

Administrative arrangements – Territories of Australia

The table below documents the various departments which have held responsibility for administering the territories of Australia. This document will be of interest to residents of the Territories of Australia as well as historians and legislators. Due to the loss or illegibility of some records, some details are missing.

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
1 June 1906	1 June 1906	Minister of State for External Affairs	Territories of the Commonwealth
13 July 1906	13 July 1906	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories of the Commonwealth
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Capital Site and Territory
11 December 1906	15 December 1906	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories of the Commonwealth
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat of Government
4 April 1912	13 April 1912	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories of the Commonwealth
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat of Government
22 September 1915	22 September 1915	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories of the Commonwealth
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat of Government
20 December 1916	21 December 1916	Home and Territories Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat of Government • Territories forming part of the Commonwealth
		Prime Minister's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papua
17 July 1918	18 July 1918	Home and Territories Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat of Government • Territories
14 March 1923	15 March 1923	Prime Minister's Department and External Affairs Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of New Guinea Territory • Administration of Nauru
		Home and Territories Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk Island • Northern Territory • Papua • Seat of Government

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
24 June 1925	2 July 1925	Home and Territories Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk Island • Northern Territory • Papua • Seat of Government • Territory of New Guinea
		Prime Minister's Department and External Affairs Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Mandate for Nauru
3 November 1925	5 November 1925	Department of Home and Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Guinea • Norfolk Island • Northern Territory • Papua • Seat of Government
11 December 1928	15 December 1928	Prime Minister's Department and Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk Island • Papua • Territory of New Guinea • Administration of Mandate for Nauru
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Territory • Prisoners from Territories • Seat of Government
13 April 1932	14 April 1932	Prime Minister's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua ○ Prisoners from Territories ○ Shipping Services
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Territory • Seat of Government
11 April 1934	12 April 1934	Records lost or illegible	

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
13 August 1936	14 August 1936	Prime Minister's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ashmore and Cartier Islands ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua ○ Prisoners from Territories outside the Commonwealth • ? [illegible]
		Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctic
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Territory • Seat of Government
4 April 1939	6 April 1939	Prime Minister's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua ○ Prisoners from Territories outside the Commonwealth ○ Shipping Services
		Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctic
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Capital Territory, Administration of • Northern Territory
12 July 1939	13 July 1939	Records lost or illegible	
29 November 1939	30 November 1939	Prime Minister's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua ○ Prisoners from Territories outside the Commonwealth ○ Shipping Services
		Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctic
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Capital Territory, Administration of • Northern Territory

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
20 November 1940	28 November 1940	Records lost or illegible	
26 June 1941	26 June 1941	Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of creation of department – no information about matters
13 July 1945		Records lost or illegible	
12 December 1946	19 December 1946	Records lost or illegible	
12 March 1947	14 March 1947	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctica
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Capital Territory, administration and planning, with the exception of Health, Justice and Police • Northern Territory
		Attorney-General's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of law and justice in, and registration for, the Australian Capital Territory • Police (Australian Capital Territory)
		Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health and Animal Health Administration in the Australian Capital Territory • Public Health and Medical Services in the Northern Territory
		Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the Territories of – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua • Shipping services within the Territories of Papua and New Guinea • Transfer of prisoners from Territories outside the Commonwealth
1 April 1947	8 April 1947	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctica
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Capital Territory, developmental planning and administration of, with the exception of Health, Justice and Police • Northern Territory
		Attorney-General's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of law and justice in and registration for the Australian Capital Territory • Police (Australian Capital Territory)

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health and Animal Health Administration in the Australian Capital Territory • Public Health and Medical Services in the Northern Territory
		Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the Territories of – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua • Shipping services within the Territories of Papua and New Guinea • Transfer of prisoners from Territories outside the Commonwealth
29 June 1949	30 June 1949	Minister of State for External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer <i>Papua and New Guinea Act 1949</i>
16 November 1950	23 November 1950	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctica – Australian Antarctic Territory
		Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the Territories of – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Papua • Shipping services within the Territories of Papua and New Guinea • Transfer of prisoners from Territories outside the Commonwealth
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Capital Territory, developmental planning and administration of, with the exception of Health, Justice and Police • Northern Territory
		Attorney-General's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of law and justice in and registration for the Australian Capital Territory
		Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health and Animal Health Administration in the Australian Capital Territory • Public Health and Medical Services in the Northern Territory

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
21 June 1951	2 July 1951	Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Territories, viz.: – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ashmore and Cartier Islands ○ Nauru ○ New Guinea ○ Norfolk Island ○ Northern Territory ○ Papua • Shipping services within the Territories of Papua and New Guinea • Transfer of prisoners from the External Territories and the Northern Territory
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Capital Territory, developmental planning and administration of, with the exception of Health and Justice
		Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctica – Australian Antarctic Territory
		The Attorney-General's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of law and justice in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory
		Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health and Animal Health Administration in the Australian Capital Territory • Public Health and Medical Services in the Northern Territory
23 April 1958	24 April 1958	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
30 April 1959	7 May 1959	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
17 March 1961	23 March 1961	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
14 February 1962	16 February 1962	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
16 January 1964	17 January 1964	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
19 March 1964	23 March 1964	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
8 January 1965	21 January 1965	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
4 November 1965	5 November 1965	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
9 March 1967	10 March 1967	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
28 February 1968	28 February 1968	Abolition of Department of Territories and establishment of the Department of External Territories, with the following changes:	
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Northern Territory of Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
16 May 1968	16 May 1968	Department of External Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Northern Territory of Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
7 June 1968	20 June 1968	Department of Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
11 October 1968	31 October 1968	Records lost or illegible	
16 April 1970	17 April 1970	Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth other than the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Northern Territory of Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Antarctic Territory • Heard Island and McDonald Islands
18 January 1971	18 January 1971	Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth, other than the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Northern Territory of Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, Northern Territory of Australia, and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
31 May 1971	31 May 1971	Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, Northern Territory of Australia, and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
6 March 1972	6 March 1972	Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Territories under the authority of the Commonwealth, other than the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Northern Territory of Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory,
		Department of the Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, Northern Territory of Australia, and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
19 December 1972	20 December 1972	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of External Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters related to the Territory of Papua, the Territory of New Guinea, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island
		Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heard Island and McDonald Islands Australian Antarctic Territory
30 November 1973	30 November 1973	Department of External Territories abolished with matters moving to:	
		Department of the Special Minister of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters related to the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island
		Department of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea and foreign relations of Papua New Guinea
4 December 1973	5 December 1973	Department of Foreign Affairs Department of Treasury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifies Papua New Guinea matters dealt with by these departments
1 October 1974	2 October 1974	Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of the Special Minister of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters related to the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
		Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea and foreign relations of Papua New Guinea
8 February 1975	10 February 1975	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea and, until independence, foreign relations of Papua New Guinea
		Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of the Special Minister of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters related to the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
6 June 1975	6 June 1975	Abolished Department of the Northern Territory Established the Department of Northern Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Changed the Department of Science to the Department of Science and Consumer Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
1 July 1975	1 July 1975	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea and, until independence, foreign relations of Papua New Guinea
		Department of Northern Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Science and Consumer Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of the Special Minister of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters related to the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island
7 October 1975	7 October 1975	Department of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer responsible for Papua New Guinea (post-independence)

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
22 December 1975	22 December 1975	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Administrative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters related to the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
23 June 1976	23 June 1976	Records lost or illegible	
5 October 1976	5 October 1976	Department of Administrative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
17 July 1977	17 July 1977	Records lost or illegible	
5 September 1977	8 September 1977	Department of Administrative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory
		Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
20 December 1977	20 December 1977	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Norfolk Island, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
1 June 1978	1 June 1978	Records lost or illegible	
4 July 1978	4 July 1978	Records lost or illegible	
28 September 1978	28 September 1978	Department of Northern Territory abolished as Northern Territory granted self-government	
		Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Norfolk Island, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
5 December 1978	5 December 1978	Department of Science changes to the Department of Science and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
21 February 1979	26 February 1979	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory
		Department of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Norfolk Island, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
11 September 1979	12 September 1979	No change from 21 February 1979	
3 September 1980	5 September 1980	No change from 21 February 1979	
3 November 1980	3 November 1980	Department of the Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of Home Affairs changes to the Department of Home Affairs and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Norfolk Island, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science and Environment changes to the Department of Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
21 December 1981	23 December 1981	No change from 3 November 1980	
7 May 1982	7 May 1982	No change from 3 November 1980	
11 March 1983	11 March 1983	Department of Territories and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Antarctic Territory Heard Island and McDonald Islands
1 July 1983	1 July 1983	No change from 11 March 1983	
1 March 1984	1 March 1984	Department of Territories and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands
27 June 1984	2 July 1984	No change from 1 March 1984	

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
13 December 1984	13 December 1984	Department of Territories and Local Government changes to Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science and Technology changes to the Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands
30 July 1985	1 August 1985	No change from 13 December 1984	
12 December 1985	12 December 1985	Department of Territories (change in scope)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory including Territorial health, and pre-school, primary and secondary education
30 January 1986	31 January 1986	Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory including Territorial health, and pre-school, primary and secondary education, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands
30 January 1987	3 February 1987	Department of Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory including Territorial health, and pre-school, primary and secondary education, the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration, including environmental protection, of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands
24 July 1987	24 July 1987	Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Capital Territory Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
13 September 1987	22 September 1987	Records lost or illegible	
3 March 1988	4 March 1988	No change from 24 July 1987	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT received self-government with the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 which commenced 6 December 1988
6 February 1989	15 February 1989	Records lost or illegible	
13 March 1989	13 March 1989	No change from 24 July 1987	
28 June 1989	12 July 1989	Records lost or illegible	
31 July 1989	16 August 1989	Records lost or illegible	
19 February 1990	28 February 1990	Records lost or illegible	
27 June 1990	3 July 1990	No change from 24 July 1987	
7 June 1991	20 June 1991	No change from 24 July 1987	
29 October 1991	6 November 1991	No change from 24 July 1987	
27 December 1991	27 December 1991	The Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories changes to the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories	

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
31 January 1992	5 February 1992	Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
24 March 1993	24 March 1993	Records lost or illegible	
1 April 1993	14 April 1993	Records lost or illegible	
28 June 1993	7 July 1993	Records lost or illegible	
19 August 1993	1 September 1993	Records lost or illegible	
25 March 1994	6 April 1994	Department of Housing and Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory
1 June 1994	6 June 1994	Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
		Department of Housing and Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory
29 November 1995	13 December 1995	Records lost or illegible	

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
11 March 1996	11 March 1996	Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory • Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island • Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory • Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
23 April 1996	8 May 1996	No change from 11 March 1996	
18 July 1997	30 July 1997	Records lost or illegible	
9 October 1997	15 October 1997	Department of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of Transport and Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory • Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island • Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory • Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
18 February 1998	25 February 1998	Records lost or illegible	
18 June 1998	24 June 1998	Department of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
		Department of Transport and Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory • Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island • Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory • Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
21 October 1998	22 October 1998	Department of the Environment and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
		Department of Transport and Regional Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory • Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island • Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory • Constitutional development of the Northern Territory of Australia
17 December 1998	6 January 1999	No change from 21 October 1998	
13 September 2001	14 September 2001	No change from 21 October 1998	
26 November 2001	27 November 2001	No change from 21 October 1998	
20 December 2001	16 January 2002	Records lost or illegible	
8 August 2002	14 August 2002	Records lost or illegible	
9 October 2003	15 October 2003	Records lost or illegible	
18 December 2003	22 December 2003	No change from 21 October 1998	
26 October 2004	27 October 2004	No change from 21 October 1998	
16 December 2004	17 December 2004	No change from 21 October 1998	
21 July 2005	21 July 2005	No change from 21 October 1998	
21 September 2006	21 September 2006	No change from 21 October 1998	

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
30 January 2007	30 January 2007	The Department of the Environment and Heritage changed to the Department of the Environment and Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
3 December 2007	3 December 2007	The Attorney-General's Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional development of the Northern Territory Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory
		Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
25 January 2008	25 January 2008	No change from 3 December 2007	
1 May 2008	1 May 2008	No change from 3 December 2007	
8 March 2010	10 March 2010	No change from 3 December 2007	
6 May 2010	12 May 2010	No change from 3 December 2007	
29 June 2010	7 July 2010	No change from 3 December 2007	
14 September 2010	15 September 2010	Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government (Part of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional Development of the Northern Territory Constitutional Development of the Australian Capital Territory Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory
		Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
14 October 2010	20 October 2010	No change from 14 September 2010	

Signature Date	Gazette Date	Department	Matters Dealt With
14 December 2011	14 December 2011	The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional Development of the Northern Territory Constitutional Development of the Australian Capital Territory Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory
		The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
9 February 2012	9 February 2012	No change from 14 December 2011	
25 March 2013	25 March 2013	No change from 14 December 2011	
16 May 2013	16 May 2013	No change from 14 December 2011	
18 September 2013	18 September 2013	The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Jervis Bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island Constitutional Development of the Northern Territory Constitutional Development of the Australian Capital Territory Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory
		The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities changed to The Department of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands
3 October 2013	3 October 2013	No change from 18 September 2013	
23 December 2014	7 January 2015	No change from 18 September 2013	