunications, broadcasting, radiocommunications, unsolicited communications, and certain online content. The ACMA's purpose is to maximise the economic and social benefits of communications infrastructure, services, and content for all Australia.

The ACMA is an independent Commonwealth statutory authority established by the *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005* (ACMA Act). The ACMA has responsibilities under four principal Acts: the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* and the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. There are other Acts under which the ACMA has responsibilities and functions in areas such as spam, the Do Not Call Register, and interactive gambling.

The eSafety Commissioner, Australia's online safety regulator, sits within the ACMA but operates as an independent statutory officer established under the *Online Safety Act 2021*.

Your role and responsibilities

- In accordance with the legislative framework detailed above, ACMA operates under a Ministerial Statement of Expectations (last issued in December 2024) to provide clarity about Government policies relevant to the ACMA in line with its statutory objectives, and the priorities Government expects it to observe. The ACMA responds with a statement of intent identifying how it will deliver on those expectations. This is consistent with the approach to regulators across Government.
- You make nominations to the Governor-General for appointments to the ACMA following Cabinet processes.
- You may make acting appointments to the ACMA and appoint as many associate members to the ACMA as deemed necessary.
- You may give written directions to the ACMA in relation to the performance of its functions, including what matters are to be included in its Corporate Plan.
- You may direct the ACMA on matters specified under other Acts, including the Broadcasting Services Act, the Radiocommunications Act, the Telecommunications Act and the Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act.
- You approve ACMA's Cost Recovery Implementation Statements.

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Portfolio entities

Board members and leadership

Name: ACMA		
Member's name	Position	Current term expiry date
Ms Nerida O'Loughlin PSM	Chair	13 October 2027
Mr Adam Suckling	Deputy Chair	10 March 2030
Ms Samantha Yorke	Member	27 August 2028
Ms Carolyn Lidgerwood	Member	15 October 2028
Ms Anna Brakey	Associate Member	9 December 2025
Ms Catriona Lowe	Associate Member	26 January 2028

Funding profile

As at 2025–26 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Revenue from Government	167.8	162.5	158.9	154.4
Other Revenue	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
Total Revenue	168.1	162.8	159.0	154.5
Average Staffing Level	696	-	-	-

Contacts

Department contact: Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contact: Ms Nerida O'Loughlin PSM, ACMA Chair; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post)

Description

The *Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989* (APC Act) establishes the Australia Post Board, sets out its functions, powers and obligations, and deals with operational matters. Australia Post's major function is to provide postal and parcel services within Australia, and between Australia and other countries.

Australia Post is wholly owned by the Australian Government. The Minister for Finance and the Minister for Communications (the Shareholder Ministers) represent the Australian Government's shareholder interests.

Your role and responsibilities

- Under the APC Act, you are the responsible Minister and the Minister for Finance is the joint Shareholder Minister. Current practice is that many actions are undertaken jointly with the Minister for Finance, including approving dividends and appointments.
- Shareholder Ministers issue Australia Post with a Statement of Expectations and Commercial Freedoms Framework which provide guidance on the purpose, role and limits on Australia Post's activities, and set out your expectations for how Australia Post will engage with the Government.
- You make nominations to the Governor-General for Board appointments.
- You may directly appoint an acting Deputy Chairperson or acting Director.
- You may disapprove a determination by the Australia Post Board to increase the basic postage rate.
- You may direct the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to prepare or publish a report analysing Australia Post's reserved services pricing.
- You may direct the Board, in the performance of Australia Post's functions as you consider necessary in the public interest, to vary its Corporate Plan, and to return mail to a foreign post. Such a direction must be tabled in Parliament.
- You may either approve the Board's recommended dividend payment (including an interim dividend), or direct the payment of a different amount.
- You are required to annually table in Parliament a report by the Auditor-General on Australia Post's compliance with its prescribed performance standards. By convention, this is included in Australia Post's annual report.
- You have no statutory role in the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as the Board is responsible for making that appointment.

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Portfolio entities

Board members and leadership

Name: Australia Post Board

Type: Management Board

Description: The APC Act establishes the Australia Post Board and sets out its constitution and role. The Board is currently at its statutory maximum of nine members — the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Managing Director and six other directors. Except for the Managing Director, members are part-time non-executives appointed by the Governor-General on the nomination of the Minister for Communications. Terms of appointment must be five years or less. However appointments are usually made for three years.

Member's name	Position	Current term expiry date
Ms Siobhan McKenna	Chair	14 December 2025
Mr John Stephen (Steve) Mann	Deputy Chair	25 October 2026
Mr Paul Graham	CEO and Managing Director	N/A
Ms Launa Inman	Non-Executive Director	29 May 2025
Ms Robyn Clubb AM	Non-Executive Director	14 September 2025
Dr Jodie Auster	Non-Executive Director	5 July 2026
Ms Debra Hazelton	Non-Executive Director	25 October 2026
The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk	Non-Executive Director	14 August 2027
Dr Richard Dammary	Non-Executive Director	29 September 2027

Funding profile

As at 2025–26 Budget	2023–24 (\$m)	2024–25 (\$m)	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Equity from Government*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australian Postal Corporation Valuation	2,356**	-	-	-	-	-

* Australian Postal Corporation has \$400 million of Contributed Equity from investments made by the Government in the early 1990s. There have been no subsequent investments.

**Australian Postal Corporation valuation as at 30 June 2024. Source: [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Annual Report 2023–24](#).

Contacts

Department contact: Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contacts: Ms Siobhan McKenna, Chair; s22(1)(a)(ii), Mr Paul Graham, Group CEO and Managing Director; s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii), Executive Assistant to Mr Paul Graham; s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

eSafety Commissioner

Description

The eSafety Commissioner (the Commissioner) is Australia's independent regulator and educator for online safety. The Commissioner is an independent statutory office holder established under section 26 of the *Online Safety Act 2021* (Online Safety Act).

The Commissioner's primary purpose is to help safeguard Australians at risk of online harms and to promote safer, more positive online experiences. The Commissioner administers the Online Content Scheme and complaints schemes for child cyberbullying material, cyber-abuse material and non-consensual intimate images, as well as the industry codes and standards and the Basic Online Safety Expectations. The Commissioner is empowered to enforce the social media minimum age – requiring certain social media platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 years old from having an account (introduced by the *Online Safety (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024* (SMMA Act)).

Your role and responsibilities

You can issue a written Statement of Expectations to the eSafety Commissioner (last issued December 2022) to provide greater clarity about Government policies and objectives relevant to eSafety, in line with its statutory objectives. The eSafety Commissioner responds with a statement of intent identifying how they will deliver on those expectations.

Under the Online Safety Act you:

- are responsible for appointing the Commissioner by written instrument for a period not exceeding five years;
- are responsible for appointing a person to act as the Commissioner when the Commissioner is absent from duty, or from Australia, or is unable to perform their duties;
- may give directions by written instrument to the Commissioner about the performance of their duties or exercise of their powers. These directions must be of a general nature only;
- have power to determine rules relevant to the Commissioner's administration of the Online Safety Act, including the power to:
 - determine the Basic Online Safety Expectations for social media services, relevant electronic services and designated internet services; and
 - make legislative rules to either include or exclude certain electronic services, or classes of services, from the definition of an 'age-restricted social media platform' under the SMMA Act. This power is critical to ensuring the SMMA is appropriately targeted to address online harms to young people.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Portfolio entities

Position holder

Name: eSafety Commissioner

Name	Position	Current term expiry date
Ms Julie Inman Grant	Commissioner	15 January 2027

Funding profile

As at 2025–26 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Revenue from Government	71.7	65.8	60.6	56.0
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	71.7	65.8	60.6	56.0
Average Staffing Level	242	231	226	213

Note: As an independent statutory office holder within the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), funds for eSafety are not directly appropriated. Instead, funds are directly appropriated to the ACMA. Under the *Online Safety Act 2021*, specified departmental and administered funds are credited to the special account. The special account is administered by the ACMA. However, any amount debited from the special account requires the Commissioner's approval.

Contacts

Department contact: Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contact: Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner; s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

NBN Co Limited (NBN Co)

Description

NBN Co Limited (NBN Co) was established in 2009 to build and operate the National Broadband Network (NBN). NBN Co operates at arm's length from Government as a wholly owned Commonwealth company. The Minister for Finance and the Minister for Communications (the Shareholder Ministers) represent the Commonwealth's shareholder interests.

NBN Co's primary purpose is to lift Australia's digital capability by delivering reliable, fast, resilient and secure broadband access. The network is required to be wholesale access only and be available on equivalent terms to all access seekers. The *National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011* requires NBN Co, as operator of the NBN, to remain in Government ownership.

NBN Co is a company established under the *Corporations Act 2001* and has its own Constitution. As a Government Business Enterprise (GBE), the governance and oversight arrangements for NBN Co are set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and in the GBE Guidelines. These Guidelines establish the reporting, accountability and financial governance arrangements for NBN Co and its Board.

Your role and responsibilities

- Under the Corporations Act, you and the Minister for Finance are the Shareholder Ministers. You may communicate Government policy to NBN Co by issuing a policy statement, writing a letter to the company, passing a shareholder resolution or updating the Statement of Expectations (SoE). The SoE sets the Government's objectives for the NBN and provides direction to NBN Co on implementation and ongoing expectations. The current SoE was issued on 19 December 2022.
- Shareholder Ministers make appointments to the NBN Co Board.
- You are not able to issue a direction to the Board. However, should it be necessary, you can issue a shareholder resolution under the company Constitution.
- Following consultation with the Commonwealth, the NBN Co Board may appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in accordance with section 12.1.1 of the company Constitution. The Cabinet Handbook requires that significant appointments be considered by Cabinet. The NBN Co CEO is considered a significant appointment.

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Portfolio entities

Board members and leadership**Name: NBN Co Board****Type:** Management Board

Description: The Constitution of NBN Co outlines the Board must consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of nine Directors. The Board currently consists of a Chair, the NBN Co Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ Executive Director, and five Non-Executive Directors.

NBN Co's goals are to deliver reliable, fast, resilient and secure wholesale-only, open-access broadband network to all Australians.

Member's name	Position	Current term expiry date
Mr Kevin Russell	Chair and Non-Executive Director	31 March 2028
Ms Ellie Sweeney	CEO and Executive Director	2 December 2027
Mr Michael Mrdak AO	Non-Executive Director	30 September 2026
Ms Nerida Caesar	Non-Executive Director	31 December 2026
Ms Parmjit (Pam) Bains	Non-Executive Director	18 March 2027
Ms Jules Scarlett	Non-Executive Director	18 March 2028
Mr Chum Darvall AM	Non-Executive Director	18 March 2028
Vacant	Non-Executive Director	N/A
Vacant	Non-Executive Director	N/A

Current funding profile

As at 2025–26 Budget	2023–24 (\$m)	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Equity from Government	N/A	1,050	186	-	-
NBN Valuation	20,600*	-	-	-	-

* NBN valuation as at 30 June 2024. There is \$1.6 billion in additional equity for fibre upgrades being held in contingency pending detailed construction design which is not reflected in the above table.

Overall equity profile

As at 2024–25 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)	2029–30 (\$m)
Total Equity from Government*	33,099	33,285	33,285	33,285	33,285
<i>Shares now owned by Government</i>					

* There is \$1.6 billion in additional equity for fibre upgrades being held in contingency pending detailed construction design which is not reflected in the above table.

NBN Co's debt profile

As at 28 February 2025	Available (\$m)	Utilised (\$m)	Undrawn (\$m)
Total Borrowings	35,657	27,600	8,026

Source: NBN Co's Debt Investor page, as at 14 April 2025: www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/about-nbn-co/debt-investor-information.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

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Portfolio entities

Contacts

Department contact: Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contact: Mr Kevin Russell, Chair; s22(1)(a)(ii) and Ms Ellie Sweeney, CEO; s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)

Description

The Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS) is an independent statutory authority and a body corporate under the *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991* (SBS Act). It is classified as a Corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

The SBS's purpose is set out in its Charter (section 6, SBS Act). It requires the SBS to provide multilingual and multicultural broadcasting and digital media services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians, and, in doing so, reflect Australia's multicultural society.

Your roles and responsibilities

Under the SBS Act you:

- determine selection criteria for the appointment of the Chairperson and Non-Executive Directors to the SBS Board (the Board) (section 43A);
- receive recommendations from the independent Nomination Panel following a merit-based selection process to fill vacancies on the Board (section 43), and make recommendations to the Governor-General on Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Non-Executive Director appointments to the Board (sections 17, 21);
- have no statutory role in the appointment or reappointment of the SBS Managing Director, as the Board is responsible for making that appointment;
- may grant leave to the Chairperson of the Board to be absent from a meeting of the Board upon such conditions as to remuneration or otherwise as you see fit (section 25);
- may, after consultation with the Board, direct the Board in relation to the performance of the SBS's functions as appear necessary in the public interest (section 11);
- may give directions to the SBS to broadcast a particular matter or content that you consider to be in the national interest (section 12);
- may direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority to conduct an investigation into the degradation of the SBS's signal quality (section 70AA); and
- have other powers relating to specific operational and financial dealings of the SBS (sections 52, 65).

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Portfolio entities

Board members and leadership

Name: SBS Board

Type: Management Board

Description: The Board is responsible for overseeing the SBS's operations. The Board and its functions are established under the SBS Act. The Board consists of the Managing Director, the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and not fewer than three, nor more than seven, other Non-Executive Directors.

Member's name	Position	Current term expiry date
Mr George Savvides AM	Chairperson	8 July 2025
Mrs Christine Zeitz	Deputy Chairperson and Non-Executive Director	9 May 2028
Mr James Taylor	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)	21 October 2028
Mr Vic Alhadeff OAM	Non-Executive Director	29 September 2026
Ms Katrina Rathie	Non-Executive Director	30 March 2027
Dr Andrew Lu AM	Non-Executive Director	15 February 2028
Mr Aaron Fa'Aoso	Non-Executive Director	15 February 2028
Ms Cassandra Wilkinson OAM	Non-Executive Director	7 June 2028
Dr Nicholas Pappas AM	Non-Executive Director	11 December 2029

Funding profile

As at 2025–26 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Revenue from Government	359.2	365.9	374.3	382.9
Other Revenue*	178.7	180.0	162.0	164.6
Total Revenue	537.8	545.9	536.3	547.5
Average Staffing Level	1,369	-	-	-

* The SBS operates under a mixed funding model that allows its funding to be supplemented by commercial activities, including broadcasting of paid advertising and sponsorship announcements.

Contacts

Department contact: Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Portfolio entity contact: Mr George Savvides AM, Chairperson; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii) and Mr James Taylor, Managing Director; s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Other boards and structures

Name: Classification Board

Established by/under: *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Classification Act)

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees

Appointed by: Governor-General.

Description: The Classification Board is an independent statutory body which comprises a Director, a Deputy Director and other members. The Board classifies films, computer games and certain submittable publications (all of which are defined in the Classification Act).

Board members:

- Mr Steven Thomson, Director (Chair);
- Mr Dominique Irlinger, Deputy Director (Deputy Chair);
- Ms Hellen Perko, Member;
- Ms Lauren Monaghan, Member; and
- Ms Jennifer Marvello, Member.

Contact: Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Name: Classification Review Board****Established by/under:** *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995***Type:** Statutory office holder, offices and committees**Appointed by:** Governor-General.

Description: The Classification Review Board is an independent statutory body. It is a part time board comprised of a Convenor, Deputy Convenor and other members to review decisions of the Classification Board, upon application.

Board members:

- Mrs Susan Bush, Convenor (Chair);
- Mr Adam Davy, Deputy Convenor (Deputy Chair);
- Mr Damien Power, Member;
- Mr David Toll, Member; and
- Ms Rechelle Leahy, Member.

Contact: Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Name: First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group (Advisory Group)**Established by/under:** Minister for Communications**Type:** Non-statutory advisory structure**Appointed by:** Minister, following consultation with the Prime Minister.

Description: The Advisory Group provides advice to the Minister for Communications on ways to support progress towards Target 17 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Target 17 aims for equal levels of digital inclusion for First Nations people by 2026. Target 17 underpins Outcome 17, which is focused on access to information and services to support First Nations Australians to make informed decisions about their lives and communities.

The Advisory Group consists of two co-chairs, four ordinary members, and an ex officio representative from First Nations Media Australia. All members are First Nations Australians and the Advisory Group is supported in its work by a Digital Inclusion Expert Panel. The Advisory Group currently has three vacant Member positions.

Board members:

- Ms Dot West OAM (Co-Chair);
- Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker (Co-Chair);
- Dr Heron Loban, Member; and
- Mr Adam Manovic, (ex officio) Member.

Contact: Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division;
02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Name: Nomination Panel for Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Board Appointments (Nomination Panel)

Established by/under: *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees

Appointed by: Secretary of Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Description: The independent Nomination Panel is responsible for conducting a merit-based selection process for non-executive Directors and Chairpersons in accordance with the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* and the *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991*. The Nomination Panel is required to provide the Minister for Communications (and in the case of the Chairperson of the ABC, the Prime Minister) with a written report of at least three recommended candidates for each vacancy with a comparative assessment of the recommended candidates.

The Nomination Panel comprises a Chair and at least two, but not more than three, other Members.

Vacancies arising until December 2025: Chair term expires 28 June 2025 and two Members' terms (marked with an *) expire 23 August 2025.

Board members:

- Ms Helen Williams AC (Chair);
- Ms Catherine Liddle, Member*;
- Professor Derek Wilding, Member*; and
- Ms Daryl Karp AM, Member.

Contact: Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Other boards and structures

Name: Regional Connectivity Ministers' Roundtable (RCMR)**Established by/under:** Minister for Communications**Type:** Ministerial Council**Appointed by:** Minister.

Description: The RCMR is chaired by the Minister for Communications and first met on 11 August 2023. It is attended by state and territory Ministers responsible for regional connectivity. Constitutional remit for communications rests with the Commonwealth, but the jurisdictions resource and lead their own initiatives, and stakeholders and delivery partners overlap. The RCMR provides a forum to work together to align efforts to improve connectivity outcomes for rural and regional Australians. It is not a formal decision-making body. The department provides secretariat and policy support, and leads supporting officials-driven processes to progress the RCMR's agenda. To date, the RCMR has met on a biannual basis.

Current Roundtable members:

- Federal Minister for Communications (Chair);
- ACT Chief Minister, Minister for Economic Development; Tourism and Trade, Mr Andrew Barr MLA;
- NSW Minister for Agriculture; Regional New South Wales; Western New South Wales, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC;
- NSW Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government; Emergency Services; Youth Justice, the Hon Jihad Dib MP;
- NT Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment; Corporate and Digital Development; Water Resources, the Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA;
- Qld Minister for Customer Service and Open Data; Small and Family Business, the Hon Steven Minnikin MP;
- WA Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC;
- SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development; Forest Industries, the Hon Clare Scriven MLC;
- Vic Minister for Government Services; Treaty and First Peoples; Prevention of Family Violence; Women, the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP; and
- Tas Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy; Corrections and Rehabilitation; Environment; Arts and Heritage, the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP.

Contact: Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division;
 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Other boards and structures

Name: Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC)

Established by/under: *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* (TCP Act)

Type: Statutory office holder, offices and committees

Appointed by: Minister.

Description: The RTIRC is established by Part 9B of the TCP Act to conduct reviews every three years into the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. The RTIRC must prepare a report and provide this report to the Minister. This must occur within three years of the completion of the previous review.

The RTIRC must consist of a Chair and at least two other members, appointed by the Minister for Communications. The Minister can only appoint a RTIRC member if this person has knowledge of, or experience in matters affecting regional, rural and remote parts of Australia or telecommunications. At least one RTIRC member must be nominated by an organisation that represents the interests of people, or bodies, in regional, rural or remote parts of Australia.

Board members:

- Nil at present. The previous RTIRC report was tabled in Parliament in December 2024. Members will likely need to be appointed in 2026 to conduct the next three-yearly review, due to be completed in 2027.

Contact: Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Regulatory functions

Regulated Function	Key regulatory role	Contact
Outcome 5		
Content classification Regulated under the <i>Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995</i> .	<p>The Minister has the power to approve classification tools for classification of films, computer games and publications for the purpose of industry self-classification.</p> <p>The department oversees content classification through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation: the department can accredit persons to classify films and computer games, direct persons to undertake further training and revoke accreditation. • Performance monitoring and reporting: the department develops and implements a performance monitoring framework, collects and analyses data on classification decisions, and prepares reports to ensure accountability and transparency. • Processing of classification applications: the department processes classification applications, directly applying the regulatory framework to specific content. • Permissions to import/export: the department processes and approves permissions to import/export classified materials, which is a regulatory function related to the control of such materials. 	Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Regulated Function	Key regulatory role	Contact
National Transmission Network Regulated under the <i>National Transmission Network Sale Act 1998</i> (NTNS Act 1998).	Key ministerial powers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approving, or refusing to approve, the transfer of an asset originally used by the National Transmission Agency or the replacement for such an asset, and exempting these assets from the requirement to obtain ministerial approval for a transfer; and • declaring a person to whom national transmission network assets are transferred to be a declared successor for the purposes of the NTNS Act, thereby ensuring the obligations and benefits of the NTNS Act apply to the declared person. 	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Broadband Scheme (RBS) Regulated under the <i>Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999</i> and the <i>Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Act 2020</i> (RBS Act).	Key ministerial powers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting the charge amounts (based on advice from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)); • clarifying definitions related to premises; and • setting out standards or rules to be met by contractors or grant recipients. <p>The department's primary role in managing the RBS Act is receiving funds collected by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and distributing them to eligible funding recipients (currently only NBN Co). This includes issuing relevant certificates, putting in place contract or grant arrangements with eligible funding recipients, monitoring contractor/grantee performance and managing transparency requirements under the legislation.</p>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regulation and funding of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Regulated under the <i>Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999</i> .	Key ministerial powers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining universal service providers and areas; • making standards, rules and benchmarks that apply to voice service obligations either under the USO or the related Customer Service Guarantee; • setting rules about the location, installation and repair of USO payphones; and • determining industry contributors and revenue thresholds that apply to the Telecommunications Industry Levy that helps fund the USO and other public interest services. 	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Regulated Function	Key regulatory role	Contact
Regulation of statutory infrastructure providers Regulated under the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> and associated instruments.	Key ministerial powers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to determine service areas and the statutory infrastructure provider (SIP) for those service areas; to exempt specified projects, or specify circumstances or principles that apply to requirements on SIPs; to make standards, rules or benchmarks that apply to SIPs; to establish rules that the ACMA must comply with in relation to reports or making information available; to determine special obligations on NBN Co, or to adjust the SIP supply obligation; and to require SIPs to provide the ACMA with compliance reports. 	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Telecommunications infrastructure in new developments Regulated under the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> and associated instruments.	Key ministerial powers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring optical fibre lines to be deployed to real estate developments, under conditions specified in an instrument; exempting conduct from the requirement to install optical fibre lines; exempting projects, conduct or building units from requirements to install fibre-ready facilities, or to specify circumstances that apply; and exempting facilities from any third-party access regime determined by the ACCC. 	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
s47C		

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Programs 'at a glance'

Program	Funding over forward estimates (\$m) ¹	End date	Major brief prepared	Contact
Outcome 5				
Age Assurance Trial Trial of age assurance technology to limit children's access to age inappropriate content online, including from social media and access to age-restricted content like online pornography.	-	30 June 2025	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific Makes Australian TV content available in Pacific nations. This includes sport, lifestyle, news and current affairs, drama, reality TV and children's programs. Funding terminates in 2026–2027, with program delivery to December 2027.	\$11.4	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia (BCP) 2022 Budget funded initiative that provides \$656 million over 2022–23 to 2029–30 for 15 initiatives. See major program: Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia (BCP).	\$291	30 June 2030	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Broadcasting Resilience Program Note this is funded by the BCP. Strengthen the resilience of 98 ABC radio sites used for emergency broadcasting against natural disasters.	-	30 April 2025	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cellular Broadcast Technologies: National Messaging System Building cell broadcast centres in each mobile network operator to support the Cell Broadcast National Messaging System. See major program: Cellular broadcast technologies: National Messaging System.	s47D	30 June 2027	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Funding over forward estimates (\$m) ¹	End date	Major brief prepared	Contact
Community Broadcasting Program Support for the community broadcasting sector to contribute to media diversity, social cohesion and upskilling community media. See major program: Community Broadcasting Program.	\$110	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Connecting Northern Australia Dedicated funding from Regional Connectivity Programs Round 2 projects under the connecting Northern Australia initiative.	\$17.9	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Consumer Representation Grants Program Grant of financial assistance to consumer bodies for consumer representation. The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network is the sole recipient.	\$11.5 ²	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Electromagnetic Energy (EME) Communications program Provides information and educational material to reassure Australians that EME from wireless telecommunications facilities is researched, regulated and safe. Annual capped amount from the EME component of the Spectrum Licence Tax collected by the ACMA.	\$2.1 (Tax recovered)	Ongoing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Final NBN Upgrades Investment Equity funding to be provided to NBN Co to enable the final Fibre to the Node premises within the fixed line footprint to access faster and more reliable broadband. See major program: Final NBN Upgrades Investment.	\$1,236	31 December 2030	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Funding Consumer Engagement for Telecommunications Regulation Grant funding to the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) to support National Broadband Network regulatory processes.	s47D	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Program	Funding over forward estimates (\$m) ¹	End date	Major brief prepared	Contact
International Organisation Contributions Funds Australia's financial contributions to the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.	\$30.7	Ongoing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Journalist (Cadetship and Training) Supporting regional Australian news organisations to hire new cadet journalist for two years to produce locally relevant news content. Funding terminated 30 June 2024 but reporting extends to 30 June 2026.	-	30 June 2024	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Measuring Broadband Australia (ACCC implemented) Provides independent and public broadband performance data, across a range of service providers and technologies, so consumers can make informed purchasing decisions.	\$1.8 (Cost recovered)	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Mobile Black Spot Program Grant program that invests in telecommunications infrastructure to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia. Rounds 1 to 6 are funded under this budget line. Later rounds of the program are funded under the BCP.	\$42.1	30 June 2027	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
National Audit of Mobile Coverage This is funded under BCP. The Audit aims to better identify mobile coverage black spots across Australia to help target future investment, and to provide an independent resource that better reflects on ground experiences of mobile coverage provided commercially by mobile providers. See major program: National Audit of Mobile Coverage.	\$6.4	30 June 2027	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
News Media Assistance Program (News MAP) Funding to sustain public interest news and journalism, support business innovation, and build commercial sustainability and resilience of news organisations – consistent with the News MAP policy framework. See major program: News Media Assistance Program (News MAP)	\$99.1	30 June 2028	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Programs 'at a glance'

Program	Funding over forward estimates (\$m) ¹	End date	Major brief prepared	Contact
News Media Relief Program Note this was funded by BCP in 2024–25. Funding to deliver urgent financial support for Australian news businesses targeting publications in regional and outer metropolitan areas of Australia, and publications providing news for CALD and First Nations communities.	-	30 June 2025	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Peri-Urban Mobile Program Grants program that provides funding to improve mobile connectivity in areas prone to bushfires and other natural disasters in the peri-urban fringes of Australia's major cities.	\$50.5	30 June 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Public Interest Telecommunications Services Special Account, inc; + National Relay Service + Universal Service Obligation + Other Public Interest Services Industry contributions and Government funding supports delivery of public interest telecommunications services including the Universal Service Obligation, Emergency Call Service (Triple Zero) and National Relay Service. See major program: Public Interest Telecommunications Services Special Account (PITSSA).	\$1,249	Ongoing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Backbone Blackspots Program Comprises around 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable that supports high bandwidth capacity across regional and remote Australia, and is used by the private sector and Australian Government agencies.	\$31.7 (Represents the depreciation cost of the asset)	Ongoing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Broadband Scheme Levy payments to NBN Co to cover the long-term net losses of its non-commercial fixed wireless and satellite networks.	\$3,962 (Cost recovered)	None	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Programs 'at a glance'

Program	Funding over forward estimates (\$m) ¹	End date	Major brief prepared	Contact
Regional Broadcasting Funding for the safety net broadcasting service (Viewer Access Satellite Television - VAST) and place-based support to improve reception., and the Remote and Regional Television Transmission and Reception Audit.	\$59.4 ²	30 June 2031	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Regional Connectivity Program Grants program funding the delivery of 'place-based' telecommunications projects to improve digital connectivity across regional, rural and remote Australia. Rounds 1 and 2 are funded under this budget line. Later rounds of the program are funded under the BCP.	\$13.5	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Safe Kids are eSmart Kids Resources and outreach to school children, educators and families with free tools to teach kids how to be safe, smart and responsible in the digital world.	\$2.0	December 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters 2.0: Sky Muster Wi Fi Extension Strengthening the security and resilience of the telecommunications sector against natural disasters, security threats, and other hazards.	\$14.0	30 June 2029	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; s22(1)(a)(ii) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Supporting Australian Associated Press (AAP) Note this was funded by BCP in 2024–25. For 2025–26 to 2027–28 it is standalone Budget line item. See major program: Supporting Australian Associated Press (AAP).	\$33.0	30 June 2028	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Supporting Media Literacy in CALD Communities Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) to develop and administer a grants program delivering media literacy education and resources to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Funding provided to FECCA with activity to continue during 2025–26.	-	30 June 2026	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

¹ From 2025–26 to 2028–29. All figures as at March 2025.² Due to commercial sensitivities this number is not for publication.

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Major program briefs

Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Remote Australia (BCP)

Outcome 5

Description The Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Remote Australia (BCP) primarily provides partner funding with the telecommunications industry to incentivise investment in thin markets, offset high costs of telecommunications infrastructure in regional and remote Australia and improve the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure in areas at risk of, or impacted by, natural disasters. Additional initiatives support access to, and resilience of, regional media and digital connectivity.

The BCP was funded in the 2022–23 Budget for \$656 million from 2022–23 to 2029–30 to include:

- New regional communications programs and initiatives – On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP), Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP), National Audit of Mobile Coverage, First Nations Digital Inclusion Package, Telecommunications Disaster Resilience and Innovation Program (TDRI), Broadcasting Resilience Program.
- Additional rounds of pre-existing regional communications programs and initiatives – Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP), Regional Connectivity Program (RCP), Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP) and an extension of the Regional Tech Hub (RTH).
- Related programs and initiatives – School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI), News Media Relief Program, Support for Australian Associated Press, Universal Service Obligation (USO) Technical trials.

Status Of the \$656 million allocated, at the 2025–26 Budget over \$525 million has been announced or awarded across 15 separate initiatives. Each program funded by the BCP has a different completion date, depending on circumstances and contractual commitments.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	111	81.1	46.3	52.7

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Table 1. BCP Program funding allocations

	Allocation (at 25 March 2025) (\$m)	Announced or awarded (as at 25 March 2025) (\$m)
Broadcasting Resilience Program	20.0	20.0
Extensions of the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI)	9.2	9.2
First Nations digital inclusion package (including \$9 million from NIAA)	68.0	68.0
Mobile Black Spot Program (Round 7)	50.0	50.0
Mobile Black Spot Program (Round 8)	55.0	55.0
Mobile Network Hardening Program (Round 2)	14.2	14.2
Mobile Network Hardening Program (Round 3)	20.0	9.8
^National Audit of Mobile Coverage	20.0	16.7
News Media Relief Program	15.0	15.0
On Farm Connectivity Program (Round 1)	14.0	14.0
On Farm Connectivity Program (Round 2)	18.2	18.2
On Farm Connectivity Program (Round 3)	20.0	20.0
Regional Connectivity Program (Round 3)	105	105
^Regional Connectivity Program (Round 4)**	7.3	-
^Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP)	92.6	-
Regional Tech Hub	6.0	6.0
Support for the Australian Associated Press	18.0	18.0
West Coast Tasmania Capacity Uplift Program	9.8	-
^Telecommunications Disaster Resilience and Innovation Program	24.9	17.4
Universal Service Obligation (USO) Technical Trials	3.5	3.5
SUB-TOTAL (Administered funding within the department)	591	460
^SSBI: departmental reclassification	0.8	-
RRAMP Pilot Programs - payments to States and Territories (transfer to Treasury)	50.0	50.0
^OFCP Round 2: departmental reclassification	1.5	-
WA Telecommunications Resilience Program (transfer to Treasury)	2.0	2.0
Sky Muster Wi-Fi Extension	14.0	14.0
^OFCP Round 3: departmental reclassification	6.7	-
TOTAL	666*	526#

* Total includes the announced \$656 million plus \$9 million from the NIAA for First Nations Digital Inclusion measures.

** The Australian Government has not announced plans for this round.

with departmental funding of \$10.7 million out of the original BCP administered funding, this figure becomes \$536 million.

^\$27.2 million is temporarily held for contracted Mobile Black Spot Program (Rounds 1 to 5A) projects to ensure the Commonwealth can meet contractual payment obligations, pending a Movement of Funds for that program at the next Budget process.

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OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**Table 2. Financial information**

Program start date: 2022–23									
Program end date: 2029–30									
	2022– 23 (\$m)	2023– 24 (\$m)	2024– 25 (\$m)	2025– 26 (\$m)	2026– 27 (\$m)	2027– 28 (\$m)	2028– 29 (\$m)	2029– 30 (\$m)	TOTAL (\$m)
Appropriation Budget (as at 27 March 2025)	6.0	66.1	210	111	81.1	46.3	52.7	16.9	590
Less:									
Actual Expenditure YTD** at 28 February 2025	6.0	66.1	43.4	-	-	-	-	-	116
Total Committed Funds at 28 February 202	0	0	137	107	68.0	16.5	13.8	11.0	353
Total Uncommitted Funds (balance)	0	0	28.4	4.4	13.3	30.0	38.9	6.0	121

Note: Non Budget information as at 28 February 2025. Budget information as at 25 March 2025. Committed funds relate to funds committed under a funding agreement, contract or program of works where the project, profile and conditions have been agreed to, or a formal offer has been made pending agreement, by the recipient. Committed funds also include where some form of commitment has been made, but no financial agreement has been entered into by both parties. For the purposes of this brief, this includes programs where the design has progressed significantly (e.g. announced publicly, guidelines released, assessment underway, request for tender released).

*In MYEFO 2024–25, Round 8 of the Mobile Black Spot Program and the Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program was extended to 2029–30 to align with program scheduling.

**Actual Expenditure YTD excludes reclassified funds and funding not reflected in the BCP budget line.

Contact Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Major program briefs

Cellular Broadcast Technologies: National Messaging System (NMS)**Outcome 5**

Description The National Messaging System (NMS) was announced in the 2023–24 Budget to deliver improved capability for the Government to send messages to the community during a disaster. The department and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) jointly manage the NMS. The department oversees three Cell Broadcast Centre (CBC) contracts with each Mobile Network Operator. NEMA will manage the Cell Broadcast Entity (CBE) contract with Telstra.

Status The implementation stage of the NMS commenced on 20 February 2025, after contract execution. The NMS implementation is contracted to take 54 weeks and is expected to be complete in 2026.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	s47D			

Contact Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Major program briefs

Community Broadcasting Program (CBP)**Outcome 5**

- Description** The Community Broadcasting Program (CBP) commenced in 1984 and is an ongoing and indexed grants program. It supports the community broadcasting sector to contribute to media diversity, social cohesion and upskilling community media. The Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) administers the CBP independent of the Government through closed non-competitive granting arrangements with the Commonwealth.
- Status** The current grant opportunity started on 1 July 2021 and ends on 30 June 2025. As at 1 April 2025, the CBF has allocated all of the \$22.6 million in 2024–25 funding to its operations and sector grants, which are due for completion by 30 June 2025. The department has published the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the next granting period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028, with a possible two-year extension through to 30 June 2030. The department is assessing the application from the CBF. Subject to the outcomes from this assessment, the department will execute a new contract with the CBF by 30 June 2025.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	\$27.8	\$28.6	\$29.2	\$24.7

- Contact** Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Final National Broadband Network (NBN) Upgrades Investment

Outcome 5

Description

Equity funding of up to \$3 billion is being provided to National Broadband Network Co Limited (NBN Co) to upgrade the final and hardest-to-connect Fibre to the Node (FTTN) premises within the fixed line footprint. These upgrades will enable access to faster and more reliable broadband with download speeds of up to one gigabit per second. NBN Co are contributing \$800 million to the upgrade program.

Within the final upgrades, a portion of around 122,000 premises will be the most complex to upgrade for a variety of reasons, such as heritage listings, longer build distances and the presence of third-party infrastructure such as utilities. These premises will require detailed design work to understand the best way to connect them. This design work is anticipated to be completed over the next two years to determine both the exact program costs and the quantum of equity to be provided to NBN Co.

Approximately \$1.4 billion of the equity funding is currently in the forward estimates, along with NBN Co's \$800 million contribution. The additional \$1.6 billion in equity is held in the contingency reserve, with its release dependent on NBN Co finding savings through the use of alternate technologies. Those savings should result in a reduction of the total amount of equity provided. The table below assumes the release of the funds held in the contingency reserve.

An existing Equity Funding Agreement with NBN Co was revised in April 2025 and now captures both the October 2022 and the final upgrade programs. The next payment, scheduled for April 2025, will be the first to include funding for both the October 2022 and new upgrades program. Payments will now be made quarterly with funds provided to NBN Co in advance of need, based on the forecast project plan, which will be reviewed annually.

Status

As at April 2025, NBN Co has commenced the planning and design work for the final upgrade program which captures 622,000 FTTN premises. This new program extends an existing program of work from October 2022 for which NBN Co received \$2.4 million in equity funding to upgrade around 1.5 million FTTN premises. The 2022 upgrades program is on track to be completed by end of 2025. The final upgrades program is expected to be completed by December 2030.

Program funding

As at 2025–26 Budget	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Equity from Government	1,050	186	-	-

Note: There is an additional \$1.6 billion in equity being held in contingency pending detailed construction design which is not reflected in the above table.

Contact

Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division;

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

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Major program briefs

National Audit of Mobile Coverage

Outcome 5

Description

The National Audit of Mobile Coverage (the Audit) aims to better identify mobile coverage black spots across Australia to help target future investment. It provides an independent resource that better reflects on ground experiences of mobile coverage provided commercially by mobile providers.

Accenture Australia is delivering the Audit in partnership with Australia Post. The Audit will drive-test around 180,000 km of regional and rural roads every year for three years to 30 June 2027. Devices are also being placed in up to 77 locations, mostly post offices, in towns across all states and territories.

The Audit is measuring coverage and performance of 4G and 5G services across Optus, Telstra and TPG. Crowd-sourced data from over 160,000 active daily users will support the field testing data. Audit results are published regularly on a public visualisation tool.

Status

The Audit commenced on 15 May 2024 with a pilot, testing two to three routes and locations in each state and territory. Auditors have drive-tested over 35,000 km of roads and have conducted static testing in 21 towns to date.

In December 2024, the Audit scaled up drive-testing and static testing at an expanded set of roads and locations nationwide. As of early April 2025, the Audit has tested around 60,000 km of roads. The first year of audit testing for the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania is complete and the Northern Territory is 95 per cent complete. Drive-testing in Victoria and New South Wales is in progress. Testing is in progress or has been completed in 43 per cent of towns.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	3.2	3.2	-	-

Contact

Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division;

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

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Major program briefs

News Media Assistance Program (News MAP)

Outcome 5

Description Funding to sustain public interest news and journalism, support business innovation, and build commercial sustainability and resilience of news organisations – consistent with the News Media Assistance Program (News MAP) policy framework.

Status On 16 December 2024, the Australian Government published *News Media Assistance Program – Government's Role in News and Journalism*, a policy framework setting out Government's role in relation to news and journalism, its objectives, and principles for policy design and implementation.

In MYEFO 2024–25, \$99.1 million in administered funding was allocated to the News MAP over three years from 2025–26.

As part of the News MAP package of measures, the Government announced plans to establish an Expert Advisory Panel in mid-2025. The Expert Advisory Panel will provide independent assessment and specialised advice on the allocation of funding to news organisations.

Administered funding will commence in 2025–26 and terminates at the end of 2028–29. At 3 April 2025, no funding had been committed.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	34.1	32.5	32.5	-

Contact Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Major program briefs

Public Interest Telecommunications Services Special Account (PITSSA)

Outcome 5

Description Industry contributions from the Telecommunications Industry Levy and \$100 million in Government funding are directed annually into the Public Interest Telecommunications Services Special Account (PITSSA). This then supports delivery of public interest telecommunications services through the Universal Service Obligation (USO), the Emergency Call Service (Triple Zero) and the National Relay Service (NRS), as set out below.

Status

Universal Service Obligation (USO) The USO is a longstanding safeguard that supports access to phone services and payphones nationally. Telstra is the current contracted and regulated USO provider and receives annual payments of \$230 million (GST ex.) for delivery of USO voice services and \$40 million (GST ex.) for payphones. Under the Telstra Universal Service Obligation Performance Agreement (TUSOPA), USO payments may run to 2032.

Other Public Interest Services (Emergency Call Service) The TUSOPA also funds Triple Zero, which is provided by Telstra as the Emergency Call Person. Funding is capped at \$20 million (excluding GST) per annum, although Telstra may submit invoices for major upgrades and innovative proposals outside of this annual cap.

National Relay Service (NRS) The NRS is a phone service for people who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or have a speech communication difficulty. Relay officers and Auslan interpreters relay calls on behalf of the user, enabling the user to call friends, family, businesses, and government services. Concentrix has been the service provider since 2019, with the current three-year agreement in place until October 2027, with the option to extend for an additional two years. Funding for the NRS is capped at \$20 million (excluding GST).

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
USO – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	270	270	270	270
Other Public Interest Services (Emergency Call Service) – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3
National Relay Service (NRS) – Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0

Contact Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii) (NRS and ECS) and Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii) (USO)

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Major program briefs

Supporting Australian Associated Press (AAP)**Outcome 5**

- Description** The program will provide \$11 million per year for three financial years, supporting Australian Associated Press (AAP) to retain its vital national newswire service; ensuring the availability of core news content for approximately 465 news outlets across the country.
- Status** The department is currently preparing a closed non-competitive grant program in anticipation of the opportunity opening in June 2025, with initial payments to be made prior to October 2025. The final payment will be made in 2027, and the grant will terminate in June 2028. The grant will require AAP to provide details on its business model and foreseeable operating costs to the department for the grant period as part of its reporting obligations.

Program funding

	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)	2028–29 (\$m)
Program funding (at 2025–26 Budget) – administered	11.0	11.0	11.0	-

- Contact** Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Significant ministerial roles

auDA

Purpose	<p>The .au Domain Administration (auDA) is an independent not-for-profit organisation that oversees the operation and management of the .au domain, the .au portion of the Domain Name System, and usage of .au (e.g. .com.au, .org.au).</p> <p>auDA operates under endorsement from the Australian Government, and a sponsorship agreement with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. The terms of the Government's endorsement (Terms), issued by the Minister for Communications, outline expected core functions and principles for the administration of the .au domain.</p> <p>While auDA is solely responsible for making policy on .au domain matters, it is required to consult widely with government and the community prior to making decisions. In addition to the conditions in the Terms, the Australian Government has some legislative powers relating to the .au domain, set out in:</p> <p>Telecommunications Act 1997 (sections 474–477)</p> <p>Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005 (section 11)</p> <p>Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018</p>
Current status	<p>auDA has been the .au manager since 2000. auDA's current Terms, issued in early 2025, provide the Australian Government's formal endorsement of auDA, which is subject to auDA's compliance with the Government's expectations. The Terms are routinely reviewed (usually every three years) to ensure they remain fit for purpose.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>The department will seek your views on future routine reviews of auDA's Terms of Endorsement, which require your approval. The department sits as a non-voting observer at auDA Board meetings and is an active participant in the auDA Board Nominations Committee.</p>
Resourcing/funding information	<p>auDA is a self-funded independent not-for-profit organisation, and receives no funding from the Government. Reported profit in 2023–24 was \$5.1 million from revenue of \$24.0 million.</p>
Contact	<p>Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Australia-Japan Policy Dialogue on Telecommunications Resilience (the Dialogue)

Purpose	<p>The Dialogue was established in 2022 by the Minister for Communications, the Minister for Home Affairs and their Japanese counterpart, to further geo-strategic objectives for ensuring a resilient, reliable and safe digital environment in the Indo-Pacific.</p> <p>The department has a leadership role both to maintain the relationship with Japan and progress the Dialogue's objectives, in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p>
Current status	Ongoing. Annual discussions are held at the Deputy Secretary level (last held in Tokyo in April 2025). Discussions at the officer level are held more regularly.
Your role and responsibilities	Together with the Minister for Home Affairs, you 'own' the Dialogue for Australia and are responsible for any adjustments to it, but you do not have an active role.
Resourcing/funding information	There is no specific funding provided to support travel or other associated work related to the Dialogue. Secretariat functions are provided by the department within existing resourcing.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Significant ministerial roles

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and related organisations

Purpose	<p>The ITU is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for telecommunications and information and communication technologies. The ITU is a treaty-level forum that deals with radio frequency spectrum management, satellite orbital positions, international development and international telecommunication standards.</p> <p>Australia has been elected member of the ITU Council since 1959. Ongoing engagement in the ITU allows Australia to participate in decisions on telecommunications standards, spectrum and satellite matters, and engage on telecommunications issues globally. The department works closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Related organisations include the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), a treaty-level regional grouping for the ITU.</p>
Current status	<p>There are a number of ITU-related conferences in 2025, including the APT Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo in late May and the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue in August 2025. The ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference will be held in November 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan, focusing on digital inclusion and connectivity.</p> <p>The department is also preparing for treaty-level conferences in 2026 and 2027. Doha, Qatar will host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in November 2026. The Plenipotentiary Conference is the ITU's top policy-making body responsible for deciding the future work program, and senior management team and Member States of the ITU Council for the next four-year period. Australia will seek re-election for one of the 15 regional seats on the ITU Council. The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027 will decide on revised rules on the use, allocation and harmonisation of spectrum and satellite orbits.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>A senior departmental official (Deputy Secretary) will attend the APT Ministerial Meeting in May. In the time available and given the expected level of ministerial representation (less than half of APT members), this representation is appropriate and is consistent with the 2019 APT meeting. Your attendance at the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue in August would support Australia's international telecommunications priorities. You will also be invited to engage with international partners where strategically important, and to agree negotiating mandates for major conferences.</p>
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>Australia provides an annual financial contribution of 4,725,000 Swiss Francs (approximately AUD \$8.6 million) to the ITU and AUD \$0.256 million to the APT. The Australian Government funds these contributions through an ongoing appropriation.</p>
Contact	<p>Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) (ITU – general)</p> <p>Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) (ITU – spectrum and satellite issues)</p>

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National Agreement on Closing the Gap – Target 17

Purpose	<p>Under the Commonwealth Implementation Plan for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, you have oversight of Target 17, which aims for equal levels of digital inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2026.</p> <p>This Target underpins Outcome 17, which is focused on ensuring First Nations Australians have access to services and information to support informed decision-making about their lives.</p> <p>In January 2023, the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group, was established to provide advice on achieving progress towards Target 17.</p> <p>Its initial report was published in October 2023 and informed \$68 million in funding for First Nations digital inclusion programs announced in the 2024–25 Federal Budget. You are the decision-maker for these programs.</p> <p>Since its establishment, the Advisory Group has undertaken significant stakeholder and community engagement across urban, regional and remote areas in most states and territories.</p>
Current status	<p>In December 2024, the Advisory Group launched the <i>First Nations Digital Inclusion Roadmap: Beyond 2026</i>.</p> <p>Its next phase of work will focus on advocating for the recommendations in the Roadmap, including with states and territories, industry, and the not-for-profit sector. A key focus of the roadmap is moving from Closing the Gap to supporting digital excellence by enhancing technical skills, innovation and development within communities.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Advisory Group is currently scheduled for July 2025.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>In this role, you are responsible for leading efforts on behalf of the Commonwealth to achieve Target 17, and reporting on progress.</p> <p>You are also responsible for appointments to the Advisory Group and for setting its Terms of Reference. You will also have the opportunity to meet regularly with the Advisory Group or its co-chairs, Ms Dot West OAM and Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker.</p> <p>You are also responsible for engaging with the Minister for Indigenous Australians on their oversight of First Nations media and broadcasting policy as it relates to Outcome 17.</p>
Resourcing/ funding information	<p>Progress on Target 17 is partly supported by the \$68 million in funding for First Nations digital inclusion programs through the 2024–25 Federal Budget.</p> <p>The Advisory Group received funding of \$2.5 million over five years through the 2022–23 Federal Budget. Secretariat support for the Advisory Group is provided by the department.</p>
Contact	<p>Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Significant ministerial roles

Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU)

Purpose	<p>The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is the United Nations technical agency on international postal matters. Australia is one of 192 UPU member countries and a signatory to its treaties.</p> <p>The UPU treaties impose obligations on member countries to provide basic postal services, and set standards and remuneration for exchanging international postal items, including letters and parcels.</p> <p>UPU Congress (the Congress) occurs every four years, with two subsidiary councils meeting in between Congresses. Australia is a member of the Postal Operations Council (POC) and an observer in the Council of Administration (CA).</p> <p>Australia is also a member of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), a regional union of UPU member countries.</p>
Current status	<p>The postal sector is rapidly changing due to digital disruption and growth in e-commerce, with commercial operators like Amazon and DHL delivering most international parcels, rather than national postal operators, including Australia Post. This leaves the UPU financially vulnerable and with a diminishing ability to support global postal system interoperability.</p> <p>Australia is seeking re-election to the POC and election to the CA for 2026–2029 with elections to be held at September 2025 UPU Congress hosted by the United Arab Emirates. Australia is competing in the largest and most competitive UPU voting region which includes China, Japan, India, the Middle East and the Pacific.</p>
Your role and responsibilities	<p>The department will seek your agreement to a negotiating mandate for the UPU Congress in September 2025, on which you would typically consult the Foreign Minister. The Congress will determine the UPU's priorities for 2026–2029, decide membership of its two councils, and agree remuneration and products settings that impact Australia Post's inbound letters and parcels businesses.</p> <p>Ministerial statements will be welcomed at the UPU Congress on 9 September 2025. You may wish to pre-record a video to be played as part of Australia's election campaigns to the POC and CA.</p>
Resourcing/funding information	<p>Australia Post pays the annual membership contributions to the UPU (approximately AUD \$1.5 million) and Asian-Pacific Postal Union (approximately AUD \$0.01 million).</p>
Contact	<p>Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

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Portfolio legislation

Communications

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983

Purpose	Establishes the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), outlining its independence, governance by a Board, and its functions (e.g. broadcasting, datacasting, and supporting the arts). The <i>Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983</i> confirms the ABC's editorial independence from government direction and sets out management arrangements including the ABC Board.
Contact	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1983

Purpose	Provides transitional arrangements and amendments arising from the enactment of the <i>Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983</i> .
Contact	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989

Purpose	Establishes Australia Post as a Commonwealth entity with exclusive rights to carry certain letters and issue stamps. Australia Post must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operate commercially where practicable; • fulfil community service obligations (accessible postal services at uniform rates); • provide financial and other incidental services; and • comply with regulatory oversight, including by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
Contact	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Broadcasting Services Act 1992

Purpose	Regulates television and radio broadcasting through a licensing framework. Defines various categories of broadcasting services and grants the Australian Communications and Media Authority authorisation to manage licence areas and allocate frequencies. Establishes rules for media diversity, local content requirements, and industry codes for program content and advertising. Also regulates certain online gambling content during live sporting events, though not internet-delivered broadcast-like services.
Contact	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Broadcasting Services (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1992

Purpose	Makes transitional arrangements and consequential amendments related to the enactment of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> .
Contact	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Commercial Broadcasting (Tax) Act 2017

Purpose	Imposes a tax on certain transmitter licences associated with commercial television and radio broadcasting licences.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Competition and Consumer Act 2010, Parts XIB and XIC

Purpose	Part XIB regulates anti-competitive conduct in telecommunications, allowing the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to issue competition notices to carriers and carriage service providers and to make record keeping rules. Part XIC sets access regimes for telecommunications services, ensuring non-discriminatory supply and enabling the ACCC to declare services and to determine conditions associated with their supply.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Do Not Call Register Act 2006

Purpose Prohibits unsolicited telemarketing calls and faxes to numbers on the Do Not Call Register. Enforced via civil penalties and injunctions.

Contact Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Interactive Gambling Act 2001

Purpose Regulates online gambling and establishes the National Self-Exclusion Register.

Contact Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011

Purpose Governs operational and ownership arrangements for NBN Co Limited and its subsidiaries, ensuring wholesale-only supply and limiting non-communications services. The Commonwealth retains ownership until specific conditions are met.

Contact Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

National Transmission Network Sale Act 1998

Purpose Facilitated the sale of the national transmission network, and sets in place a regulatory framework for the provision of national broadcasting and other transmission services after the sale.

Contact Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946

Purpose Provides for the broadcast and recording of parliamentary proceedings by the ABC and forms the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

Contact Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) | s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Postal and Telecommunications Amendment Act 1983

Purpose	Amends earlier postal and telecommunications legislation.
Contact	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Radiocommunications Act 1992

Purpose	Establishes a framework for the management of the spectrum, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spectrum planning; • spectrum allocation; • spectrum licensing; • settling interference disputes; and • prescribing equipment standards.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act 1983***Radiocommunications (Spectrum Licence Tax) Act 1997******Radiocommunications Taxes Collection Act 1983******Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act 1983***

Purpose	Established a framework for the imposition and collection of taxes on spectrum licences, transmitter licences and receiver licences issued under the <i>Radiocommunications Act 1992</i> .
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Spam Act 2003

Purpose	Regulates commercial electronic messages to reduce spam. Enforced by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
Contact	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991

Purpose	Establishes the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), outlining its independence, governance by a Board, and its functions. The <i>Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991</i> confirms the SBS's editorial independence from government direction and sets out management arrangements including the SBS Board.
Contact	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications Act 1997

Purpose	<p>Establishes the regulatory framework for the telecommunications industry, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of carriers and service providers. A carrier is a person that owns a network unit (i.e. telecommunications infrastructure). • Provides the framework under which Telstra has undertaken to implement structural separation. • Provides for the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to register industry codes or develop its own industry standards applying to sections of the telecommunications industry. • Sets out wholesale-only rules that apply to owners of superfast (i.e. NBN-equivalent) telecommunications networks installed or upgraded after 1 January 2011 (with some exceptions). • Creates a statutory infrastructure provider regime so that premises can be connected to networks that support delivery of 25/5 Mbps (download/upload) broadband speeds. • Regulates the installation of some telecommunications infrastructure in new developments. • Requires the ACMA to make a plan (called the 'numbering plan') for the allocation and use of telephone numbers in Australia. • Governs the tower access framework. • Gives carriers powers and immunities to install specified telecommunications facilities. • Standard carrier licence conditions.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications and Postal Services (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1989

Purpose	Provides transitional arrangements following the separation of telecommunications and postal services.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997

Purpose	Imposes annual carrier licence charges to recover regulatory costs incurred by the Australian Communications and Media Authority and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999

Purpose	<p>Establishes consumer protection measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Service Obligation (USO); • Customer Service Guarantee (CSG) scheme; • Emergency Call Service; • providing for the option of untimed local calls; • provisions to impose price controls on Telstra successor companies; and • Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) scheme. <p>The <i>Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999</i> also provides for independent reviews of regional telecommunications, and contains details about Telecommunications Industry Levy (TIL) and the Regional Broadband Scheme (RBS) and related special accounts, as well as administration of the RBS.</p>
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications (Industry Levy) Act 2012

Purpose	Imposes a levy on amounts assessed under the <i>Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999</i> (TCPSS Act). The TCPSS Act currently provides for a levy on carriers to fund public interest telecommunications services set out in sections 13 and 14 of the TCPSS Act (currently including the Universal Service Obligation, National Relay Service, and the Emergency Call Service).
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act 1997

Purpose	Imposes charges on carriers for telephone number allocations to recover Australian Communications and Media Authority and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission costs.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Act 2020

Purpose	Funds fixed wireless and satellite services for regional areas through a levy on high-speed broadband providers.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Telstra Corporation Act 1991

Purpose	Permitted the sale of Telstra and imposed foreign ownership limits. Reaffirms Telstra's universal obligations that existed prior to its corporatisation.
Contact	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 65-108 deleted pursuant to s22(1)(a)(i)

Exempt material – section 47C

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
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Appointments



Appointments

Communications and Media

Board	Current vacancies and vacancies arising until December 2025	Contact
Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)	<p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Non-Executive Director. <p>August 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Georgina Somerset AM, Deputy Chairperson. 	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)	The ACMA is properly constituted. There are no current vacancies created in 2025 but the Minister can appoint additional members or associate members.	Sam Grunhard, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Classification Review Board	<p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x Member. <p>December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Susan Bush, Convenor (Chair); Mr Adam Davy, Deputy Convenor (Deputy Chair); Ms Rechelle Leahy, Member; Mr David Toll, Member; and Mr Damien Power, Member. 	Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Digital Platforms, Safety and Classification Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group	<p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 x Members. 	Lisa La Rance, First Assistant Secretary, Communications Infrastructure Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)	<p>July 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr George Savvides AM, Chairperson. 	Bridget Gannon, First Assistant Secretary, Media Policy Division; 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Pages 110-159 deleted pursuant to s22(1)(a)(i)

Exempt material – section 47C

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