



BUDGET*

PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENTS 2008-09
BUDGET RELATED PAPER NO. 1.3

BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE
DIGITAL ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

BUDGET INITIATIVES AND EXPLANATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS SPECIFIED BY OUTCOMES
AND OUTPUTS BY AGENCY

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SENATOR THE HON STEPHEN CONROY

MINISTER FOR BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

President of the Senate
Australian Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Speaker
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr President
Dear Mr Speaker

I hereby submit Portfolio Budget Statements in support of the 2008-09 Budget for the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio.

These statements have been developed, and are submitted to the Parliament, as a statement on the outcomes for the Portfolio.

I present these statements to provide accountability to the Parliament and, through it, the public.

Yours sincerely


Stephen Conroy

Abbreviations and conventions

The following notation may be used:

NEC/nec	not elsewhere classified
–	nil
..	not zero, but rounded to zero
na	not applicable (unless otherwise specified)
nfp	not for publication
\$m	\$ million
\$b	\$ billion

Figures in tables and in the text may be rounded. Figures in text are generally rounded to one decimal place, whereas figures in tables are generally rounded to the nearest thousand. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Enquiries

Should you have any enquiries regarding this publication, please contact Phillippa Mitton, Acting Assistant Secretary – Budgets, in the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on (02) 6271 1859.

A copy of this document can be located on the Australian Government Budget website at: <http://www.budget.gov.au>.

**USER GUIDE
TO THE
PORTFOLIO BUDGET
STATEMENTS**

USER GUIDE

The purpose of the 2008-09 Portfolio Budget Statements (PB Statements) is to inform Senators and Members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to Government outcomes by agencies within the Portfolio. Agencies receive resources from the annual appropriations acts, special appropriations (including standing appropriations and special accounts), and revenue from other sources.

A key role of the PB Statements is to facilitate the understanding of proposed annual appropriations in Appropriation Bills No. 1 and No. 2 2008-09 (or Appropriation Bill [Parliamentary Departments] No. 1 2008-09 for the parliamentary departments). In this sense the PB Statements are Budget related papers and are declared by the Appropriation Acts to be 'relevant documents' to the interpretation of the Acts according to section 15AB of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*.

The PB Statements provide information, explanation and justification to enable Parliament to understand the purpose of each outcome proposed in the Bills.

As required under section 12 of the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*, non-general government sector entities are not consolidated into the Commonwealth general government sector fiscal estimates and accordingly, these entities are not reported in the PB Statements.

STRUCTURE OF THE PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENTS

The Portfolio Budget Statements have been revised for the 2008-09 Budget, with significant changes made to provide Parliament with more targeted and comprehensive information on government expenditure.

Included below is a brief outline of each section of the revised document.

Portfolio overview

The portfolio overview is largely unchanged with portfolio departments required to briefly outline the responsibilities of the portfolio, list the relevant agencies and Ministers and the resources available.

Agency Resources and Planned Performance

A statement (under the name of the agency) for each agency within the Portfolio.

Section 1: Agency overview and resources

- This section includes three components:
 - 1.1 Strategic Direction for 2008-09;
 - 1.2 Resource Statement; and
 - 1.3 Measures Table.
- The intention of section one is to provide readers with an overview of the functions and responsibilities of the agency, its contribution towards its outcomes for the budget year and the resources available.
- In the *Strategic Direction for 2008-09*, the key emphasis is on the key strategies an agency is implementing to achieve its outcomes, what is involved and how success and progress are to be measured.
- The agency resource statement and measures table summarise resource information into two tables. The agency resource statement details the source and nature of the all resources available to the agency. The Budget Measures table summarises the information covered in Budget Paper No. 2, with the output group against which the measures are to be pursued included to improve cross-referencing.

Agency Resources and Planned Performance (continued)	
Section 2: Outcomes and Planned Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcomes section has undergone significant change to re-orientate agency reporting towards results in contributing to outcomes and away from focusing on the activities and processes of agencies. • The outcome resource statement provides lower level resourcing information for general users at the results level, grouped by output group, rather than appropriation type as has been the case previously. By focusing on the results and impacts agencies are making towards outcomes, the revised PB Statements will be more focused on how agencies contribute to outcomes rather than detailing activities.
Section 3: Explanatory tables and budgeted financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the readability of technical financial information, this section now includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – an explanation of any differences at agency level between the information included in the Budget Papers and the PB Statements arising from the use of the Government Finance Statistics and Australian Accounting Standards accounting methodologies; and – explanatory tables to provide supplementary information on the reconciliation between total available appropriation and outcome attribution, the rephasing and use of appropriations, special account flows and Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure. • It should also be noted that the capital budget statement and the property, plant, equipment and intangibles statements are no longer mandatory in the financial statements. This change has been made because for the majority of agencies the information provided was of little value.
Glossary	Explains key terms relevant to the Portfolio.
Acronyms	Explains key abbreviations relevant to the Portfolio.

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PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

MINISTER AND PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

The Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio includes the following agencies:

- **Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy** – The Department aims to develop a vibrant, sustainable and internationally competitive broadband and communications sector that promotes the digital economy for the benefit of all Australians.
- **Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)** – The ABC is a national broadcaster. It contributes to and reflects Australia’s national identity, fosters creativity and the arts and encourages cultural diversity. The ABC is an integral part of the radio, television and online production industries and the news and information media.
- **Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)** – ACMA is responsible for the regulation of broadcasting, radiocommunications, telecommunications and online content. ACMA works with all stakeholders to maximise the public benefit, including the extent to which the regulatory framework addresses the broad concerns of the community, meets the needs of industry, and maintains community and national interest safeguards.
- **Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)** – The SBS is a national broadcaster. It provides multicultural and multilingual services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians. Its mission is to contribute to a more cohesive, equitable and harmonious Australia through its television, radio and online services.

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy is the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. A summary of the Portfolio structure is in Figure 1. Further detail about the responsibilities of each agency appears in individual agency chapters.

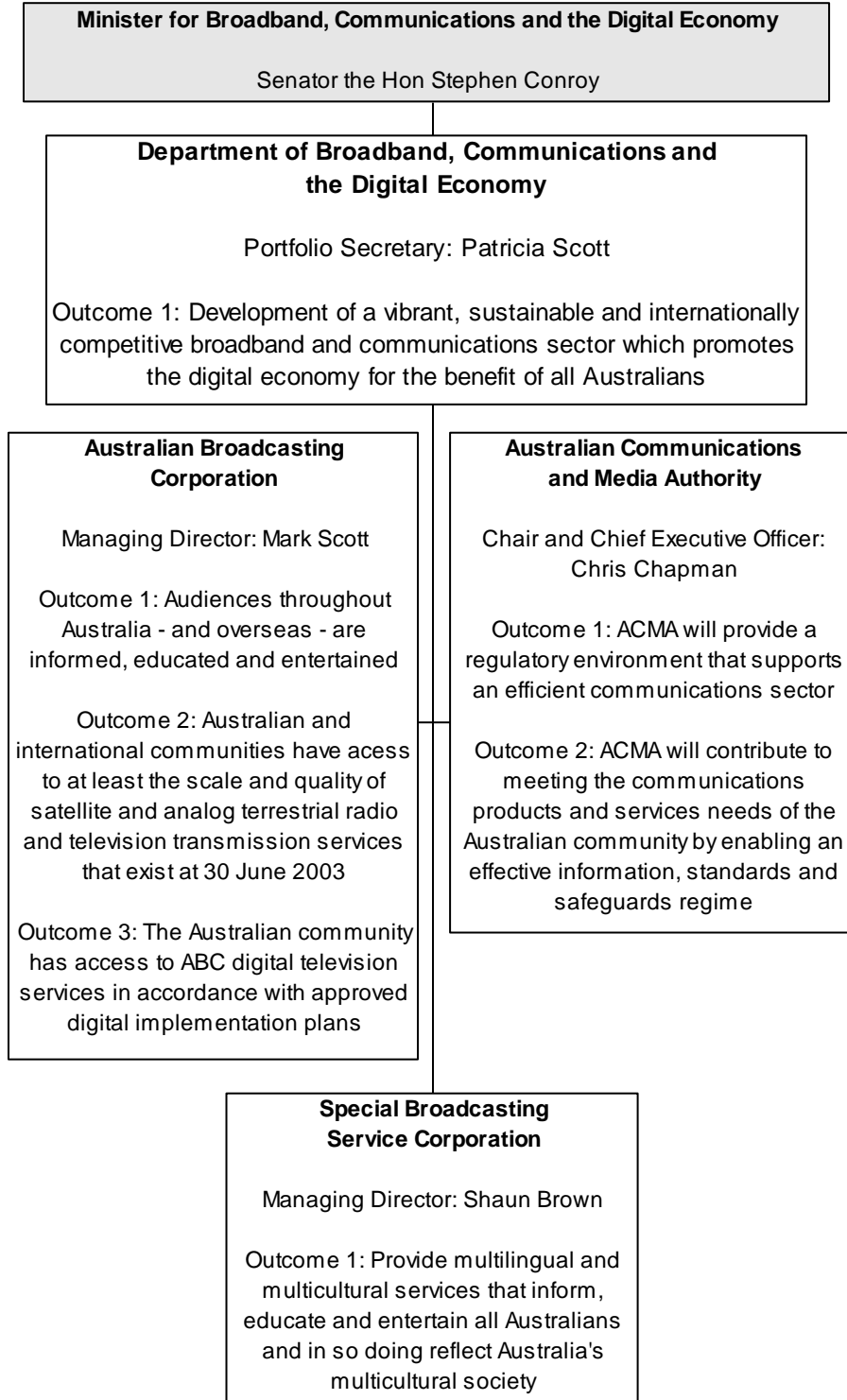
Following the change of Government in November 2007, an Administrative Arrangements Order was announced on 3 December 2007 which abolished the former Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, and reallocated the following functions and portfolio agencies:

- the cultural functions* and related agencies are now administered under the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Portfolio;
- the National Archives of Australia was to be administered under the Finance and Deregulation Portfolio*;

- the sports functions and related agencies are now administered under the Health and Ageing Portfolio; and
- the information and communications technology industry development functions are now administered by the new Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

* Government subsequently decided to transfer Old Parliament House and the National Archives of Australia to the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio.

Figure 1: Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio structure and outcomes



Portfolio resources made available in the Budget year

Table 1: Portfolio resources made available in the Budget year

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$m	Bill No. 2 \$m	Special \$m	\$m	\$m
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy					
Administered appropriations	209,110	-	-	190,820	399,930
Departmental appropriations	103,689	303	-	1,392	105,384
Total:	312,799	303	-	192,212	505,314
Payments to CAC Act bodies:					
Australian Broadcasting Corporation					
Total:	858,411	11,250	-	209,231	1,078,892
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation					
Total:	191,128	2,586	-	71,833	265,547
Australian Communications and Media Authority					
Administered appropriations	-	-	300	66,944	67,244
Departmental appropriations	93,013	3,694	-	1,476	98,183
Total:	93,013	3,694	300	68,420	165,427
				Resources available within Portfolio:	2,015,180

AGENCY RESOURCES AND PLANNED PERFORMANCE

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