

PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENTS 2014-15
BUDGET RELATED PAPER NO. 1.3
COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

**BUDGET INITIATIVES AND EXPLANATIONS OF
APPROPRIATIONS SPECIFIED BY OUTCOMES
AND PROGRAMMES BY AGENCY**



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The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

President of the Senate
Australian Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Speaker
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr President
Dear Madam Speaker

I hereby submit Portfolio Budget Statements in support of the 2014-15 Budget for the Communications 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Turnbull', written over the printed name.

Malcolm Turnbull

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nfp	not for publication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 the First Assistant Secretary, Corporate, Department of Communications 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 2014-15 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 2014-15 (or Appropriation Bill [Parliamentary Departments] No. 1 2014-15 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

COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Minister and Portfolio Responsibilities

The Communications Portfolio includes the following agencies:

- **Department of Communications** - The Department of Communications aims to 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
- **Australia Post** - Australia Post is a Government Business Enterprise, wholly owned by the Australian 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)** - The ACMA is responsible for regulating in accordance with legislation related to broadcasting, radio communications, telecommunications and online content. The 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
- **NBN Co Limited (NBN Co)** - The NBN Co is a Government Business Enterprise, wholly owned by the Australian Government. It is planning, rolling out and operating the National Broadband Network, which will provide access to high speed broadband to all Australians
- **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
- **Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA)** - TUSMA is responsible for supporting the delivery of universal service and other public interest telecommunications services to all Australians.

Australia Post and NBN Co do not appear in the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements as they are not part of the general government sector.

Portfolio Overview

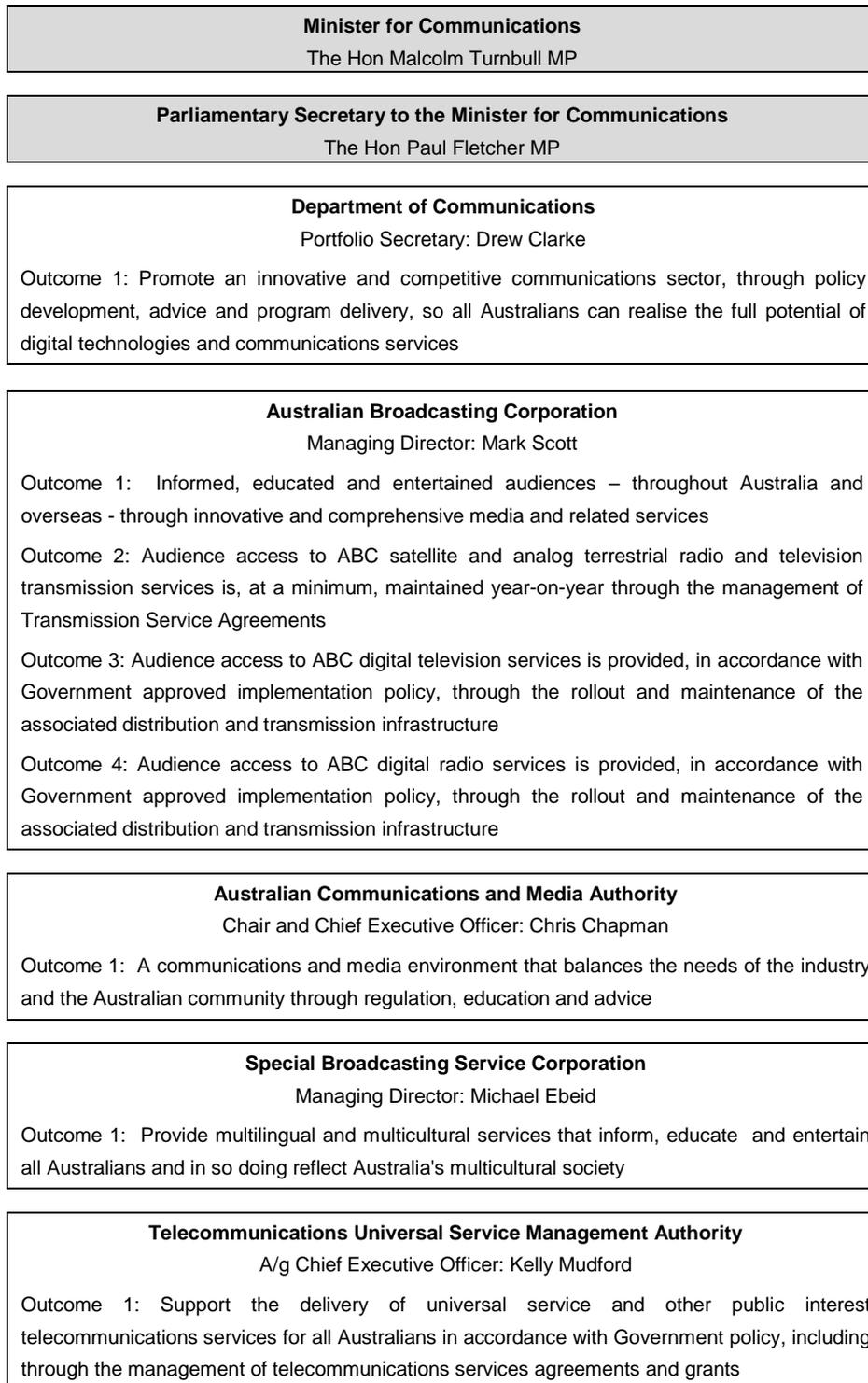
The following two changes have occurred as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) changes announced by the Prime Minister on 18 September 2013:

- The Department's name was officially changed from the 'Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy' to the 'Department of Communications'
- Ministerial responsibility for the Indigenous Communications Program and the Indigenous Broadcasting Program has been transferred from the Department of Communications to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This transfer was completed via a legislative instrument under section 32 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Additionally, the Department of Communications will have two further functions, with the Office of Spatial Policy and TUSMA transferring into the Department.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP is the Minister for Communications and The Hon Paul Fletcher MP is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications. 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: Communications Portfolio Structure and Outcomes



Portfolio resources

Table 1 shows the total new resources provided to the portfolio in the 2014-15 budget year by agency.

Table 1: Portfolio Resources 2014-15

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No.1	Bill No.2	Special		
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Department of Communications					
Administered appropriations	147.6	3,229.4	–	–	3,377.0
Departmental appropriations	90.4	0.6	–	4.0	95.0
Total:	238.0	3,230.1	–	4.0	3,472.1
Payments to CAC Act bodies:					
Australian Broadcasting Corporation					
	1,063.6	50.0	–	164.5	1,278.2
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation					
	287.1	–	–	112.4	399.5
Australian Communications and Media Authority					
Administered appropriations	–	–	0.3	0.1	0.4
Departmental appropriations	92.0	4.6	–	0.9	97.5
Total:	92.0	4.6	0.3	1.0	97.8
Telecommunications					
Universal Service Management Agency					
Administered appropriations	96.0	–	–	232.2	328.2
Departmental appropriations	4.0	–	–	–	4.0
Total:	100.0	–	–	232.2	332.2
Portfolio total¹	1,780.7	3,284.6	0.3	514.2	5,575.8
				Resources available within Portfolio¹	5,575.8

¹ Portfolio total excludes inter-agency transfers within the Portfolio for the provision of services relating to the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency by the Department of Communications.

AGENCY RESOURCES AND PLANNED PERFORMANCE

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