



**BUDGET\***

**PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENTS 2009-10  
BUDGET RELATED PAPER NO. 1.3**

**BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
THE DIGITAL ECONOMY PORTFOLIO**

**BUDGET INITIATIVES AND EXPLANATIONS OF  
APPROPRIATIONS SPECIFIED BY OUTCOMES  
AND PROGRAMS 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

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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 2009-10 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  
Minister for Broadband  
Communications and the Digital Economy

May 2009

## Abbreviations and conventions

The following notation may be used:

NEC/nec	not elsewhere classified
-	Nil
..	not zero, but rounded to zero
N/A or n/a	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nfp	not for publication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 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 Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components are due to rounding and the exclusion of measures not for publication.

## Enquiries

Should you have any enquiries regarding this publication, please contact Simon Ash, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on (02) 6271 1438.

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 2009-10 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 2009-10 (or Appropriation Bill [Parliamentary Departments] No. 1 2009-10 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.

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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, broadcasting and communications sector, that promotes the digital economy for the benefit of all Australians.
- **Australia Post** - Australia Post is a Government Business Enterprise, fully owned by the Commonwealth Government. It provides a high-quality mail and delivery service to all Australians and a range of parcel and logistics services.
- **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 regulating in accordance with legislation related to broadcasting, radio communications, 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.
- **A national broadband network company (ACN: 136 533 741)** - A fully Commonwealth owned company established to roll-out and operate the National Broadband Network. The government will encourage private sector investment in the company and the company will be able to borrow up to 50 per cent of its capital requirements on its own behalf. Until full privatisation, the Government will be the majority shareholder in the company.
- **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.

Australia Post and the company established to roll-out and operate the national broadband network do not appear in the 2009-10 Portfolio Budget Statements as they are not part of the general government sector.

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

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

**Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**  
Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**  
Portfolio Secretary: Patricia Scott

Outcome 1: Develop a vibrant, sustainable and internationally competitive broadband, broadcasting and communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, which promotes the digital economy for all Australians

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**  
Managing Director: Mark Scott

Outcome 1: Informed, educated and entertained audiences – throughout Australia and overseas – through innovative and comprehensive media and related services

Outcome 2: Audience access to ABC satellite and analog terrestrial radio and television transmission services is, at a minimum, maintained year-on-year through the management of Transmission Service Agreements

Outcome 3: Audience access to ABC digital television services is provided, in accordance with Government approved implementation policy, through the roll-out and maintenance of the associated distribution and transmission infrastructure

Outcome 4: Audience access to ABC digital radio services is provided, in accordance with Government approved implementation policy, through the roll-out and maintenance of the associated distribution and transmission infrastructure

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**  
Chair and Chief Executive Officer: Chris Chapman

Outcome 1: A communications and media environment that balances the needs of the industry and the Australian community through regulation, education and advice

**Special Broadcasting Service Corporation**  
Managing Director: Shaun Brown

Outcome 1: Provide multilingual and multicultural services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians and in so doing reflect Australia's multicultural society

## PORTFOLIO RESOURCES

Table 1 shows the total resources provided to the Portfolio in the 2009-10 budget year, by agency.

**Table 1: Portfolio resources 2009-10**

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$m	Bill No. 2 \$m	Special \$m	\$m	\$m
<b>Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE)</b>					
Administered appropriations	196.2	1.2	-	1,000.0	1,197.5
Departmental appropriations	162.8	3.4	-	1.0	167.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>359.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,001.0</b>	<b>1,364.6</b>
<b>Payments to CAC Act bodies:</b>					
<b>Australian Broadcasting Corporation</b>					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>912.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>1,139.8</b>
<b>Special Broadcasting Service Corporation</b>					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>202.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>302.3</b>
<b>Australian Communications and Media Authority</b>					
Administered appropriations	-	-	0.3	66.9	67.2
Departmental appropriations	97.7	3.7	-	1.5	102.9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>170.2</b>
<b>Portfolio Total</b>					<b>2,976.9</b>
Less amounts transferred within Portfolio					-
					<b>Resources available within Portfolio: 2,976.9</b>



## **AGENCY RESOURCES AND PLANNED PERFORMANCE**

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