

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Entity resources and planned performance

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Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is one of the country's largest and most important cultural institutions. As the primary national public broadcaster, it reflects Australia's national identity and cultural diversity, informs and educates, facilitates public debate and fosters the performing arts.

The ABC plays a significant role in the lives of all Australians, not only through the broadcasting and digital media services it delivers, but also through direct engagement with local communities around the country. It also underpins the creative industries and Australia's wider economy by buying services from writers, directors, actors, production companies and the businesses that serve them. Through its international services, it projects Australia's national values and identity to a wider world.

The ABC's place in the Australian media environment is distinctive because of its Charter (section 6 of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* (the ABC Act)). The Charter and other provisions of the ABC Act give the ABC particular responsibilities, such as providing independent news and information. The ABC Act guarantees the editorial and administrative independence of the ABC from the Government. The ABC Board is charged with a number of duties, including 'to ensure the functions of the Corporation are performed efficiently and with maximum benefit to the people of Australia', and 'to maintain the independence and integrity of the Corporation'.

The functions of the ABC, set out in sub section 6(1) of the ABC Act, are:

- to provide, within Australia, innovative and comprehensive broadcasting services of a high standard as part of the Australian broadcasting system, consisting of national, commercial and community sectors and to provide:
 - broadcasting programs that contribute to a sense of national identity and inform and entertain, and reflect the cultural diversity of, the Australian community
 - broadcasting programs of an educational nature
- to 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 on world affairs
 - enable Australian citizens living or travelling outside Australia to obtain information about Australian affairs and Australian attitudes on world affairs
- to provide digital media services

- to encourage and promote the musical, dramatic and other performing arts in Australia.

The ABC provides unique and critically important points of connection and support for communities throughout Australia. These include arrangements with Federal and State and Territory authorities for the provision of emergency services information when local communities are affected by natural disasters.

The ABC is guided by its Five-Year Plan, which was released in June 2023.

Over the next four years, the ABC will undergo a significant transition from maintaining both traditional broadcast and digital processes towards becoming an integrated digital operation. While traditional broadcasting will remain important, this Five-Year Plan is a first step to build an ABC that is prepared for a digital-majority audience.

The ABC will enhance its primary digital products, ABC News, ABC iview and ABC listen, to provide a seamless, personalised service that enables audiences to more easily discover content that is relevant to them.

The Five-Year Plan sets out a vision for the ABC to be an essential part of everyday life for all Australians through news and entertainment that appeals to different ages and interests. It is a strategy that prioritises strengthening the trust of our audiences and commits the ABC to being more local.

The Five-Year Plan also reaffirms the ABC's commitment to a culture of inclusion and diversity, and the imperative to better reflect contemporary Australia.

Through this evolution, the ABC's commitment to inform, educate, and entertain will be as strong as ever. It will continue to tell the stories that reflect, shape, and enrich the lives of Australians. It will serve and strengthen Australian communities with impartial and independent news. It will continue to produce specialist and children's content that contributes to Australian culture and education. Guided by the Five-Year Plan, the ABC will continue to respond to the societal, technological and economic changes that the nation is experiencing, including the challenges confronting the media sector and the opportunities to better serve all Australians.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to the ABC for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by departmental (for the ABC's operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the 'Budgeted expenses by Outcome 1' tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis. Amounts presented below are consistent with amounts presented in the Appropriation Bills themselves.

Table 1.1: ABC resource statement – Budget estimates for 2024–25 as at Budget May 2024

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Estimate \$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	4,869	4,869
Funds from Government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services		
Outcome 1 ^(a)	1,137,568	1,196,101
Total annual appropriations	1,137,568	1,196,101
Total funds from Government	1,137,568	1,196,101
Funds from other sources		
Interest	20,166	15,814
Sale of goods and services	71,806	68,340
Other	6,500	6,500
Total funds from other sources	98,472	90,654
Total net resourcing for ABC	1,240,909	1,291,624
Average staffing level (number)	4,313	4,313

Prepared on a resourcing (that is, appropriations available) basis.

All figures shown above are GST exclusive – these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2024-25.

The ABC is not directly appropriated as it is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity. Appropriations are made to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (a Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entity), which are then paid to the ABC and are considered 'departmental' for all purposes.

1.3 Budget measures

There are no new measures relating to the ABC for the 2024–25 Budget.

Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

Note:

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance measure described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity's corporate plans and annual performance statements – included in Annual Reports – to provide a complete picture of an entity's planned and actual performance.

The most recent corporate plan for ABC can be found at:

<https://about.abc.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ABC-CorporatePlan-2023-24.pdf>

The most recent annual performance statement is included in the most recent annual report, which can be found at: <https://about.abc.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Annualreport2023.pdf>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

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

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

This table shows how much the ABC intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: ABC General Operation Activities					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	941,259	989,529	1,016,527	1,008,344	1,030,944
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,364	1,383	1,051	228	-
Revenues from other independent sources	98,472	90,654	83,002	76,229	72,762
Total expenses for Program 1.1	1,041,095	1,081,566	1,100,580	1,084,801	1,103,706
Program 1.2: ABC Transmission and Distribution Services					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	196,309	206,572	212,687	217,100	222,460
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,010	539	-	-	-
Total expenses for Program 1.2	197,319	207,111	212,687	217,100	222,460
Outcome 1 Totals by resource type					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	1,137,568	1,196,101	1,229,214	1,225,444	1,253,404
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	2,374	1,922	1,051	228	-
Revenues from other independent sources	98,472	90,654	83,002	76,229	72,762
Total expenses for Outcome 1	1,238,414	1,288,677	1,313,267	1,301,901	1,326,166
	2023-24	2024-25			
Average staffing level (number)	4,313	4,313			

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the Budget year as government priorities change.

Table 2.1.2: Performance measures for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 1. It is used by entities to describe the results they plan to achieve and the related key activities, as detailed in the current corporate plan, the context in which these activities are delivered, and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of the 2024–25 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

Outcome 1 – Informed, educated and entertained audiences – throughout Australia and overseas – through innovative and comprehensive media and related services		
Program 1.1 – ABC General Operational Activities		
The ABC will provide Australian and international audiences with innovative and high-quality radio, television and digital media services.		
Key Activities^(a)	Content creation, curation and distribution.	
Year	Performance measures^(b)	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2023–24	Value of the ABC to the Australian Community	Target: 82% Expected actual: 82% Target expected to be met
	The ABC is more trusted by Australians than any other media	Target: =/>10% above commercial media / newspapers Expected actual: =/>10% above commercial media / newspapers Target expected to be met
	Combined Weekly Reach	Target: 67% Expected actual: 63% Target not expected to be met due to softer news web audiences
Year	Performance measures^(b)	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2024–25	Value of the ABC to the Australian Community	82%
	The ABC is more trusted by Australians than any other media	=/>15% above commercial media/newspapers
	Combined Weekly Reach	62%
Forward Estimates 2025–28	As per 2024–25	As per 2024–25

(a) Refers to Key Activities reflected in the 2024-25 Corporate Plan.

(b) Refers to updated performance measures/targets reflected in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Corporate Plans.

Program 1.2 – ABC Transmission and Distribution Services		
The ABC will manage the broadcast and transmission of its radio and television services within Australia to maximise availability to audiences.		
Key Activities ^(a)	The broadcast and transmission of the ABC's radio and television services.	
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2023–24	Percentage of the Australian population who are able to receive ABC analog radio transmissions	Target: At least 99% Expected actual: At least 99% Target expected to be met
	Degree to which the eight state and territory capital cities have access to ABC digital radio transmissions	Target: 100% Expected actual: 100% Target expected to be met
	Percentage of Australian homes able to receive ABC digital television transmissions ^(b)	Target: 100% Expected actual: 100% Target expected to be met
Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2024–25	Percentage of the Australian population who are able to receive ABC analog radio transmissions	At least 99%
	Degree to which the eight state and territory capital cities have access to ABC digital radio transmissions	100%
	Percentage of Australian homes able to receive ABC digital television transmissions ^(b)	100%
Forward Estimates 2025–28	As per 2024–25	As per 2024–25

(a) Refers to Key Activities reflected in the 2024-25 Corporate Plan.

(b) Reporting of actuals will include the percentage reach for ABC digital television using terrestrial services (excluding satellite).

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of the ABC's finances for the 2024–25 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

3.1 Budgeted financial statements

3.1.1 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

The ABC's forward budgeted financial statements have been prepared to reflect the ABC's operational business outlook as it continues to focus on achieving the goals and objectives set out in the ABC Five-Year Plan.

The ABC is budgeting for an operating deficit of \$1.9 million in 2024-25 including the impact of accounting standard AASB 16 on leasing. The operating result excluding leasing transactions is a net break-even position, as reflected in the net cash appropriation arrangements note to Table 3.1.

Total revenue from Government is budgeted at \$1,196.1 million in 2024-25, an increase of \$58.5 million from 2023-24. This mainly reflects the net impact of government indexation parameter adjustments.

Own-source budgeted revenues of \$90.7 million in 2024-25 are principally comprised of revenues from ABC commercial activities, as well as other minor amounts from co-production arrangements, facilities hire, services provided, interest and commissions. These revenues are largely offset by related costs of sales or represent recoveries of costs incurred or are invested in content.

Total expenses are budgeted at \$1,288.7 million in 2024-25, a net increase of \$50.3 million from 2023-24. This includes the net impact of salary and wages increases, additional operational expenditure due to contractual increases and expenditure on content, leasing transactions, savings initiatives and program amortisation costs.

The ABC's budgeted net asset position for 2024-25 of \$1.2 billion represents a decrease of \$1.9 million from the estimated actual for 2023-24, reflecting the budgeted operating deficit for 2024-25, which includes the impact of leasing transactions.

3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	586,235	616,253	628,144	625,136	640,458
Suppliers	495,017	508,732	517,905	512,738	526,402
Depreciation and amortisation	150,614	157,558	161,839	159,408	155,426
Finance costs	6,548	6,134	5,379	4,619	3,880
Total expenses	1,238,414	1,288,677	1,313,267	1,301,901	1,326,166
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	71,806	68,340	66,411	59,283	56,163
Interest	20,166	15,814	10,091	10,446	10,619
Other	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Total own-source revenue	98,472	90,654	83,002	76,229	73,282
Total own-source income	98,472	90,654	83,002	76,229	73,282
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(1,139,942)	(1,198,023)	(1,230,265)	(1,225,672)	(1,252,884)
Revenue from Government	1,137,568	1,196,101	1,229,214	1,225,444	1,253,404
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(2,374)	(1,922)	(1,051)	(228)	520
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(2,374)	(1,922)	(1,051)	(228)	520
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(2,374)	(1,922)	(1,051)	(228)	520
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements					
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of Comprehensive Income	(2,374)	(1,922)	(1,051)	(228)	520
plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets ^(a)	66,524	69,418	68,496	67,544	65,409
less: lease principal repayments ^(a)	(63,989)	(67,496)	(67,445)	(67,316)	(65,929)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	161	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Applies leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	4,869	4,869	4,869	4,869	4,869
Trade and other receivables	14,215	14,215	14,215	14,215	14,215
Other investments	243,819	241,875	247,324	251,308	253,272
Other financial assets	9,689	9,689	9,689	9,689	9,689
Total financial assets	272,592	270,648	276,097	280,081	282,045
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	737,655	723,176	707,572	692,595	678,410
Property, plant and equipment	649,544	591,110	531,077	472,103	415,478
Intangibles	132,909	133,348	130,040	127,463	125,900
Inventories	124,790	129,790	134,790	139,790	144,790
Tax assets	3,824	3,824	3,824	3,824	3,824
Other non-financial assets	24,665	24,665	24,665	24,665	24,665
Total non-financial assets	1,673,387	1,605,913	1,531,968	1,460,440	1,393,067
Total assets	1,945,979	1,876,561	1,808,065	1,740,521	1,675,112
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	90,547	90,547	90,547	90,547	90,547
Other payables	48,970	48,970	48,970	48,970	48,970
Total payables	139,517	139,517	139,517	139,517	139,517
Interest bearing liabilities					
Loans	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Leases	477,391	409,895	342,450	275,134	209,205
Total interest bearing liabilities	478,891	411,395	343,950	276,634	210,705
Provisions					
Employee provisions	154,136	154,136	154,136	154,136	154,136
Other provisions	3,888	3,888	3,888	3,888	3,888
Total provisions	158,024	158,024	158,024	158,024	158,024
Total liabilities	776,432	708,936	641,491	574,175	508,246
Net assets	1,169,547	1,167,625	1,166,574	1,166,346	1,166,866
EQUITY					
Parent entity interest					
Contributed equity	93,640	93,640	93,640	93,640	93,640
Reserves	898,247	898,247	898,247	898,247	898,247
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	177,660	175,738	174,687	174,459	174,979
Total parent entity interest	1,169,547	1,167,625	1,166,574	1,166,346	1,166,866
Total equity	1,169,547	1,167,625	1,166,574	1,166,346	1,166,866

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (Budget year 2024–25)

	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Contributed equity/capital	Total equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2024				
Balance carried forward from previous period	177,660	898,247	93,640	1,169,547
Adjusted opening balance	177,660	898,247	93,640	1,169,547
Comprehensive income				
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(1,922)	-	-	(1,922)
Total comprehensive income	(1,922)	-	-	(1,922)
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2025	175,738	898,247	93,640	1,167,625
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	175,738	898,247	93,640	1,167,625

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	1,137,568	1,196,101	1,229,214	1,225,444	1,253,404
Sale of goods and rendering of services	71,806	68,340	66,411	59,283	56,163
Interest	20,166	15,814	10,091	10,446	10,619
Net GST received	68,656	64,503	66,204	61,351	61,374
Other	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Total cash received	1,304,696	1,351,258	1,378,420	1,363,024	1,388,060
Cash used					
Employees	608,213	616,253	628,144	625,136	640,458
Suppliers	492,704	513,732	522,905	517,738	531,402
Net GST paid	68,656	64,503	66,204	61,351	61,374
Interest payments on lease liability	6,548	6,134	5,379	4,619	3,880
Total cash used	1,176,121	1,200,622	1,222,632	1,208,844	1,237,114
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	128,575	150,636	155,788	154,180	150,946
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	155,667	85,084	82,894	82,880	83,053
Investments	(91,081)	(1,944)	5,449	3,984	1,964
Total cash used	64,586	83,140	88,343	86,864	85,017
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(64,586)	(83,140)	(88,343)	(86,864)	(85,017)
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	63,989	67,496	67,445	67,316	65,929
Total cash used	63,989	67,496	67,445	67,316	65,929
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(63,989)	(67,496)	(67,445)	(67,316)	(65,929)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	-	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	4,869	4,869	4,869	4,869	4,869
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4,869	4,869	4,869	4,869	4,869

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded internally from departmental resources ^(a)	155,667	85,084	82,894	82,880	83,053
TOTAL	155,667	85,084	82,894	82,880	83,053
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	155,667	85,084	82,894	82,880	83,053
Total cash used to acquire assets	155,667	85,084	82,894	82,880	83,053

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Funded from annual appropriations and may include internally developed assets and proceeds from the sale of assets.

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (Budget year 2024–25)

	Asset Category				Total
	Land	Buildings	Other property, plant and equipment	Computer software and intangibles	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2024					
Gross book value	255,881	456,509	625,649	285,633	1,623,672
Gross book value - ROU assets	22,680	47,952	733,985	-	804,617
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	-	(32,819)	(405,727)	(152,724)	(591,270)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(1,213)	(11,335)	(304,363)	-	(316,911)
Opening net book balance	277,348	460,307	649,544	132,909	1,520,108
Capital asset additions					
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets					
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services ^(a)	-	15,051	25,525	44,508	85,084
Total additions	-	15,051	25,525	44,508	85,084
Other movements					
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(26,442)	(17,629)	(44,069)	(88,140)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	(243)	(2,845)	(66,330)	-	(69,418)
Total other movements	(243)	(29,287)	(83,959)	(44,069)	(157,558)
As at 30 June 2025					
Gross book value	255,881	471,560	631,174	330,141	1,688,756
Gross book value - ROU assets	22,680	47,952	733,985	-	804,617
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	-	(59,261)	(403,356)	(196,793)	(659,410)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(1,456)	(14,180)	(370,693)	-	(386,329)
Closing net book balance	277,105	446,071	591,110	133,348	1,447,634

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2024-25 for depreciation/amortisation expenses or other operational expenses.