

PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENTS 2026-27
BUDGET RELATED PAPER NO. 1.4A

DEFENCE PORTFOLIO

Budget Initiatives and Explanations of Appropriations
Specified by Outcomes and Programs by Entity

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THE HON RICHARD MARLES
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

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CANBERRA 2600

President of the Senate
Australian Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Speaker
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Dear Speaker

I hereby submit the Portfolio Budget Statements in support of the 2026-27 Budget for the Defence 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 blue ink that reads 'Richard Marles'.

Richard Marles

Abbreviations and Conventions

The following notations 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nfp	not for publication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 Assistant Secretary Budgeting and Reporting, Defence Finance Group, Department of Defence on (02) 5108 6064.

Links to Portfolio Budget Statements (including Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Statements) can be located on the Australian Government Budget website at: www.budget.gov.au.

User Guide To The Portfolio Budget Statements

User Guide

The purpose of the *2026-27 Portfolio Budget Statements* (PB Statements) is to inform Senators and Members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to government outcomes by entities within the portfolio. Entities 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) 2026-27 (or Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2026-27 for the parliamentary departments) and related Supply Bills where they exist applicable to the 2026-27 Budget. 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.

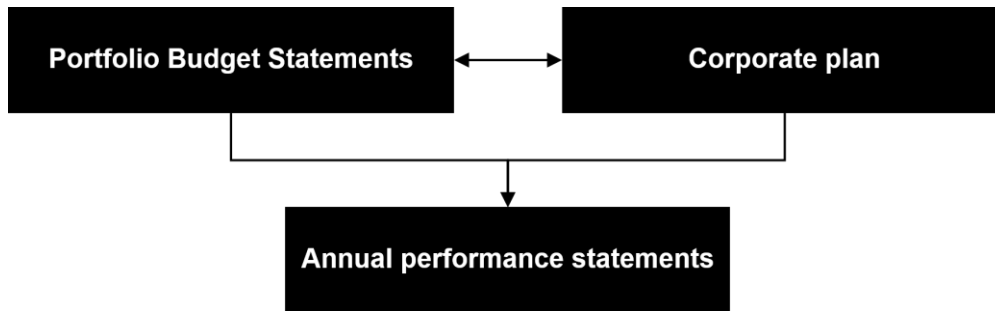
As required under section 12 of the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*, only entities within the general government sector are included as part of the Commonwealth general government sector fiscal estimates and produce PB Statements where they receive funding (either directly or via portfolio departments) through the annual appropriation acts.

The Commonwealth Performance Framework

The following diagram outlines the key components of the Commonwealth performance framework. The diagram identifies the content of each of the publications and the relationship between them. Links to the publications for each entity within the portfolio can be found in the introduction to Section 2: Outcomes and Planned Performance.

Commonwealth Performance Framework

Key components of relevant publications



<p>Portfolio Budget Statements (Typically in May) Portfolio based</p> <p>Supports Annual Appropriations. Informs senators and members of parliament of the proposed allocations of other resources to government outcomes and programs.</p> <p>Provides links to relevant programs undertaken by other Commonwealth entities.</p> <p>Provides high-level performance information for current, ongoing programs.</p> <p>Provides detailed performance information for proposed new Budget Measures that require a new program or significantly change an existing program.</p> <p>Links to the corporate plan through reporting key activities.</p>	<p>Corporate Plan (by 31 August) Entity based</p> <p>Primary planning document of a Commonwealth entity.</p> <p>Sets out the purposes of the entity and the key activities it will undertake to achieve its purposes, over a minimum 4-year period.</p> <p>Describes the environment in which the entity operates, the capability it requires to undertake its key activities, its risk oversight and management systems including key risks and how those are managed, and how it will cooperate with others, including any subsidiaries, to achieve its purposes.</p> <p>Explains how the entity's performance will be measured and assessed.</p>
<p>Annual Performance Statements (October in the following year) Entity based</p> <p>Included in the Commonwealth entity's annual report.</p> <p>Reports on the actual performance results for the reporting year as set out in the corporate plan and Portfolio Budget Statements.</p> <p>Provides an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to the entity's performance results.</p>	

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Portfolio Overview

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Defence Portfolio Overview

Ministers and their Portfolio Responsibilities

The Defence Portfolio has four Ministers:

- the Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence;
- the Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs;
- the Hon Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel; and
- the Hon Peter Khalil MP, Assistant Minister for Defence.

In addition to these Ministers, the following Minister was sworn in as a Minister involved in the administration of the Department of Defence:

- the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security and Minister for the Arts.

In addition to the above Ministers, the Prime Minister made the following non-Ministerial appointment:

- Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP, Special Envoy for Defence, Veterans' Affairs and Northern Australia.

The Defence Portfolio

The Defence Portfolio (Portfolio) consists of component organisations that together are responsible for the defence of Australia and its national interests. The most significant bodies are the:

- Department of Defence, headed by the Secretary of the Department of Defence; and
- Australian Defence Force (ADF), commanded by the Chief of the Defence Force.

Defence is established as a Department of State under the Administrative Arrangements Order. The Department of Defence operates under the *Public Service Act 1999* and is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The ADF is constituted through the *Defence Act 1903*. In practice, these bodies work together closely and are broadly regarded as one organisation known simply as 'Defence'.

Defence's primary roles are to protect and advance Australia's strategic interests through the promotion of security and stability, provide military capabilities to defend Australia and its national interests, and support the Australian community and civilian authorities as directed by the Government.

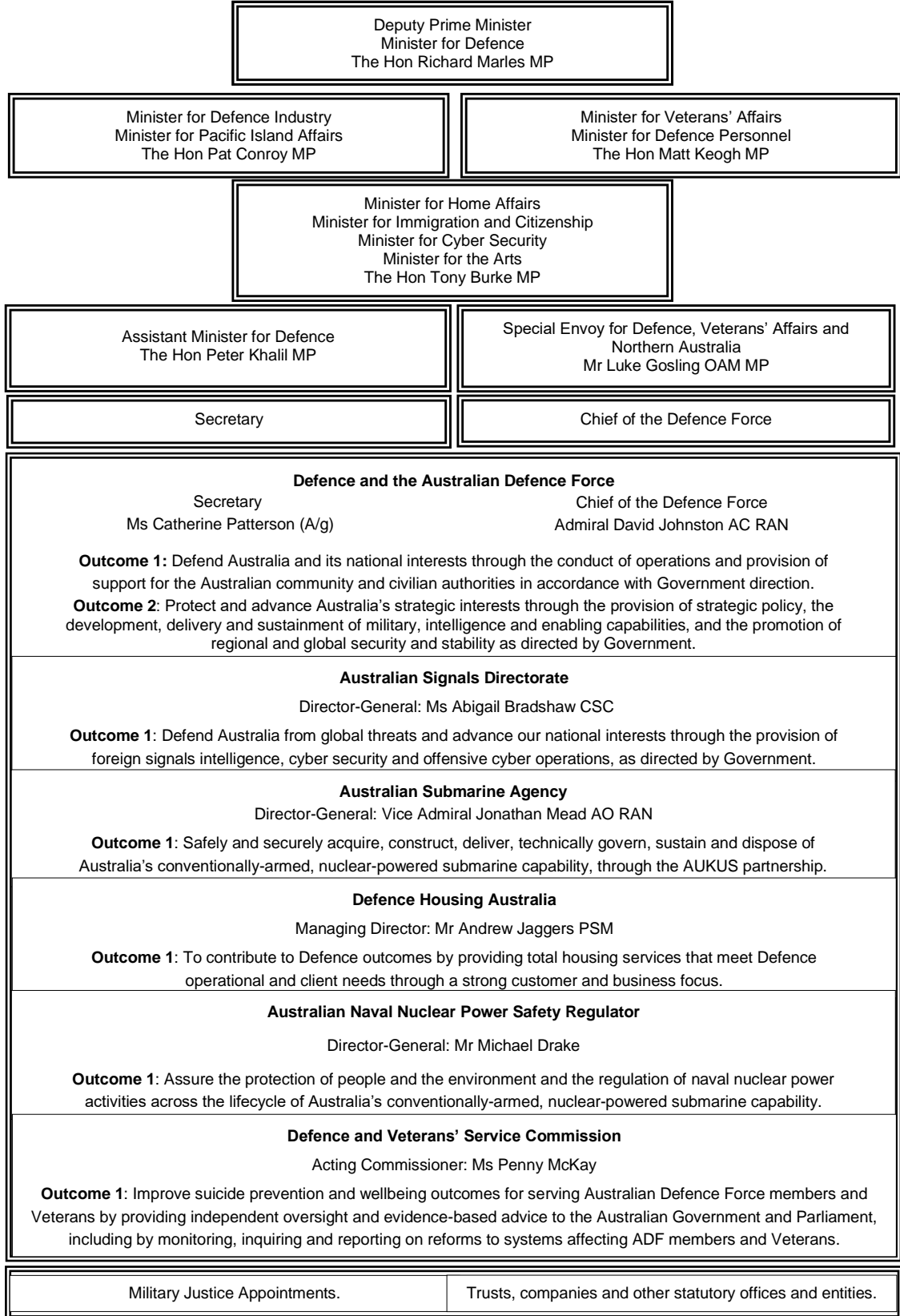
The Portfolio includes the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA), Defence Housing Australia (DHA), the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR), and the Defence and Veterans' Service Commission (DVSC). The Portfolio also contains some smaller entities, including a number of statutory offices, trusts and companies created under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* and *Defence Act 1903*, which are independent but reside administratively within the Portfolio.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and associated bodies, as designated in the Administrative Arrangements Order, also form part of the Portfolio. DVA is administered separately to Defence, and information related to the DVA can be found in its Portfolio Budget and Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements.

For information on resourcing across the Portfolio, please refer to Part 1: Agency Financial Resourcing in Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing.

Portfolio Structure and Outcomes

Figure 1: Defence Portfolio Structure and Outcomes



On 28 April 2026, Ms Meghan Quinn PSM was announced as the Secretary of Defence, and will commence 18 May 2026.

Other Defence Portfolio Bodies

AAF Company

Chair: Colonel James Murray

The AAF Company is a Commonwealth company under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It was incorporated in 1987 under the *Corporations ACT 2001*. The AAF Company undertakes the management and trusteeship of the Army's two trust funds known as the 'Army Amenities Fund' and the 'Messes Trust Fund'. The AAF Company promotes and supports the objectives of the two funds which provides amenities for members of the Australian Army.

Army and Air Force Canteen Service

Chair: Peter Goldsworthy FCPA GAICD

The Army and Air Force Canteen Service (AAFCANS), a Commonwealth authority established under the *Army and Air Force Canteen Service Regulations 1959* supplies goods, facilities and services to, or for the entertainment and recreation of, members of the Army and the Air Force including persons employed in, or in connection with, Army or Air Force installations and dependants of those members or persons, visitors to such installations and members of the Army or Air Force Cadets.

Australian Military Forces Relief Trust Fund

Chair: Major General Craig Dobson AM CSC

The Australian Military Forces Relief Trust Fund (AMFRTF) is a corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It was a Commonwealth authority established under the *Services Trust Funds Act 1947*. The AMFRTF provides benefits to members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who have served in, or in association with the Australian Army and to the dependants of such members.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute Limited

Chair: Ms Gai Brodtmann GAICD

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute Limited is a Commonwealth company that provides policy-relevant research and analysis to better inform Government decision-makers and public understanding of strategic and defence issues.

Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust

Chair: Mr David E. Tindal

The Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust, a Commonwealth authority established by the *Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act 1953*, provides residences in which eligible persons (as defined in the Act) who are in necessitous circumstances and, if the Trust so approves, the dependants of such eligible persons, may be accommodated or supported.

Royal Australian Air Force Welfare Recreational Company

Chair: Air Commodore Martin Smith GAICD

The Royal Australian Air Force Welfare Recreational Company is a Commonwealth company that provides access to discounted recreational accommodation and manages and promotes the Royal Australian Air Force Central Welfare Trust Fund owned recreational facilities for the Royal Australian Air Force members, their families and other eligible persons. It also provides financial support to, and assists in the provision of, recreational facilities and services to the Royal Australian Air Force members.

Royal Australian Air Force Welfare Trust Fund

Chair: Principal Air Chaplain James Cox

The Royal Australian Air Force Welfare Trust Fund, a corporate Commonwealth entity established under the *Services Trust Funds Act 1947*, provides benefits for members of the Defence Force who have served in, or in association with, the Royal Australian Air Force and to the dependants of such members.

Royal Australian Navy Central Canteens Board

Chair: Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN

The Royal Australian Navy Central Canteens Board (RANCCB), a corporate Commonwealth entity established under the *Navy (Canteens) Regulations 1954*, administers the Royal Australian Navy Central Canteens Fund. The principal activities of the RANCCB are to provide welfare and lifestyle related benefits and services to Navy members and their families.

Royal Australian Navy Relief Trust Fund

Chair: Commodore Shane Glasscock CSC RAN

The Royal Australian Navy Relief Trust Fund, a corporate Commonwealth entity established under the *Services Trust Funds Act 1947*, provides benefits for members of the ADF who have served in, or in association with, the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and to the dependants of such members.

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