

AUSTRALIAN LAW  
REFORM COMMISSION



## Section 1: Overview, appropriations and budget measures summary

### OVERVIEW

The Australian Law Reform Commission plays a key role in the process of law reform in Australia. The Commission undertakes inquiries referred to it by the Attorney-General and makes recommendations for law reform with respect to issues raised by those inquiries. The Commission consults all relevant sectors of the community and experts interested in the inquiry, and researches and analyses the legal, social and economic issues raised.

The Commission is committed to raising public awareness on key legal issues affecting Australian society. It does this primarily through its website and a publications program. Its cornerstone publication is the biannual journal *Reform*, which seeks to inform a non-legal audience of contemporary legal issues. Members of the Commission also regularly speak at conferences, seminars and meetings of professional and community groups.

The Commission regularly briefs the Attorney-General on issues arising out of its work and advises on the priorities for law reform in Australia.

Where the Commission has made relevant recommendations or has acquired special expertise or experience, it also makes submissions to inquiries undertaken by Parliamentary Committees and other bodies reporting to Parliament on the law reform issues raised in those inquiries.

### APPROPRIATIONS

The total appropriation for the Australian Law Reform Commission in the 2002–03 Budget is \$3.159m. Table 1.1 shows appropriations (2002–03) and other revenue by outcome.

### ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS

No administered capital or agency injections or loans are included in the 2002–03 appropriation, or are planned for the forward years to 2005–06.

## Australian Law Reform Commission — Appropriations 2002–03

**Table 1.1: Appropriations and other revenue (\$'000)**

	Departmental (price of outputs)					Administered				Total appropriations
	Revenue from government (appropriations)			Revenue from other sources	Price of outputs	Annual appropriations		Special approps	Total administered appropriations	
	Bill 1	Special approps	Total			Bill 1	Bill 2 (SPPs & NAOs)			
Outcome	(A)	(B)	(C=A+B)	(D)	(E=C+D)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I=F+G+H)	(J=C+I)
The development and reform of aspects of the laws of Australia to ensure that they are equitable, modern, fair and efficient	3,159	-	3,159 96.9%	100	3,259	-	-	-	-	3,159
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,159</b>	-	<b>3,159</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,259</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>3,159</b>
Non-operating: equity injections, loans and previous years' outputs										-
Administered assets and liabilities										-
<b>Total appropriations</b>										<b>3,159</b>

Notes:

- Columns C, D, E and I refer to information provided in Table 2.1.1.
- Under the appropriation structure, Bill 2 includes appropriations for Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs), New Agency Outcomes (NAOs), administered assets and liabilities and equity injections, loans and previous years' outputs.
- Refer to Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Performance for application of agency revenue.
- Revenue from other sources includes other revenue from government (eg resources free of charge) and revenue from other sources (eg sales of goods and services). Non-appropriated departmental and administered revenues are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 96.9% in column C indicates the percentage contribution of revenue from government (departmental appropriations) to the total price of outputs, by outcome.

## Section 2: Outcomes and outputs information

### OUTCOMES AND OUTPUT GROUPS

The Australian Law Reform Commission has one outcome:

*The development and reform of aspects of the laws of Australia to ensure that they are equitable, modern, fair and efficient*

There are two outputs for the Australian Law Reform Commission's outcome:

*Output 1.1: Reports and community consultation documents*

*Output 1.2: Information and education services to enhance community consultation and participation in the law reform process*

Financial and non-financial information is provided as follows:

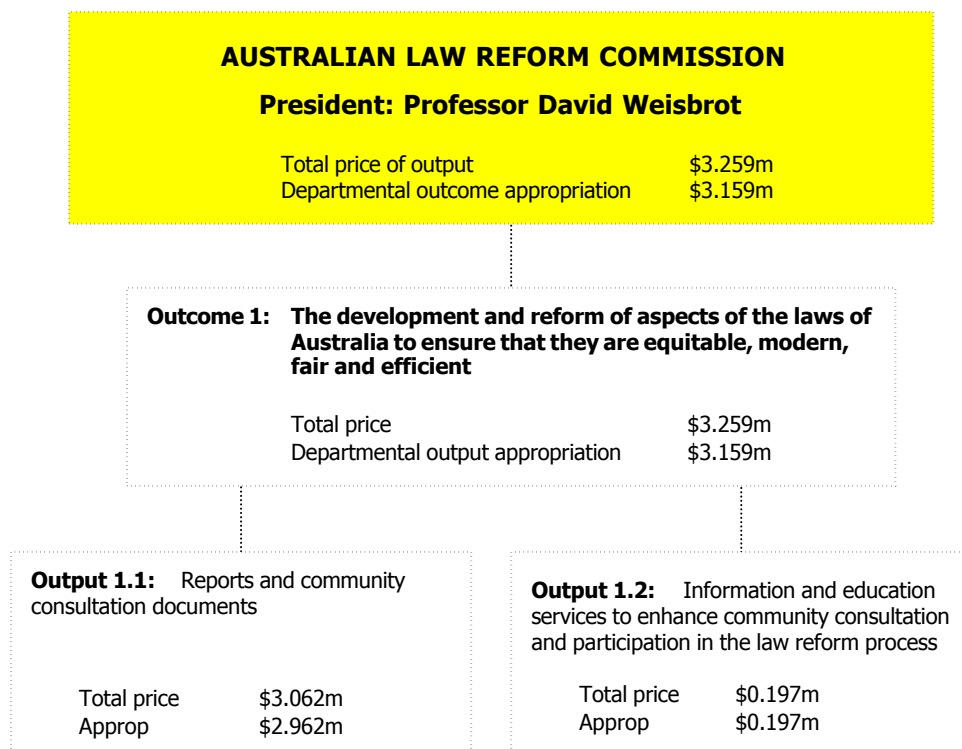
- Map 2.1 - details outcome and output resourcing and illustrates the relationship between the outcomes and contributing outputs.
- Table 2.1.1 - details financial information for outcome 1.
- Table 2.2.1 - details non-financial information for outcome 1.

## CHANGES TO OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

For the 2002–03 Budget, the Australian Law Reform Commission’s output structure has been revised as follows:

- the description for output 1.1 has been revised to better reflect the nature of outputs as required by the outcomes and outputs structure;
- sub-outputs to 1.1 have been removed to streamline the output structure and remove the need to alter the output structure on an annual basis; and
- output 1.2 has been added to the structure to indicate more accurately the range of outputs produced by the Commission.

**Map 2.1: Outcome and output groups**



Note:

Revenue from Government (Appropriations) contributes 96.9% to the Total Price of Outputs for 2002–03.

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**OUTCOME 1 — THE DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM OF ASPECTS OF THE LAWS OF AUSTRALIA TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE EQUITABLE, MODERN, FAIR AND EFFICIENT**

The Commission reviews Commonwealth laws and processes as referred by the Attorney-General and develops proposals for the development and simplification of the law, to improve access to justice, and for the removal of defects in the legal system. In performing its functions the Commission aims to ensure that the laws under review and proposals in relation to those laws do not trespass unduly on Australia's human rights obligations.

The publication of reports on matters referred by the Attorney-General meets the Commission's statutory functions set out in Part 3 of *The Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996* and fulfills the expectation of the Government that it receive effective, independent and timely expert advice on law reform issues. The reports are completed following extensive community consultation.

## OUTCOME 1 — RESOURCING

Table 2.1.1 shows how the 2002–03 appropriations translate to total resourcing for the Commission’s outcome: revenue from government (appropriations), revenue from other sources and the total price of the output.

**Table 2.1.1: Total resources for outcome 1 (\$'000)**

	<b>Estimated Actual 2001–02 (\$'000)</b>	<b>Budget Estimate 2002–03 (\$'000)</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Output 1.1: Reports and community consultation documents	2,932	2,962
Output 1.2: Information and education services to enhance community consultation and participation in the law reform process	180	197
<b>Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of outcome</b>	<b>3,112 97.1%</b>	<b>3,159 96.9%</b>
<b>REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>		
Output 1.1: Reports and community consultation documents	94	100
Output 1.2: Information and education services to enhance community consultation and participation in the law reform process	-	-
<b>Total revenue from other sources</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total price of departmental outputs</b> (Total revenue from government and other sources)	<b>3,206</b>	<b>3,259</b>
<b>Total estimated resourcing for outcome 1</b> (Total administered expenses)	<b>3,206</b>	<b>3,259</b>
<b>AVERAGE STAFFING LEVEL</b>	22	23

## OUTCOME 1 — PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Table 2.2.1 provides information on the strategies chosen to deliver outcome 1, and shows the links between the output and the outcome.

**Table 2.2.1 Performance information for outcome 1**

<b>Effectiveness – overall achievement of the outcome</b>	
Effectiveness indicators	Measures
Broad based community involvement in law reform	Extent of community participation, especially relevant professional, industry and interest groups
Reception of law reform reports and recommendations	Positive critical feedback on quality of reports Percentage of reports implemented by those to whom recommendations are targeted
<b>Performance information for departmental outputs</b>	
Output description	Performance measure
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Reports and community consultation documents	Quality: ? Timely completion of references within agreed parameters ? Extent to which publications are well received by stakeholders and stimulate public debate Quantity: ? Appropriately wide distribution of community consultation documents – >2,000 pa hard copies plus electronic availability Price: ? \$3.062m
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Information and education services to enhance community consultation and participation in the law reform process	Quality: ? Provision of timely and accessible information via website, media and articles in Reform and other journals Quantity: ? 10% pa increase in website hits ? Regular publication of journal Reform ? Regular contributions to external journals, public speaking engagements and institutional visits Price: ? \$0.197m

## Section 3: Budgeted Financial Statements

**Table 3.1: Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 30 June**

	Estimated Actual 2001–02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005–06 \$'000
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>					
Revenues from government	3,112	3,159	3,189	3,224	3,302
Sales of goods and services	94	100	110	115	120
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>3,422</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>					
Employees	2,084	2,039	2,078	2,099	2,144
Suppliers	946	1,000	1,005	1,017	1,052
Depreciation and amortisation	95	100	105	110	120
<b>Total expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>3,139</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>3,316</b>
Borrowing costs expense	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net surplus or (deficit) from ordinary activities</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>
Gain or loss on extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net surplus or (deficit)</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>
Capital use charge	(81)	(120)	(111)	(113)	(106)
<b>Net surplus or (deficit) after capital use charge</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Table 3.2: Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Position  
as at 30 June**

	<b>Estimated Actual 2001–02 \$'000</b>	<b>Budget Estimate 2002–03 \$'000</b>	<b>Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000</b>	<b>Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000</b>	<b>Forward Estimate 2005–06 \$'000</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash	1,125	715	685	655	625
Receivables	25	25	25	25	25
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>650</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>					
Land and buildings	74	364	334	304	274
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	217	278	255	331	331
Other	35	35	35	35	35
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>640</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,290</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Debt</b>					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Provisions and payables</b>					
Employees	240	240	240	240	240
Suppliers	80	80	80	80	80
<b>Total provisions and payables</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	1,071	1,012	929	945	885
Reserves	85	85	85	85	85
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>970</b>
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,290</b>

**Table 3.3: Budgeted Departmental Statement of Cash Flows for the period ended 30 June**

	Estimated Actual 2001–02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005–06 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Appropriations for outputs	3,112	3,159	3,189	3,224	3,302
Sales of goods and services	24	25	30	30	30
Interest	70	75	80	85	90
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>3,422</b>
<b>Cash used</b>					
Employees	2,084	2,039	2,078	2,099	2,144
Suppliers	1,041	1,100	1,110	1,127	1,172
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>3,139</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>3,316</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash used</b>					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	50	410	30	30	30
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(410)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash used</b>					
Capital use charge	81	120	111	113	106
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>(81)</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>(113)</b>	<b>(106)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(410)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30)</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	1,175	1,125	715	685	655
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>625</b>

Table 3.4: Departmental Capital Budget Statement

	Estimated Actual 2001–02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–06 \$'000
<b>CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>					
Total equity injections	-	-	-	-	-
Total loans	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Purchase of non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>					
Funded by capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by departmental resources	50	410	30	30	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

**Table 3.5: Departmental Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement (Budget Year 2002–03)**

	Land	Buildings	Total land and buildings	Other infrastructure plant and equipment	Total infrastructure plant and equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at the start of year	-	130	130	202	202	-	332
Additions	-	300	300	110	110	-	410
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoverable amount write-downs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net transfers free of charge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/amortisation expenses	-	40	40	60	60	-	100
Write-off of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of year	-	390	390	252	252	-	642
<b>Total Additions</b>							
Self funded	-	300	300	110	110	-	410
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>410</b>

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Departmental Financial Statements**

Under the Commonwealth's accrual budgeting framework, and consistent with Australian Accounting Standards, transactions that agencies control (departmental transactions) are separately budgeted for and reported for from transactions agencies do not have control over (Administered transactions). This ensures that agencies are only held fully accountable for the transactions over which they have control.

Departmental assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses in relation to an agency or authority are those, which are controlled by the agency. Departmental expenses include employee and supplier expenses and other administrative costs, which are incurred by the agency in providing its goods and services.

### **Capital use charge**

A capital use charge is levied on agencies and authorities to reflect the cost of the Commonwealth's investment in those entities. It is levied on those agencies closing Departmental net assets (equity) and the charge for the Commission is 11%.

### **Asset valuation**

Commonwealth agencies and authorities are required to value property, plant and equipment and other infrastructure assets using the deprival method of valuation. This essentially reflects the current cost the entity would face in replacing that asset.

**APPENDIX 1****Receipts from Independent Sources**

	<b>Estimated Revenue 2001–02 \$'000</b>	<b>Estimated Revenue 2002–03 \$'000</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE</b>		
Sale of publications	24	25
Interest	70	75
<b>Total Estimated Departmental Revenue</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>