



ADVANCE CAIRNS

THE COMMITTEE FOR
TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

FEDERAL BUDGET COMMITMENTS FROM ADVANCE CAIRNS ADVOCACY



CAIRNS MARINE PRECINCT COMMON USER FACILITY

\$180,000,000

The Federal Government have committed \$18.0m towards the delivery of a maritime Common User Facility (CUF) which includes funding for hardstands, blast and paint facilities, and increased wet berth capacity to increase the capacity and capability of the Cairns Marine Precinct, allowing the precinct to capitalise on future defence and maritime industry business.



SECURING CAIRNS HOUSING FOUNDATION

\$110,000,000

The Australian Government has committed \$110.0m with a \$80m concessional loan available for enabling infrastructure in the Mount Peter Priority Development Area, located between Edmonton and Gordonvale. The infrastructure funding will support delivery of around 13,145 new homes by 2034, with 5,258 reserved for first home buyers.



CAIRNS COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT AND HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

\$15,000,000

The Australian Government is providing \$15.0 million over three years from 2025–26 to deliver its election commitment to support the construction of the North Queensland Cowboys Community, Development and High-Performance Centre at West Barlow Park in Cairns. The facility is to provide a new permanent headquarters for the Cowboys' National Rugby League Women's team, including a world-class training and recovery centre.



NORTHERN BEACHES ACCESS – CAIRNS WESTERN ARTERIAL ROAD

\$382,305,854

The Australian Government has committed \$382.3 million and the Queensland Government \$220.3 million to duplicate the Cairns Western Arterial Road. This includes \$270 million to duplicate the priority section between Lake Placid Road and the Captain Cook Highway and intersection upgrade at Loridan Drive (Stage 1). The remaining funding to be used to duplicate further stages of the Cairns Western Arterial Road subject to further planning and funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments.

DEFENCE

BUDGET PAPER No3.

Page 74	Enhancing Defence Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific					
	Payments (\$m)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	Department of Defence		74.3	186.2	189.5	149.9

The Government will provide \$600.0 million over four years from 2026–27 to deliver initiatives to realise the benefits of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) – Australia Mutual Defence Treaty and expand Defence infrastructure investments in the Pacific and South-East Asia. Funding includes:

- \$421.6 million over four years from 2026–27 to be held in the Contingency Reserve to support regional engagement through initiatives under development with partner governments to be considered in a future economic update
- \$113.8 million over four years from 2026–27 to build dual-use infrastructure in PNG to support integration between the PNG Defence Force and the Australian Defence Force (ADF)
- \$64.6 million over two years from 2026–27 to deliver a pilot program to recruit suitable PNG citizens into the ADF. Partial funding for this measure will be held in the Contingency Reserve pending consideration of initiatives in a future budget prioritisation process.

This measure builds on the 2025–26 MYEFO measure titled Papua New Guinea – Australia Mutual Defence Treaty.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

The 2026 National Defence Strategy reaffirms the importance of delivering a stronger sovereign defence industrial base. This is a long-term undertaking and requires sustained investment and deliberate prioritisation of the areas most critical for national defence. Australia’s sovereign defence industrial base depends on Australia’s broader industrial capability. This includes robust and resilient domestic supply chains for key components, parts and systems, drawing on defence industry across the country, including in regional areas.

Page 35

New enterprise estate and infrastructure projects in regional areas in 2026–27 Construction and maintenance activities associated with Defence facilities in regional areas provide considerable economic, social and environmental support to regional communities. During 2025–26, approximately 141 subcontractor packages, with a total value of about \$114.6 million, were awarded to First Nations subcontractors, with a further two prime contracts awarded to First Nations prime contractors at approximately \$16.5 million.

EDUCATION

BUDGET PAPER No3.

Page 50

National Skills Agreement									
\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	780.2	641.7	500.5	265.7	176.1	56.3	51.7	32.7	2,504.9
2026-27	800.4	648.8	536.3	294.1	181.0	65.8	50.5	37.4	2,614.3
2027-28	807.1	661.8	538.7	297.0	180.1	54.5	48.7	34.6	2,622.6
2028-29	693.6	582.6	469.8	262.2	156.8	44.5	40.6	27.2	2,277.4
2029-30	597.2	499.5	398.9	216.3	130.1	38.7	34.0	18.2	1,932.8
Total	3,678.6	3,034.5	2,444.2	1,335.3	824.0	259.7	225.5	150.1	11,952.0

Through the National Skills Agreement (NSA), the Australian Government is providing flexible funding to support state training systems and deliver national priorities. Funding for the NSA also includes National Partnership payments for seven Specific Policy Initiatives: Closing the Gap, Ensuring Access to Foundation Skills Training, TAFE Centres of Excellence, National TAFE Network, Measures to Strengthen the VET Workforce, Enhanced VET Data and Evidence and Improved

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

Completions – Especially for Priority Groups. A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Measures 2026–27.

Page 53	Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement(a)									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	51.7	42.9	34.1	17.9	11.4	3.6	2.9	1.6	166.1
	2026-27	38.7	32.1	25.5	13.4	8.6	2.7	2.2	1.2	207.3
	2027-28									172.6
	2028-29									178.8
	2029-30									185.3
	Total	90.3	75.0	59.6	31.2	20.0	6.2	5.2	2.8	910.0

(a)The Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement expires on 30 June 2027, beyond which unallocated funding is subject to states signing a new agreement on Free TAFE.

The Australian Government is providing funding for the Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement, which commenced on 1 January 2023, for the delivery of Free TAFE and VET places to support training in areas of high demand and skills need.

The Australian Government will also provide ongoing funding for Free TAFE from 2026–27 for at least 100,000 Free TAFE and VET places per year from 2027.

Page 54	TAFE Technology Fund and Mobile TAFE(a)									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	1.7	0.9	1.6	1.0		0.5			5.6
	2026-27				1.2	0.6		1.0		23.8
	2027-28					0.7			0.8	4.4
	2028-29									3.0
	2029-30									3.0
	Total	1.7	0.9	1.6	2.2	1.3	0.5	1.0	0.8	39.8

(a)Totals include funding yet to be allocated.

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

The Australian Government is providing funding to the states through the TAFE Technology Fund for TAFEs to upgrade facilities, such as laboratories, workshops and IT services, and ensure TAFE is delivering training to standards expected by students and industry. The Australian Government is also providing funding to deliver Mobile TAFE. Mobile TAFE will enable VET providers to take skills on the road and train the next generation of workers in outer regional and remote communities. A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Measures 2026–27.

Page 55	Turbocharging TAFE Centres of Excellence									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	1.8		2.5	3.0	1.8	0.3	2.1	2.5	13.9
	2026-27	1.3					0.1	0.2	1.2	2.8
	2027-28							0.1		0.1
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total	3.2		2.5	3.0	1.8	0.4	2.4	3.7	16.9

The Australian Government is providing funding to fast-track establishment of new TAFE Centres of Excellence in addition to funding provided under the five-year National Skills Agreement. This funding supports partnerships between TAFEs, Jobs and Skills Councils, industry and universities to: establish TAFE Centres of Excellence; design and teach world leading curriculum; and provide students with cutting edge skills.

Page 55	Turbocharging the VET Workforce									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	3.8	3.2	2.7	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.7	15.0
	2026-27	3.8	3.2	2.7	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.7	15.0
	2027-28									
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total	7.5	6.5	5.4	3.4	2.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	30.0

The Australian Government is providing funding to support state projects that increase the teacher, trainer and assessor workforce for clean energy occupations.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

Page 6 Investing in services

The Government is ensuring these investments [bulk billing and urgent care clinics] are supported by the healthcare workforce needed, with 166 new Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for medical students since 2022.

Page 38

The Government is continuing to implement the Australian Universities Accord reforms, including significant funding reforms that ensure more students can access, participate in and succeed in higher education.

The transition to the new Managed Growth Funding system for Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) began on 1 January 2026 with full commencement set for 2027. This implementation increases opportunity for students from under-represented backgrounds, including regional and remote students. In 2035, the new system is expected to deliver an additional 82,000 fully funded CSPs in comparison with current system projections.

The Needs-based Funding system commenced on 1 January 2026. It provides more support to universities to assist students from low socio-economic status and First Nations backgrounds and students studying at regional and remote campuses to successfully complete university. Dedicated outreach funding continues to support initiatives that engage people from under-represented backgrounds, including those from regional and remote areas, in higher education.

The Regional University Study Hubs program helps students in regional and remote areas access higher education without having to leave their community. There are 56 hubs located across 84 locations – of these 53 are in regional, 12 in remote and 19 in very remote Australia. Over 20,989 students have been supported by Hubs since the program's establishment in 2018–19.

EMPLOYMENT

BUDGET PAPER No3.

Page 41	Skills and Training – additional supports					
	Payments (\$m)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations		8.6	8.7	8.8	9.0
	Australian Skills Quality Authority		4.8			
	Total – Payments		13.4	8.7	8.8	9.0
	Related receipts (\$m) Australian Skills Quality Authority		3.3			

The Government will provide funding of \$36.7 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$9.1 million per year ongoing) to extend support for skills and training priorities. Funding includes:

- \$35.2 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$9.1 million per year ongoing) for Jobs and Skills Australia to continue providing advice under its legislated requirements on Australia’s labour market and skills and training needs
- \$1.5 million in 2026–27 for the Australian Skills Quality Authority to continue compliance actions to address serious integrity issues in the Vocational Education and Training sector.

The cost of this measure will be partially met from a reprioritisation of funding from the 2026–27 Budget measure titled Employment and Workplace Relations and Skills – reprioritisation.

This measure extends the 2025–26 Budget measure titled Addressing Integrity Risks and the 2025–26 MYEFO measure titled Skills and Training – additional supports.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

In the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2025–26, the Government committed \$27.0 million over three years from 2026–27 (and an additional \$3.0 million in 2029–30) to expand the TAFE Technology Fund to support mobile VET delivery in outer regional and remote locations. Mobile training units will enable VET providers to take skills on the road and train the next generation of workers. The initiative will improve access to skills and training for First Nations people and for learners living in outer regional and remote communities, support local employment pathways, and reduce barriers associated with travel and relocation for study. Mobile TAFE will contribute to building a more sustainable, locally skilled workforce aligned with regional economic opportunities. The Government is working with state and territory governments, who are partnering with First Nations organisations and communities to identify projects that meet local skills needs. This new funding is expected to deliver up to 12 projects nationally. Courses offered through Mobile TAFE will vary across locations to reflect local labour market demand.

Page 42 Employment Services

The department delivers bespoke employment services designed to respond to the needs of communities in Broome, Yarrabah, and Norfolk Island. In Yarrabah, additional capability funding and supports enable a more coordinated, locally informed service that meets people where they are and helps them progress towards sustainable employment. The Norfolk Island Employment Support Program consolidates mainstream employment services, providing residents with a single, central point of access to address their individual employment and skills needs.

The department also delivers complementary measures such as the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme to provide a productive, reliable workforce to support regional industries facing labour constraints. This includes a regional footprint to deliver on-the-ground support to regional employers participating in the scheme.

Page 43 Fairer fuel and workplace relations supports for regional Australia

The Government's workplace relations system continues to support regional Australia by promoting fair, productive and safe workplaces that underpin regional employment and economic resilience. This includes Fair Work Ombudsman regional outreach and compliance activities; the Employer Advisory Service, providing free tailored workplace relations advice to regional small businesses; and Fair Work Commission regional access arrangements, including circuit hearings and remote dispute resolution. The Government's workplace relations reforms are designed to improve job security and minimum standards across the economy, including in regional industries.

ENVIRONMENT ENERGY AND WATER

BUDGET PAPER No3.

Page 94	Bolstering Australia's Biosecurity System – Protecting Australia from escalating exotic animal disease risks									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26			0.5	0.5				0.4	1.4
	2026-27									
	2027-28									
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total			0.5	0.5				0.4	1.4

The Australian Government is providing funding to build regional resilience through bolstering response and preparedness capability to manage biosecurity risks across the animal, plant and aquatic sectors in northern Australia. This funding will be used for a network to proactively enhance Australian Government partnerships with industry and First Nations people and strengthen links between partners as part of our strategy for defending northern Australia from biosecurity risks.

Page 94	Boosting HPAI biosecurity response capability									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	0.5	0.4	2.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	4.6
	2026-27									
	2027-28									
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total	0.5	0.4	2.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	4.6

The Australian Government is committed to working with states to enhance Australia's High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) preparedness and response capability. The Australian Government is providing funding for states to boost biosecurity response capability through the procurement of specialist equipment for biosecurity surveillance and response, to assist in the event of outbreaks in the production sector and/or Australian wildlife. Specialist equipment may include items such as mobile laboratories, biosecurity trailers, long distance drones and depopulation equipment.

Page 96 Critical Minerals National Productivity Initiative(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26		0.2				0.1		0.2	5.4
2026-27		0.1	0.2	1.4		0.1		0.1	1.9
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total		0.4	0.2	1.4		0.2		0.3	7.3

(a)Totals include funding yet to be allocated.

The Australian Government is helping the critical minerals sector, by collaborating with states to identify potential common user facilities for critical minerals processing.

Page 96 Disaster Ready Fund

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	69.3	40.8	52.6	12.1	10.0	9.7	3.9	1.5	200.0
2026-27									
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total	69.3	40.8	52.6	12.1	10.0	9.7	3.9	1.5	200.0

The Australian Government is helping communities to prepare for natural disasters through the Disaster Ready Fund. The Disaster Ready Fund provides a dedicated ongoing source of funding for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction initiatives. The Australian Government is providing \$200.0 million in 2025–26 under Round 3 of the Disaster Ready Fund to support disaster mitigation priorities. This will fund projects that build resilience to, prepare for, or reduce the risk of, future natural hazard impacts.

Page 106 Protecting Our Communities (Disaster Resilience) Program

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
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ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

2025-26	3.6	2.2	5.7	0.1	0.1	6.5	18.3
2026-27	0.9	0.6	1.9			1.0	4.4
2027-28			0.5				0.5
2028-29							
2029-30							
Total	4.4	2.8	8.1	0.1	0.1	7.5	23.1

The Australian Government is delivering important disaster resilience projects across Australia that were identified by communities to improve their disaster resilience. Announced ahead of the 2022 and 2025 Federal Elections, the program is being delivered in two tranches. Tranche 2 commenced in 2023–24 and provides \$34.5 million for 17 projects nationally, administered through the states.

Page 106 Recycling Modernisation Fund

The Australian Government is providing funding for improved recycling outcomes by addressing critical infrastructure and technology gaps in Australia’s waste management and resource recovery system. Funding is being provided via a number of streams including a main Recycling Modernisation Fund stream, a Regional and Remote stream, a National Paper Solutions stream and a Plastics Technology stream.

Page 106 Plastics technology stream

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	0.9	1.5	1.3						3.7
2026-27	1.8	0.6			1.2				3.6
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total	2.7	2.1	1.3		1.2				7.3

The Australian Government is investing in advanced recycling technologies to build Australia’s recycling capability for hard-to-recycle plastics and address low plastics recycling rates. A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Measures 2026–27.

Page 108 Recycling Infrastructure

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	7.2	1.9	17.2	16.1	2.2	1.7	2.0	2.0	50.4
2026-27	11.9	3.1	19.2	12.4	1.2		3.0	2.2	52.9
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total	19.1	5.0	36.4	28.5	3.4	1.7	5.0	4.1	103.3

The Australian Government is investing in waste recovery, processing and recycling infrastructure to respond to the decision to regulate the export of waste paper, plastic, glass and tyres, agreed by all Australian governments in March 2020. Funding has been provided towards a national solution for paper recycling, projects that address regional and remote recycling challenges and to help overcome the urban–regional divide, and projects that increase Australia’s waste processing and recycling capacity and support Australia’s circular economy.

Page 108 Reef 2050 Plan

The Australian Government is investing in implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) as part of its broader commitment to protect the Great Barrier Reef and secure reef jobs.

Page 108 Paddock to Reef Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26			2.3						2.3
2026-27			2.3						2.3
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total			4.6						4.6

The Australian Government is providing funding to the Queensland Government to support stronger paddock to reef monitoring, modelling and reporting. This will enhance Australia’s understanding of the impacts of investments in land and sea country restoration and measures to further

prevent degradation. It will also better enable governments to track progress towards all water quality targets, produce report cards and provide information and tools for efficient targeting of investments to the highest priority areas and actions.

Page 109 Sustainable Fisheries

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26			17.0						17.0
2026-27			10.0						10.0
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total			27.0						27.0

The Australian Government will provide funding to decrease risks to threatened and protected species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and position reef fisheries at the forefront of best practice and sustainability.

Page 111 World Heritage Sites

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	0.8		3.1	0.4	0.1	5.1			9.6
2026-27	0.8		3.1	0.4	0.1	5.1			9.6
2027-28	0.8		3.1	0.4	0.1	5.1			9.6
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total	2.5		9.4	1.3	0.3	15.3			28.8

The Australian Government is providing funding to address critical threats such as feral animals and weeds, and changed fire regimes, to conserve and restore the biodiversity of World Heritage sites, and for Executive Officers and Advisory Committees who support the provision of advice to government on the protection of World Heritage sites.

Page 111 Yellow crazy ant control

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
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ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

2025-26	6.3	6.3
2026-27	5.9	5.9
2027-28	3.0	3.0
2028-29		
2029-30		
Total	15.2	15.2

The Australian Government is providing funding to ensure a more concerted approach to yellow crazy ant control activities in Townsville and adjacent to the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area in Cairns. A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Measures 2026–27.

Page 128 National Tourism Icons Package

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26			0.1			0.3			0.4
2026-27			0.5			5.6			6.1
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total			0.6			5.9			6.5

The National Tourism Icons Package provides a catalyst for developing tourism within each region, creating jobs, and helping to diversify local economies. Projects are the construction of the Wangetti Trail in Queensland and upgrade of tourist facilities at Freycinet in Tasmania.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

Page 29 Establishing a National Environmental Protection Agency

The Government has provided \$250.0 million over 2 years from 2026–27 to establish the National Environmental Protection Agency (National EPA) from 1 July 2026, with funding from 2028–29 to be announced once bilateral approval agreements are in place with states and territories. The National

EPA will result in positive outcomes for business, regional communities, First Nations people, and the environment. The National EPA will undertake environmental assessments and approvals expeditiously, including via the new streamlined assessment pathway and bilateral agreements with states and territories. New and enhanced processes regulated by the National EPA will provide for better engagement with local communities and other stakeholders. The National EPA will have an Australia-wide footprint and remit and will support growth and productivity in regional areas across the country through delivering approvals for new projects and supporting regional planning. The National EPA will directly support priority sectors including renewables, housing, critical minerals, gas and strategic infrastructure. It will also underpin key Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | Page 29 | Regional Ministerial Budget Statement 2026–27 Government outcomes such as the transition to net zero, increasing the supply of affordable housing and expanding Australia’s critical minerals sector.

Page 30 Accelerating offset supply through the nature repair market

The Government has committed \$36.9 million over two years from 2026–27 to develop and deliver high-integrity environmental offsets through the Nature Repair Market. A well-functioning Nature Repair Market will create opportunities for land managers and First Nations people across regional Australia, as well as private investors and corporates looking to have a positive environmental impact. The market will help fund land managers to pursue nature repair projects that deliver real and measurable biodiversity benefits, supporting economic growth for regional communities.

Page 30 Protecting Australia’s native species

The Government is providing \$110.8 million over two years from 2026–27 to extend the Saving Native Species (SNS) program and H5 avian influenza (bird flu) preparedness efforts to safeguard many of Australia’s most vulnerable animals and plants and protect and recover our most biodiverse natural landscapes. Guided by the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032, the program has delivered compelling outcomes to date. The SNS program extension will strengthen and expand critical actions to safeguard many of Australia’s most vulnerable native plants and animals, including interventions for species at high risk of extinction with the H5 bird flu preparedness extension consolidating strategic on-ground threat abatement efforts at high-risk sites, particularly islands. The SNS program will protect and recover many of our most biodiverse natural landscapes by controlling key threats such as gamba grass across our northern savanna, yellow crazy ants in the tropical rainforests of far north Queensland and feral cats on priority islands. The program will continue to deliver significant benefits to regional and remote communities as projects are implemented nationwide. Investments will support local employment, nature-based tourism, sustainable agriculture, and businesses reliant on natural capital. This program will provide further investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through projects that will support employment and First Nations-led biodiversity recovery, strengthening cultural connections, self-determination, and care for Country.

Page 31 Great Barrier Reef restoration and sustainability projects

The Government is investing \$91.8 million over two years from 2026–27 to build on and accelerate outcomes under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and extend the Tourism Reef Protection Initiative. This funding will deliver immediate protections through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s world-leading marine conservation programs, while continuing initiatives that engage communities in protecting and restoring priority Reef biodiversity. This funding will deliver benefits for regional and coastal Queensland by improving the health and resilience of marine ecosystems that underpin Reef-dependent communities and industries. Continuation of locally driven restoration projects that involve citizen scientists and Reef Traditional Owners will create local jobs. Funding to explore options for the transition towards aquaculture-based production of live coral will assist regional operators to plan for new skills, infrastructure and production methods. This investment aligns with the Government’s objective to protect and restore the health of Australia’s natural environment, oceans, iconic and heritage-listed places, unique ecosystems and threatened species.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

BUDGET PAPER No2.

Page 90 Enhancing Pacific Engagement

The Government will provide \$187.8 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$49.2 million per year ongoing) to enhance Australia’s engagement with and support to the Pacific. Funding includes:

- \$167.3 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$49.2 million per year ongoing) to continue to provide development assistance to Nauru following its expected graduation from Official Development Assistance eligibility on 1 January 2027
- \$14.1 million over two years from 2026–27 to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to continue content production, distribution, capacity building and media engagement activities under the Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy
- \$5.5 million over two years from 2026–27 to continue to strengthen resilience against money laundering, terrorism financing and other crime in the Pacific region
- \$0.9 million in 2026–27 to the Attorney-General’s Department to continue law and justice capacity building in the Pacific.

The Government will also provide \$550.0 million over ten years to support high-quality, climate-resilient infrastructure in the Pacific and Timor-Leste through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific. The Government will amend the tax law to ensure that income tax exemptions

provided by Papua New Guinea for players and staff of the PNG Chiefs National Rugby League team operate as intended. This will decrease receipts by \$5.4 million over four years from 2026–27.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will partially meet the cost of this measure from within existing resources.

This measure builds on the 2022–23 October Budget measures titled Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific – expansion and Pacific Security and Engagement Initiatives, and the 2023–24 Budget measure titled Enhancing Pacific Engagement.

HEALTH

BUDGET PAPER No2.

Page 61 Closing the Gap

\$1.1 million in 2026–27 to the Cape and Torres Health Commissioning Ltd to continue to provide access to culturally appropriate health care services for First Nations people in Far North Queensland.

Page 98 Improving Access and Uptake of Medicines and Vaccines

\$449.3 million over five years from 2025–26 (and \$60.9 million per year ongoing) to support the addition of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine Arexvy® to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for older Australians aged 75 and over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the age of 60

Page 100 Mental Health

\$2.9 million in 2026–27 to extend work to address gaps in the system of mental health care in Queensland

\$1.7 million in 2026–27 to extend access to culturally appropriate, multidisciplinary mental health and wellbeing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and improve service integration in South Australia

Page 102 National Health Reform Agreement

\$200.0 million over five years from 2026–27 to states and territories for the NHRA Better Health Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Schedule, with funding to be matched by the states and territories

\$48.7 million over five years from 2026–27 for projects to achieve the system uplift critical to the successful implementation of the NHRA Better Health Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Schedule

Page 104 Preventive Health

Additionally, the Government will extend the delivery timeframe of the Preventive Health Programs in Far North Queensland Election Commitment by one year to 30 June 2027, to finalise delivery of locally appropriate and tailored preventive health services in Cairns and Far North Queensland.

BUDGET PAPER No3.

Page 24 Management of Torres Strait / Papua New Guinea cross-border health issues

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26			5.7						5.7
2026-27			5.8						5.8
2027-28			5.9						5.9
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total			17.5			17.5			

The Australian Government is contributing to the costs of providing health services at Queensland Health facilities to Papua New Guinean nationals who travel through the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) for traditional activities recognised under the Torres Strait Treaty. Funding also contributes to communication and liaison activities to address health issues associated with cross-border movements in the TSPZ.

Page 24 Mosquito control in the Torres Strait Protected Zone

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26			0.9						0.9
2026-27			1.0						1.0
2027-28			1.0						1.0
2028-29									

2029-30		
Total	2.9	2.9

The Australian Government is contributing to the delivery of surveillance, control and, where possible, elimination of Aedes albopictus mosquitos at the main population and transport hubs of the Torres Strait. The program will also increase awareness in Torres Strait communities regarding dengue fever, Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Page 36	Addressing blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in the Torres Strait									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26			1.1						1.1
	2026-27			1.1						1.1
	2027-28			1.1						1.1
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total			3.4						3.4

The Australian Government is providing funding for communicable disease testing, treatment, prevention and education activities in the Torres Strait region, to deliver culturally appropriate health services that are responsive to emerging communicable disease risks, reduce the prevalence of bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections, and address vaccine-preventable diseases in the region.

HOME AFFAIRS

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

Page 58 Civil maritime security – countering illegal foreign fishing

ABF leads whole-of-government efforts to strengthen Australia's border security arrangements to advance and protect Australia's strategic interests, including countering illegal foreign fishing (IFF). Strong border security protects Australia's sovereignty, supports regional communities, and underpins our economic wellbeing by ensuring Australia can fully realise the benefits of the ocean economy. The Australian Government has committed \$55.8 million in 2026–27 to continue and expand coordinated, whole-of-government operational efforts to detect, deter and disrupt IFF and protect Australia's maritime interests in the region. This includes \$48.3 million in 2026–27 for the ABF to sustain existing capabilities to combat IFF through operations Lunar, Leedstrum in north and northwestern Australia, and Operation Broadstaff in far north Queensland. Additionally, the Government has committed \$3.0 million in 2026–27 for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, \$4.2 million in 2026–27 for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and \$0.3 million in 2026–27 for the Attorney-General's Department, for strengthening compliance, enforcement and prosecution outcomes in countering IFF.

HOUSING

BUDGET PAPER No2.

Page 6 Closing the Gap

\$6.3 million over three years from 2026–27 for a national First Nations housing peak body to represent the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing sector and support better housing outcomes for First Nations people and communities

Page 12 Foreign Investment – extending ban on foreign purchase of established dwellings

The Government will extend the temporary ban on foreign purchases of established residential dwellings by two years and three months until 30 June 2029. The ban was originally implemented for two years from 1 April 2025. The extension of the ban will mean Australians will be able to buy homes that would have otherwise been bought by foreign persons, while encouraging foreign persons to boost Australia's housing supply.

Current limited exceptions to the ban for purchases of established dwellings that support housing supply will continue. General exemptions from foreign investment screening will also continue to apply for purchases of established dwellings, including for permanent residents and New Zealand citizens.

The measure is estimated to decrease tax receipts by \$185.0 million over the five years from 2025–26 due to foregone revenue from foreign investment applications.

Page 21 Tax Reform Boosting Home Ownership

To maintain incentives for new housing supply, investors in new residential properties will be able to choose either the 50 per cent CGT discount, or cost base indexation and the minimum tax. Income support payment recipients, including Age Pension recipients, will be exempt from the minimum tax.

Reforming Negative Gearing to Support New Housing Supply

The Government will limit negative gearing for residential property to new builds. From 1 July 2027, losses from established residential properties will only be deductible against rental income or the capital gains from residential properties. Excess losses will be carried forward and able to be offset against residential property income in future years.

These changes will apply to established residential properties acquired from 7:30PM (AEST) on 12 May 2026. Properties acquired prior to this time (including contracts entered into but not yet settled) will be exempt from the changes until disposed of.

Eligible new builds will be exempt from the changes, ensuring the benefits of negative gearing are directed to investment that increases the housing stock.

Properties in widely held trusts and superannuation funds will be excluded, alongside targeted exemptions for build-to-rent developments and private investors supporting government housing programs.

Page 139 Boosting Home Ownership

The Government will provide \$2.1 billion over five years from 2025–26 to support increased housing supply and research. Funding includes:

\$2.0 billion over four years from 2026–27 for the Housing Support Program – Local Infrastructure Fund to provide funding via states and territories (states) to support local governments and state utility providers to expedite the delivery of housing enabling infrastructure, with funding contingent on states committing to reforms to improve productivity in the housing sector, including faster and simpler approvals, releasing more land ready to build homes, and delivering a genuinely national construction code

\$56.4 million over four years from 2025–26 for the Treasury to support the oversight and delivery of key programs under the Government’s Homes for Australia plan and for a public campaign to inform taxpayers of the changes to the tax system

\$2.1 million in 2026–27 to extend Commonwealth funding to support the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute.
This measure builds on and extends the 2024–25 Budget measure titled Housing Support.

BUDGET PAPER No3.**Page 65 100,000 Homes for First Home Buyers – Grant component**

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26					20.0				20.0
2026-27			120.2	79.2	113.0	13.8			326.1
2027-28			90.0	58.7 -		17.2	37.5		203.4
2028-29			105.0	74.5	0.6	11.8	11.5		203.3
2029-30			69.0			6.3	1.0		76.3
Total			384.2	212.3	133.6	49.1	50.0		829.1

The Australian Government will provide funding to states to support the delivery of up to 100,000 new homes reserved for sale to first home buyers. This initiative will fund direct construction of homes by 30 June 2034 as well as providing support for enabling infrastructure

Page 66 Housing Australia Future Fund – Remote Indigenous Housing

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26								25.0	25.0
2026-27			25.0	25.0	25.0			25.0	100.0
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total			25.0	25.0	25.0			50.0	125.0

The Australian Government is providing funding for the repairs, maintenance and improvements of housing in remote Indigenous communities.

Page 67 Stream 1 and Community Enabling Infrastructure(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	46.4	1.6	32.6	91.3	0.8	10.2			206.3
2026-27	9.9	0.1		0.2				1.4	11.6

2027-28								
2028-29								
2029-30								
Total	56.3	1.8	32.6	91.4	0.9	10.2	1.4	217.9

(a)Totals include funding yet to be allocated. The Australian Government is encouraging the increase of housing supply by providing funding for enabling infrastructure, community amenity and planning capability through a competitive application process.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

Page 3 Boosting regional housing availability

As a priority, the Albanese Government is addressing the unique challenge of housing in regional Australia and maintaining our regions as strong, connected and well positioned to provide opportunity to those who live and work there. Housing supply, affordability and enabling infrastructure in our regions are key drivers influencing the attraction and retention of families and workers in places where they are needed most.

Responding to the growing concerns about housing security, particularly in regional Australia, the Government has an over \$47.0 billion Homes for Australia plan to build more homes, help first home buyers, and support renters. Underpinning the plan is a shared commitment to deliver 1.2 million new well-located homes by 30 June 2029 under the National Housing Accord.

The Government has prioritised regional Australians across major housing initiatives, with several programs underway that are already delivering better housing outcomes in our regions. Programs like expanding the 5% Deposit Scheme and the Help to Buy Scheme have seen new homeowners getting the keys to their own home. The Government has committed to deliver 55,000 social and affordable homes across the country. The first two rounds of the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) are supporting the development of around 2,800 social and affordable homes in regional and remote areas, and more are expected in round three. The Social Housing Accelerator Payment is on track to deliver over 1,350 social homes in regional Australia. Responding to the concerns of regional Australia about increasing housing supply, the Albanese Government has created a new \$2.0 billion Local Infrastructure Fund under the Housing Support Program, with \$500.0 million of this fund dedicated to local infrastructure in the regions. The Government is responding to the demand for housing-enabling infrastructure, as demonstrated through the Community Enabling Infrastructure Stream of the Housing Support Program.

Page 15 Investing in places

The Growing Regions and Thriving Suburbs programs, which together are provided with an additional \$750.0 million over four years from 2026–27.

These programs will provide funding of between \$250,000 and \$15.0 million to projects that enable placebased benefits. Investing in broad-use community-focused infrastructure that creates and enhances amenity, and in venues where programs and activities can be held that encourage connection and a sense of belonging and identity, contributes to improved social cohesion and liveability throughout regional Australia.

The Stronger Communities Programme, which continues to support small-scale capital projects that enable and encourage community participation and help build vibrant, connected and resilient communities throughout Australia's regions. With a \$22.5 million funding commitment over two years from 2026–27, Round 10 of this program will provide funding between \$2,500 to \$20,000 to small-scale projects that deliver direct benefits to communities and support local government–community partnership.

Supporting housing availability and affordability through the \$47.0 billion Homes for Australia plan, funding critical infrastructure to unlock regional housing through the Housing Support Program and delivering more social and affordable homes in the regions through the Housing Australia Future Fund.

Expansion of the 5% Deposit Scheme to help more Australians buy their first home sooner, with all regional first home buyers now having access to the scheme with no caps on places or incomes.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE and RESOURCES

BUDGET PAPER No2.

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

Payments (\$m)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	0.3	1.4	1.1		
Total – Payments	0.3	1.4	1.1		

The Government will provide \$173.3 million over five years from 2025–26 to support growth of Australia’s critical minerals industry. Funding includes:

- \$150.0 million over four years from 2026–27 for stockpiling of critical minerals
- \$20.4 million over two years from 2026–27 for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources to support the operation of the Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve
- \$2.9 million over three years from 2025–26 to support delivery of Australia’s international critical minerals commitments.

The Government has already provided partial funding for this measure.

Partial funding for this measure will be held in the Contingency Reserve until stockpiling opportunities are identified. This measure builds on the 2025–26 MYEFO measure titled Investing in Australia’s Critical Minerals.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

Page 61 Regional areas of Australia are home to many of the resources, ideas, skills, industries and businesses needed to achieve the Government’s Future Made in Australia agenda, manage the transition to net zero and support improvements to productivity. The strengthening of Australia’s manufacturing, industrial and resources base alongside scientific systems is essential to resilient and productive regional economies that provide benefits nationwide. These coordinated efforts will deliver secure jobs, strengthen communities, and maximise the benefits of global shifts in technology, energy and supply chains.

Page 62 The Government has opened three new sub-funds to be delivered by the NRFC, which can provide higher rates of concessional finance to Australian businesses.

The \$5.0 billion Net Zero Fund will support large industrial facilities to invest in new equipment, technologies and processes to decarbonise, helping businesses capitalise on the global transition to net zero. It will also support the scaling up of domestic manufacturing of renewables and low emission technologies.

The \$1.0 billion Economic Resilience Program's zero-interest loans are available to businesses in critical supply chains affected by global market disruptions, including those producing and transporting the fuels, plastics, fertilisers and agricultural protection chemicals that Australian farmers and manufacturers rely on every day.

The \$150.0 million Forestry Growth Fund concessional finance will support the retooling of mills and processing facilities as they increase output and move up the value chain, with a focus on boosting timber for housing construction.

Page 62 Resources - Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve

The Government has committed \$1.2 billion to establish the Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve (the Reserve), to help secure the supply of select critical minerals vital for Australia's economy and national security. This includes an additional \$1.0 billion through the Critical Minerals Facility to support projects, and \$150.0 million over four years from 2026–27 for selective stockpiling of minerals, where required. The Reserve is expected to indirectly support regional Australia by reinforcing investment in critical minerals mining and processing activities located primarily in regional areas. The investment has potential to contribute to regional economies, through flow-on effects such as supporting local employment and boosting economic participation across regional and remote communities.

INFRASTRUCTURE

BUDGET PAPER No2.**Page 125****Community Infrastructure**

Payments (\$m)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Treasury	6.8	30.0			
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts	100.0	30.4	170.5	306.4	303.8
Total – Payments	106.8	60.4	170.5	306.4	303.8
Related receipts (\$m)					
Department of the Treasury	6.2				

The Government will provide \$841.7 million over four years from 2026–27 to support economic growth and development across urban and regional Australia. Funding includes:

- \$781.6 million over four years from 2026–27 for further rounds of the Thriving Suburbs program and the Growing Regions program to deliver community infrastructure projects in urban and regional
- \$30.1 million over three years from 2026–27 for round ten of the Stronger Communities Programme to support small capital projects that deliver social benefits for local communities across Australia

BUDGET PAPER No3.**Page 72****Active Transport Fund(a)**

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	1.3	2.7	6.8	1.0	1.4	1.6	0.8		15.6
2026-27	11.2	8.6	7.0	6.1	2.3	0.9	3.4	0.8	90.2
2027-28	3.5	5.8	6.5	4.9	0.8	1.7			75.3
2028-29	1.6	4.3	3.8	3.5			4.2		68.8

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

2029-30									50.0
Total	17.6	21.3	24.1	15.4	4.5	4.3	8.5	0.8	299.9

a) Totals include funding yet to be allocated. The Australian Government is providing funding for the upgrade and construction of new bicycle and walking paths in Australian communities. The funding will improve safety for vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians, support reduced emissions and improve productivity, health and community liveability.

Page 73 Black Spot Program

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	44.4	40.5	29.5	16.8	10.4	3.9	2.0	2.5	150.0
2026-27	45.1	42.9	30.4	17.7	11.5	4.3	2.4	3.1	157.4
2027-28	45.1	42.9	30.4	17.7	11.5	4.3	2.4	3.1	157.4
2028-29	45.1	42.9	30.4	17.7	11.5	4.3	2.4	3.1	157.4
2029-30	45.1	42.9	30.4	17.7	11.5	4.3	2.4	3.1	157.4
Total	224.7	212.2	150.9	87.8	56.2	21.2	11.8	15.0	779.8

The Australian Government is providing funding for safety works under the Black Spot Program in places where there have been serious crashes or where serious crashes are likely to occur.

Page 73 Developing Northern Australia - Northern Australia Roads

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26			1.1	1.5				10.8	13.3
2026-27			2.1	29.8				35.0	66.9
2027-28				14.3				75.0	89.3
2028-29			9.4	10.8				68.0	88.2
2029-30									
Total			12.6	56.4				188.8	257.8

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

The Australian Government is providing funding to Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory for infrastructure projects that are essential to the movement of people and freight to support economic development in the region. Projects include links to roads connecting communities and regional towns to ports and airports.

Page 73 Major Projects Business Case Fund

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	6.2	11.8	17.6	17.0	3.1				55.7
2026-27	9.8	10.1	9.3	21.0	5.4		27.5	2.2	85.3
2027-28	11.1		6.4	4.5	5.0	4.0	12.5	3.8	47.3
2028-29	3.5		15.4			12.0	5.0	1.6	37.5
2029-30						0.5	5.0		5.5
Total	30.7	21.9	48.8	42.5	13.5	16.5	50.0	7.5	231.3

The Australian Government is providing funding to support the development of business cases for road and rail infrastructure projects. Funding will support a range of business case development activities, including supporting joint state, territory and Australian Government planning processes.

Page 74 Road investment component(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	2,087.1	2,005.7	1,981.0	866.1	1,547.9	173.9	40.0	221.5	7,766.3
2026-27	2,159.5	2,622.0	2,597.6	1,064.4	1,461.0	297.2	102.4	418.0	8,179.3
2027-28	2,444.9	1,918.5	3,434.4	978.1	1,625.0	240.0	70.3	322.0	8,728.1
2028-29	2,231.0	1,021.0	3,638.3	808.6	1,369.6	198.7	55.2	406.4	8,256.6
2029-30	1,882.3	701.9	1,796.8	674.5	1,091.9	198.5	13.8	337.7	5,780.8
Total	10,804.9	8,269.1	13,448.1	4,391.6	7,095.4	1,108.3	281.7	1,705.6	38,711.1

(a)State totals do not sum to the national total. A general slippage adjustment has been applied to Infrastructure Investment Program spending at the national level from 2025–26 to 2029–30 to take account of historical experiences, including the timing of states claiming payments against milestones and the complexity of delivery. A temporary Fuel and Other Materials Disruption slippage adjustment has also been applied at the national level from 2026–27 to 2028–29 to recognise the uncertain impacts of the Middle East conflict on the availability of key materials for the delivery of projects. State totals are unaffected by the slippage assumptions. The slippage adjustments are unwound from 2030–31.

The road investment component of the Infrastructure Investment Program delivers most of the Australian Government's investment in road infrastructure. It targets nationally significant projects that will improve the efficiency and safety of Australia's road network. Funding is provided for road construction projects and network maintenance.

A portion of Australian Government funding for road infrastructure is sourced from the additional net revenue received from the reintroduction of fuel excise indexation in 2014.

A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget

Page 75	Roads to Recovery(a)									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	192.2	136.2	142.7	125.5	62.8	22.3	30.9	21.4	734.0
	2026-27	234.7	164.3	169.6	126.3	74.1	26.1	21.5	26.4	843.0
	2027-28	337.5	240.8	248.6	163.0	102.4	38.6	7.4	37.7	1,175.9
	2028-29	336.9	237.8	247.9	161.2	102.2	38.4		37.7	1,162.0
	2029-30	278.5	203.5	203.4	146.2	89.9	32.6	15.9	29.1	999.0
	Total	1,379.9	982.5	1,012.3	722.2	431.3	157.9	75.7	152.2	4,914.0

(a)These figures include payments direct to local governments, but exclude payments to external territories.

The Australian Government is providing funding for the Roads to Recovery program for road construction and maintenance projects at a local level. Funding recipients have a set program allocation for each five-year program cycle and choose the projects on which they will spend their funding based on local priorities.

Page 75	Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program(a)									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	61.0	35.0	46.0	35.3	15.4	7.7		1.2	201.5
	2026-27	112.9	69.9	70.9	33.4	20.4	16.8	1.6	4.1	330.0
	2027-28	75.3	33.0	53.0	24.5	11.5	15.1	2.2	15.5	230.0
	2028-29	78.5	52.0	52.6	22.1	14.9	4.8	3.4	1.7	230.0

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

2029-30	71.8	60.3	47.3	24.7	15.2	4.6	4.0	2.1	230.0
Total	399.4	250.3	269.7	139.9	77.4	49.0	11.3	24.5	1,221.5

(a)State allocations are indicative estimates only, to be determined through a competitive process under program guidelines. The Australian Government is providing funding for the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program for projects to address current and emerging priorities in road infrastructure needs with a focus on improving road safety outcomes.

Page 78 Cairns Regional Development

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26									
2026-27			50.0						50.0
2027-28			51.5						51.5
2028-29			143.5						143.5
2029-30			10.0						10.0
Total			255.0						255.0

The Australian Government is providing funding towards the delivery of two major construction projects in Cairns. **This includes a major expansion to the Cairns Marine Precinct and a new Central Queensland University campus in the Cairns CBD.**

Page 81 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	119.9	98.4	86.3	54.0	30.3	11.9	2.8	12.0	415.6
2026-27	2.2 0.1	2.0 2.	1 0.8					7.6	14.8
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total	122.1	98.5	88.3	56.1	31.1	11.9	2.8	19.6	430.4

(a)These figures include payments direct to local governments, but exclude payments to external territories. The Australian Government is providing funding to support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies.

Page 83

National Water Grid Fund(a)									
\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	32.2	46.3	130.7	26.6	5.9	72.4		75.5	389.6
2026-27	30.0	45.5	90.0	29.8	63.3	58.4		65.9	382.9
2027-28	9.6	24.2	12.5	33.5	6.1	66.4		52.7	205.0
2028-29	9.4	24.1		8.0	2.2	64.8		19.1	127.5
2029-30		0.7	140.0	8.0		48.0			196.6
Total	81.2	140.7	373.1	106.0	77.5	310.0		213.1	1,301.7

(a)State allocations are indicative estimates only to be determined on the signing of agreements.

Since 2022, more than \$1.0 billion has been committed to water infrastructure construction projects through the National Water Grid Fund, including for remote and regional First Nations communities, and to planning and science projects to support informed funding decisions.

A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Measures 2026–27. North

Page 83

Queensland Cowboys Community and Performance Centre										
\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total	
2025-26			0.5							0.5
2026-27			5.0							5.0
2027-28			9.5							9.5
2028-29										
2029-30										
Total			15.0							15.0

ADVANCE CAIRNS 2026/27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FAR NORTH

The Australian Government is providing \$15.0 million over three years from 2025–26 to deliver its election commitment to support the construction of the North Queensland Cowboys Community, Development and High-Performance Centre at West Barlow Park in Cairns. The facility is to provide a new permanent headquarters for the Cowboys' National Rugby League Women's team, including a world-class training and recovery centre.

Page 86	Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program(a)									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	30.9	4.8	9.4	3.4	7.1	5.8		9.1 2	29.3
	2026-27						1.1		0.3	15.2
	2027-28									
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total	30.9	4.8	9.4	3.4	7.1	6.9		9.5	244.4

(a)Totals include funding yet to be allocated. The Australian Government is providing funding to bring together governments and communities to fund the design, development and delivery of multi-purpose precincts across regional, rural and remote Australia.

Page 86	Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program – Pilot Program									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	3.6			3.5					7.1
	2026-27	3.6	4.7	5.8	0.1	2.3	2.5		1.7	20.6
	2027-28	0.5	0.3	2.2	0.4	0.3			0.3	3.9
	2028-29									
	2029-30									
	Total	7.6	5.0	8.0	4.0	2.5	2.5		2.0	31.6

The Australian Government is providing funding for a pilot program to help expand mobile coverage on regional highways and major roads.

Page 88	Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program(a)									
	\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
	2025-26	2.6	7.1	4.0	6.8	1.0	5.0	3.0		105.3

2026-27									1.0
2027-28									
2028-29									
2029-30									
Total	2.6	7.1	4.0	6.8	1.0	5.0	3.0		106.3

(a)Totals include funding yet to be allocated. The Australian Government is providing funding to bring together governments and communities to fund the design, development and delivery of multi-purpose precincts that showcase best-practice investment in urban infrastructure.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL BUDGET STATEMENT

Page 67 Under the Roads to Recovery Program, funding of \$845.9 million is allocated nationally in 2026–27, with \$730.7 million being directed to regional areas. In addition, the Government is providing \$157.4 million nationally in 2026–27 under the Black Spot Program, with 50 per cent of this directed to regional areas on average. Under the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, the Government has committed more than \$330.0 million towards 124 projects under the first four tranches, with nearly 80 per cent of this being directed to projects in regional and remote areas. Additionally, the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program is supporting the design, development and delivery of precincts in regional, rural and remote Australia. To date, 48 projects have been funded at a value of \$253.1 million.

The Government is committed to making it easier for people and goods to move by sea, including in regional Australia, with \$47.1 million being invested to continue development of a Maritime Single Window and establish a digital portal. This project will improve productivity at Australian ports by reducing compliance costs and disruptions because of inefficient administrative processes. The Government is also investing \$4.0 million in maritime fuel resilience and decarbonisation through delivering a strategy to prepare Australian ports to diversify the maritime fuel mix, supported by targeted industry trials and studies. It will help guide the development of ports into green maritime refuelling hubs, as well as supporting business opportunities for regional ports and the maritime industry. The measure will contribute to securing long-term resilience for the industry, which carries more than 99 per cent of Australia’s trade by volume.

Page 69 Infrastructure Investment Program

The Government is continuing to invest in road and rail projects that builds connections between Australia’s regions, communities and major gateways for agriculture, tourism, resources, retail and manufacturing. Through the 2026–27 Budget, the Government is making an investment

towards new projects in the Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP) which will improve productivity and resilience, liveability and sustainability in regional Australia.

Page 74 Community Infrastructure

The Government has committed \$750.0 million over three years from 2027–28 for additional rounds of the Growing Regions and Thriving Suburbs programs. The commitment expands the program’s proven success in delivering an open, competitive grants process funding capital works for community infrastructure across our regional, rural and remote communities.

Growing Regions and Thriving Suburbs will provide funding of between \$250,000 and \$15.0 million to projects that enable place-based benefits. The funding will be invested in broad-use community-focused infrastructure that creates and enhances amenity, jobs, and venues where programs and activities can be held that encourage connection and a sense of belonging and identity, contributing to improved social cohesion and productivity throughout regional Australia.

This targeted investment in community infrastructure across regional Australia supports local governing bodies to plan, build and deliver community infrastructure aligned to strategic local, regional and national priorities.

Page 74 Stronger Communities Programme

The Government has committed \$22.5 million of funding over two years from 2026–27 for a tenth round of the Stronger Communities Programme. The program will continue to support small-scale capital projects that enable and encourage community participation and help build vibrant, connected and resilient communities throughout Australia's regions. Round 10 will provide funding between \$2,500 to \$20,000 to small-scale projects that deliver direct benefits to communities and support local government-community partnership. Across recent rounds, Stronger Communities Programme funded projects have effectively supported communities across regional Australia to deal with COVID19 recovery; natural disasters, and economic pressures; improved digital connectivity; enhanced local economic activity; and reduced financial pressures on community organisations.

Page 77 Highlights for Northern Australia

For a strong national economy, northern Australia must thrive. In August 2024, the Government released the Northern Australia Action Plan 2024-2029, reaffirming its long-term commitment to the north and setting the strategic direction for investment and growth across the region. The Action Plan supports economic opportunity and development, including for First Nations people, and reflects contemporary challenges and the views of northern stakeholders. In 2025, the Government published the first Annual Progress Report on delivery of the Northern Australia Action Plan, demonstrating early momentum and accountability against the plan’s priorities. This year, the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility reached a landmark

investment milestone, with \$3.0 billion of loans drawn down by project proponents. The 2026–27 Budget builds on this progress, with targeted investments that continue to advance the Action Plan and deliver tangible benefits for communities, industry and workers across Northern Australia

CROSS PORTFOLIO

BUDGET PAPER No2.

Page 58 Boosting Productivity – Accelerating Approvals

The Government will provide funding to accelerate and streamline approvals processes and implement reforms to strengthen Australia’s foreign investment framework, including

\$105.9 million over four years from 2026–27 for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) to modernise environmental information, data and digital systems (including through the use of artificial intelligence) to improve user experience and enable simpler, faster environmental approvals

\$47.6 million over four years from 2026–27 to progress bilateral agreements with states and territories, to enable states to conduct assessments and approvals on the Commonwealth’s behalf, to reduce duplication and ensure more efficient processing of environmental approvals

\$47.5 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$3.9 million per year ongoing) for the Treasury and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to strengthen and streamline Australia’s foreign investment framework, including a new performance target to decide all low-risk applications within 30 days from 1 January 2027, removal of ineffective conditions on existing approvals and reforms to foreign investment laws and the Register of Foreign Ownership of Australian Assets

\$26.4 million over four years from 2026–27 for DCCEEW and NEPA to work with states and territories to develop new bioregional plans and strategic assessments, which will fast-track environmental approvals in priority areas including housing, critical minerals and renewable energy

Funding to support states and territories to implement bioregional plans and strategic assessments in priority areas.

The Government will also amend the Telecommunications Act 1997 and the National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011 to streamline approvals for telecommunications infrastructure, support the removal of redundant facilities, improve the National Broadband Network and strengthen consumer safeguards

Introduce legislation to amend the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975, the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Regulation 2015 and the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Fees Imposition Regulations 2020 to implement these reforms

Amend the National Consumer Credit Protection Regulations 2010 to extend the small business exemption from responsible lending obligations for a further ten years, until October 2036, to support easier and timely access to finance for small businesses.

These reforms complement actions underway to strengthen the Investor Front Door and work with states, territories and local governments to streamline approvals, such as the commercial zoning and planning reforms underway through National Competition Policy.

The cost of this measure will be partially met from savings identified in the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water portfolio, fees and existing resources of the Treasury and the ATO.