

**Barton Deakin Brief: Commonwealth Budget 2019-2020**

**2 April 2019**

Treasurer, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg tonight delivered the 2019-20 Budget, which centred on themes of returning to the budget to surplus, lowering taxes, delivering more jobs and guaranteeing essential services to individuals and local communities. Other key focus areas were the delivery of major road and infrastructure projects and health care.

The Coalition produced a better than expected surplus for the 2019-20 financial year of \$7.1 billion, previously forecast as \$4.1 billion in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) projections. Projections for the financial year 2019-20 have government spending as a proportion of GDP for the at 24.6%, wage growth at 2.75%, unemployment is currently at 5%, and tax to GDP at 23.3%.

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the major funding and policy announcements across Government portfolios.

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## Finance & Treasury

The Government has made a number of significant revenue changes, placing focus on low and middle income earners. These measures are outlined below.

- Establishment of a \$3.9 billion Emergency Response Fund. The fund will be designed to provide sustainable funding on top of existing federal and state arrangements for catastrophic natural disaster recovery. The initial funding will be transferred from the dormant Education Investment Fund and \$150 million will be made available each year if an eligible event occurs.
- Elimination of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Savings Fund.
- Development of a funding plan for a consistent and transparent approach to funding projects across Australia
- Expansion of the Commonwealth Divestment Program – land in the ACT is in the process of being sold over the next two years. Figures cannot be provided due to commercial sensitivities.
- \$10.8 million over two years will be provided to the Australia Electoral Commission to upgrade core ICT infrastructure and deploy new polling place technology.

Strengthening the Australian Business Number system to disrupt the black-market economy. ABN holders will now be required to:

- lodge their income tax return from 2021 if they have a tax obligation; and
- confirm the accuracy of their details annually from 2022.

These changes are estimated to generate \$22.2 million for the budget over the forward estimates.

- The instant asset write-off has been increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and access will be expanded to medium-sized businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million, up from \$10 million. This measure will reduce revenue by \$400 million over the forward estimates.
- Tax concessions will be granted to diplomatic, consular and international organisations reducing GST revenue by \$1.8 million over the forward estimates.
- An update to international tax (information exchange countries) will have an unquantifiable effect on revenue.

Changes to the **Personal Income Tax Plan** (the plan) is estimated to reduce revenue by \$19.5 billion over the forward estimates period, comprising:

- \$3.5 billion in 2019-20;
- \$3.7 billion in 2020-21;
- \$3.8 billion in 2021-22; and
- \$8.6 billion in 2022-23.

It will reduce revenue by \$158 billion over the period from 2019-20 to 2029-30.

Changes to the low and middle income tax offset (LMITO) consist of reductions of:

- \$255 for taxpayers with a taxable income of \$37,000 or less;



- Between \$37,000 and \$48,000, the value increasing at a rate of 7.5 cents per dollar to a maximum offset of \$1,080;
- Between \$48,000 and \$90,000 will be eligible for the maximum offset of \$1,080;
- From incomes of \$90,000 to \$126,000 the offset will phase out at a rate of 3 cents per dollar.

Starting from the 2022-23 financial year, the 19% tax threshold will be increased from \$41,000 to \$45,000. The low-income tax offset will also be increased in addition, locking in the tax reductions when LMITO is removed.

The 32.5 per cent marginal tax rate will be reduced to 30 per cent from the start of the 2024-25 financial year. At that same time, the 37 per cent tax bracket will be eliminated.

Luxury car tax changes from 1 July 2019 will see eligible primary producers and tourism operators able to apply for a refund of any luxury car tax paid, up to a maximum of \$10,000. This is slated to reduce revenue by \$11 million over the forward estimates period.

Deductible gift recipient status will be extended to Men's Sheds and Women's Sheds from 1 July 2020 which is estimated to reduce revenue by \$8.0 million over four years.

An increase in the Medicare levy threshold in line with CPI movements is estimated to reduce revenue by \$250.0 million over the forward estimates period. The increases are as follows:

- For singles from \$21,980 to \$22,398;
- For families from \$37,089 to \$37,794;
- For single seniors and pensioners, from \$34,758 to \$35,418;
- For the family threshold for seniors and pensioners from \$48,385 to \$49,304; and
- For each dependent child or student, the family income thresholds increase from \$3,406 to \$3,471.

Agreed amendments to the Protecting Your Super Package that:

- extend to 16 months the period after which an account that has not received any contribution is considered inactive;
- expand the definition of when an account is considered active for the ATO-led consolidation regime; and
- require the ATO to consolidate to an active account, where possible, within 28 days of receipt;

are estimated to reduce revenues by \$119.8 million over the next four years. An amendment included to delay the start date of opt-in insurance for accounts under \$6000 and new members' accounts under the age of 25 years is estimated to reduce revenue by \$41.8 million over forward estimates.

Changes to allow voluntary superannuation contributions for those aged 65 and 66 without meeting the work test from 1 July 2020 will see revenues reduced from \$75 million over the forward estimates.

Tax relief for superannuation funds to transfer revenue and capital losses to a new merged fund, and to defer taxation consequences on gains and losses from revenue and capital assets has been in



place since 2008 and will remain permanent. This change is in line with the Productivity Commission's report in superannuation recommending easing consolidating and merging.

Red tape for superannuation will be cut, reducing costs and simplify reporting for superannuation funds by streamlining some administrative requirements for the calculation of exempt current pension income (ECPI).

An expansion of funding for the ATO's Tax Avoidance Taskforce (targeting multi-nationals, large public and private groups, trusts and high wealth individuals) of \$6.5 million is estimated to earn the budget \$3.6 billion, or \$2 billion in underlying cash balance terms over the forward estimates period.

\$42.1 million over four years to the ATO to target larger businesses and high wealth individuals to ensure on-time payment of their tax and superannuation liabilities will earn a return of \$103.6 million over the forward estimates period.

The Government's outlined funding commitments are:

- An additional \$38.3 million over three years will be provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics to facilitate the 2021 Census and address the issues of the 2016 Census.
- \$2.7 million to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to support the increased workload of the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).
- \$9.4 million over four years to the ACCC to continue and expand the Commercial Construction Unit.
- \$11.7 million over four years (and \$2.2 million per year ongoing) to improve the Commonwealth Grants Commission's (CGC) ICT capacity to ultimately support better distributed of GST revenues.
- \$1 million to the Department of Human Services in 2018-19 to implement e-invoicing and \$1.3 million in 2019-20 for the ATO to establish local Pan-European Public Procurement On-line authority. The cost of funding will be redirected from the ATO.
- \$606.7 million will be provided over five years from 2018-19 to facilitate the Government's response on all 76 of the recommendations of the Final Report to the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry.
- \$57.5 million is to be provided over five years from 2018-19 to the Department of Jobs and Small Business, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to provide access to a fast, low cost, independent review mechanism for small businesses in dispute with the ATO. This includes \$1.4 million in associated application fees.
- Provided over three years from 2020-21, \$19.3 million (including \$12.6 million in capital funding in 2020-21) is set aside for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to send electronic requests to superannuation funds for the release of money required under several superannuation arrangements.
- \$82.4 million over four years from 2019-20 (including capital funding of \$16.0 million over four years from 2019-20) is to be provided to the ATO and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to support the expansion of ATO collected data and its use by Commonwealth agencies.
- An additional \$2.3 million over three years from 2020-21 to ASIC for the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal (SCT) to resolve outstanding complaints by 31 December 2020, when the SCT will cease operations. This cost will be offset by APRA levies.



To read the Treasury Portfolio Budget Statement 2019-20, click [here](#).

To read the Finance Portfolio Budget Statement 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Education and Training

The government has set aside \$525 million for a skills package designed to modernise the VET sector in response to findings of the expert review of Australia's vocational education and training system.

- Where skill shortages exist, the government will provide additional apprenticeship incentive payments for areas of identified skills needs to support up to 80,000 new positions over five years.

What will be provided is:

- o A total payment of \$4,000 on top of existing incentives for employers; and,
- o A total of \$2,000 for apprentices.
- A new \$62.4 million language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills program will be launched to provide working-age individuals with the skills they may be missing post-high school.
- \$50.6 million to establish 10 training hubs across Australia. The funding for four years will target youth unemployment in regional areas and help to connect industry and school-leavers.
- A National Careers Institute and Ambassador to provide streamlined national guidance on careers advice through development of a new VET Information Strategy.
- \$44 million to streamline incentives for employers of apprentices and trainees, and modernise the skills needs list
- \$34.2 million to states to support new apprenticeships
- \$10 million to develop partnerships between schools, employers and the VET sector to support skilling in needed areas
- \$8.5 million for 400 scholarships in regional Australia to address youth unemployment
- Piloting a National Skills Organisations in digital technologies and human services care
- A National Skills Commission to oversee the Government's annual \$2.8 billion investment. The commission will also focus on long-term reform in the VET sector by working with stakeholders and pursuing research and analysis of future skills.
- The government will delay the partial cost recovery arrangements for HELP loans. The measure is estimated to reduce revenue by \$36 million over four years from 2018-19.

To read the Education and Training Portfolio Budget Statement 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Jobs and Small Business

- \$9.2 million over four years from 2019-20 (and \$2.3 million per year ongoing) to establish a dedicated sham contracting unit within the Fair Work Ombudsman focussing on employers.
- \$77.9 million will be saved over four years from 2019- 20 in efficiencies by streamlining the employment servicing arrangement for newly arrived refugees.
- \$24.1 million will be provided over four years from 2019-20 (and \$6.8 million per year ongoing) to reform the Harvest Labour Services (HLS) to encourage more Australian jobseekers to take up seasonal harvest jobs commencing 1 July 2020.



- Over five years from 2018-19, \$249.8 million will be allocated to (including \$25.7 million in capital funding over four years from 2018-19) to pilot key elements of a new employment services model from 2019 to 2022 before a national rollout. The measure provides net efficiencies of \$59.4 million over five years from 2018-19 due to reduction in expenditure for digital services rather than face-to-face arrangements.
- \$26.8 million is allocated over four years from 2019-20 (and \$6.2 million per year ongoing), including \$1.0 million over four years in capital funding, to establish a National Labour Hire Registration Scheme to protect vulnerable workers, including migrant workers. The measure also includes \$10.8 million over four years from 2019-20 to enhance the Fair Work Ombudsman's capacity to conduct investigations into abuse of vulnerable workers.
- \$2.9 million is to be provided over two years from 2018-19 to implement a 12-month pilot program of a streamlined Seasonal Worker Programme to aid in the supply of labour for smaller farms. \$1.6 million is included over two years from 2018-19 for the Fair Work Ombudsman to increase education, monitoring and investigation activities relating to SWP employers participating in the Pilot.

To read the Jobs and Small Business Portfolio Budget Statement 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Health & Aged Care

The main focus of The Government in the national health space in this budget is investing in primary care, hospitals and medicines, as the foundation of the healthcare system. Total Commonwealth spending in the health sector is expected to go from \$81.8 billion in 2019-20 to \$89.5 billion in 2022-23. Additionally, there is a focus on indexing Medicare Services and alleviating out-of-pocket costs for patients.

### **Indexing services and increasing service-delivery funding:**

- \$199 million to index diagnostic imaging on the Medicare Benefits Schedule from 1 July 2020. This is the first time in 20 years that the indexation of MBS items will be expanded to include ultrasound and diagnostic radiology services.
- \$32.6 million will be provided to help reduce the cost of services for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which will assist 14,000 breast cancer patients.
- \$152 million is being provided for 53 new MRI licenses nationally, including at Mount Druitt Hospital (NSW), Ipswich Hospital (QLD) and Kalgoorlie Health Campus (WA).
- \$1.1 billion *Strengthening Primary Care Package*, which encompasses \$448 million in increased funding to assist GPs in service provision, \$187 million to increase the patient rebate and 119 GP items on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).
- A new MBS item for heart health checks, as well as funding for the *Childhood Heart Disease National Action Plan*. Under the \$220 million Medical Research Future Fund, a ten-year mission for cardiovascular health will also be established.
- \$331 million for new and amended listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).
- \$1.3 billion in Community Health and Hospitals Program, which will provide funding for regional upgrades to hospitals around the country in priority areas such as Townsville. Commonwealth funding for public hospitals is set to exceed \$97 billion over four years of forward estimates.



- \$81.5 million to list the medicine Bavencio® (avelumab) on the PBS for the first time for the treatment of metastatic merkel cell carcinoma, a rare and highly aggressive type of skin cancer. Without PBS subsidy patients would pay approximately \$150,000 per year for this treatment. From May 1 this year it will be reduced to the PBS price of \$40.30 per script, which is expected to benefit 3,000 people.
- \$496 million for Victorian cancer research and treatment, hospital infrastructure and mental health services.
- \$100 million for the establishment of a Comprehensive Children's Cancer Centre in Sydney
- \$80 million for a Centre of Excellence in Cellular Immunotherapy in Victoria
- \$30 million to construct a new Brain and Spinal Ward in South Australia.

**Mental health** and youth suicide were also signposted as an area of priority within the Health budget. \$461 million will be provided for a suicide prevention strategy, which will include:

- \$111 million in funding for 30 new Headspace services by 2021. This is in addition to \$152 million provided to exiting Headspace services to reduce waitlists.

### Research

- \$5 billion for a *Ten Year Investment Plan* for the Medical Research Future Fund, which will conduct research into rare cancers and diseases, cardiovascular health, clinical infrastructure and stem cell research.

A number of budget measures were also announced to assist **older Australians**, including:

- \$21.6 billion has been committed to Australia's aged care system over 2019-20.
- \$282.4 million in five years of forward estimates for 10,000 new home care packages under the Home Care Packages Program.
- 13,500 residential care places will be made available.
- \$18 million to create a National Hotline for elderly Australians experiencing abuse and \$1.5 million towards the establishment of a Serious Incident Response Scheme.
- \$185 million for a Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission over the next ten years.

To access the Budget factsheet on measures for older Australians, please click [here](#).

**Carers** were also provided for within the 2019-20 Health Budget:

- \$84 million funding has been provided over four years to expand the Integrated Carer Support Service, which will increase the availability of carer support and will prioritise young carers.

To read more about the 2019-20 budget measures that address health service, initiatives and facilities, click [here](#).

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Home Affairs & Immigration

The Government has committed to a number of budget initiatives in the immigration and border security sector. Funding for new rounds of the Safer Communities Fund were also a key focus of this portfolio's budget.



- \$93.7 million will be provided by the Government from 2019-20 to establish the **Destination Australia Program** to support domestic and international students to study in regional Australia. This funding will provide scholarships towards a higher education and vocational education and training (VET) qualifications at a value of \$15,000 per student.
  - o You can read more about the Destination Australia Program and the Government's Population Plan under the Barton Deakin Brief on [A Plan for Australia's Future Population](#).
- Continued funding for **Operation Sovereign Borders**. The Government will provide \$39.5 million from 2019-20 to continue the Regional Cooperation Arrangement with Indonesia, which forms part of Operation Sovereign Borders.
- \$178.9 million to manage the transfer of illegal maritime arrivals from Nauru and Papua New Guinea to Christmas Island for medical treatment.
- The Government will provide \$58.2 million over four years to increase the scope and development of the **Safer Communities Fund**.
  - o \$35.1 million has been allocated to Round 5, for local governments and community organisations to address crime and anti-social behaviour by funding crime prevention initiatives.
  - o \$23.1 million has been allocated to Round 4 to provide grants to local governments and community organisations, particularly organisations of religious worship and assembly to fund crime prevention with a focus on child safety.
- In addition to the Safer Communities, the Government will provide \$27.2 million over four years for a social cohesion package, designed to break down barriers to social and economic participation for Australian immigrants.
- \$147 million will be provided to strengthen law enforcement and combat the trafficking of illicit firearms and drugs.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Foreign Affairs and Trade

The budget measures for the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio encompassed a range of domestic and international projects and initiatives.

- \$67 million over five years in order to enhance Australia's Indo-Pacific Engagement. This measure seeks to strengthen Australia's economic and cultural engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. This will be achieved through agricultural, maritime and cultural links with the region.
- Additional \$11 million over four years for the Approved Destination Status Arrangement with China, which is a key component of the Australian tourism industry.
- \$13 million over four years will support the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific to more effectively assess proposed infrastructure projects. The main aim of this budget measure is to expedite the delivery of quality infrastructure in the Pacific.
- \$50 million has been granted over three years to enhance National Tourism Icons to assist in the development and enhancement of nationally and regionally iconic tourism infrastructure. This initiative is whole-of-government approach designed to support regional economies.
- \$61 million over three years has been committed to supporting the export of Australian goods and services to markets overseas. The majority of these funds are concentrated on



increasing funding for the Export Market Development Grants scheme for small and medium exporters.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Attorney-General's Department

The Attorney-General's Department saw funding for a number of commissions and accountability mechanisms.

- \$379.1 million will be provided over the next five years for a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse and Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
- \$105 million, including \$10 million in capital funding, over four years to establish a Commonwealth Integrity Commission.
- \$1.2 billion over three years will be delivered through a new single national mechanism for legal assistance services through organisations such as Legal Aid Commissions, Community Legal Centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.
- The Government will provide \$44 million to fund additional judges in the Federal Court.
- \$17 million over four years from 2019-20 for the Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund, which will reimburse legal aid commissions for the cost of representing clients in criminal prosecutions that are serious and high cost.
- \$16.4 million over two years from 2019-20 has been allocated to strengthen Australia's counter-fraud arrangements.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

## Social and Human Services

The social and human services budget focused funding into a number of major areas, including disability services, housing affordability, welfare changes, veterans' affairs and domestic and family violence.

### **Disability Services:**

- Funding for a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability will receive \$528 million over five years from 2018-19. This amount will include \$16.2 million in capital funding over the next two years.
- The Government will provide \$67 million over five years to support the Australian Disability Enterprise.

### **Housing affordability:**

- \$300 million funding will be given to the community housing sector.
- \$37.5 million in 2018-19 to South Australia in order to assist with the provision of remote housing.

### **Cashless Debit card expansion**

- The federal government will spend \$129 million over the next four years to extend its cashless welfare card trials until June 2021 and reach 22,500 more Australians.



## **Drug and Alcohol Strategy**

The Government has allocated \$337 million over five years to a whole-of-government approach to the prevention and minimisation of the harmful effects of illicit substances. These measures will be partially funded through the Department of Health.

- \$153 million of this will be provided to extend the National Ice Action Strategy.

## **Support for service men and women:**

- \$278 million to improve the wellbeing of service men and women, veterans and their families by providing early access to services, better access to treatment and improved care for veterans in special circumstances.

## **Domestic and Family violence:**

Under the Government's Fourth Action Plan (2019-20) to reduce violence against women and their children:

- \$75 million has been set aside to fund for emergency housing for women and children escaping family violence
- \$64 million in additional funding has been allocated to 1800RESPECT for an update of its services and to ensure that it can meet the demand for its services.
- \$35 million funding will specifically address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by violence, particularly in remote areas.
- \$25.5 million over six years will establish a National Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The Centre will raise awareness, reduce stigma and work to prevent child sexual abuse.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

## **Communications & Arts**

The Government have made a \$397.7 million commitment to improve the communications and arts portfolio in this year's budget. There has also been an additional announcement of funding for Australia's national broadcasters.

- \$220 million investment for the Stronger Regional Connectivity Package which will improve telecommunication and internet services in the regions. This will include \$160 million investment into the Mobile Blackspot Program and \$60 million investment for a new Regional Connectivity Grants Package.
- \$30.9 million of funding over five years will be allocated to the Australian music industry under the Australian Music Industry Package.
- \$22 million over three years to support the Bundanon Trust Art Centre.
- \$10 million over four years to Office of the eSafety Commissioner to improve safety online.
- \$4 billion commitment over the next three years to continue the delivery of Australian national broadcasting services. This will include \$3.2 billion of funding for the ABC and \$887 million for SBS.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).



Further information regarding budget measures for the Communications and Arts portfolio can be found [here](#).

## Agriculture & Water

The Government have made significant commitments to the agriculture and water portfolio. Budget 2019-20 has emphasised improved growth in agricultural sectors and protection for drought and flood affected farmers and communities.

- \$6.3 billion of funding in the form of assistance and concessional loans for drought affected Australians which includes \$5 billion allocated to the Future Drought Fund. This investment will contribute to the expansion of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.
- \$3.1 billion of funding over five years to support flood affected farmers and communities in North Queensland. The package includes \$300 million of grants allocated to flood-affected farmers and the making available of loans for interest rate relief for existing and new business loans and for restocking/replanting/refinancing existing debt.
- \$29.4 million of funding will be committed to improving trade in agricultural sectors by targeting high growth sectors. This will be achieved by increasing accessibility to export markets.
- \$30 million over four years to grow stewardship and biodiversity practises.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

Further information regarding budget measures for the Agriculture and Water portfolio can be found [here](#).

## Infrastructure, Regional Development & Cities

The Government has committed to \$23 billion of infrastructure spending in the 2019-20 Budget with total Government spending on infrastructure over the next decade exceeding \$100 billion. National initiatives in infrastructure spending are as follows:

- \$2.2 billion will be allocated to local and state governments under the Road Safety Package. This will include investments of \$550 million to fund the continuation of the [Black Spot Program](#), \$275 million for the [Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program](#) and \$275 million for the [Bridges Renewal Program](#).
- \$3 billion increase in the Urban Congestion Fund to a total of \$4 billion. This initiative is in place to reduce stress on bottlenecks and high-volume traffic zones around the country. It will also include \$500 million in funding to establish a Commuter Car Park Fund to improve accessibility to rail and public transport networks around the country.
- \$1 billion increase in funding the Roads for Strategic Importance program to a total investment of \$4.5 billion. This initiative will better connect regional communities and businesses with the rest of Australia with improvements to more than 25 freight corridors.
- \$200 million in additional funding to the Building Better Regions Fund
- \$22.7 million of additional funding to the Stronger Communities Program which provides cash incentives to community organisations to invest in capital projects that contribute to regional infrastructure development projects.



The government has also announced a national fast rail strategy. The Fast Rail Plan includes the following federal investment:

- \$2 billion investment in the development of a fast rail network between Melbourne and Geelong
- \$14.5 million to establish the National Faster Rail Agency to explore fast rail links between rural/regional and city destinations. A full list of fast rail business cases being put forward can be found [here](#).
- To read Barton Deakin's Fast Rail brief, click [here](#).

The government's infrastructure spending commitments have been broken into state-by-state commitments. The list of major state projects are listed below:

**New South Wales** – \$7.3 billion which includes the following projects:

- \$1.6 billion for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace
- \$3.5 billion for Western Sydney Rail
- \$500 million for upgrading the Princess Highway
- \$254 million for the Urban Congestion Fund
- \$496 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance

**Victoria** – \$6.2 billion which includes the following projects:

- \$1.1 billion for the south eastern and northern roads under the Suburban Roads Upgrades scheme.
- \$700 million for the South Geelong to Waurn Ponds rail upgrade
- \$360 million for the Western Highway upgrade from Ararat to Stawell
- \$396 million for the Urban Congestion Fund
- \$490 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance

**Queensland** – \$4 billion which includes the following projects:

- \$425 million for the Bruce Highway
- \$320 million for the Warrego Highway
- \$800 million for the Gateway Motorway from Bracken to Pine River
- \$379 million for the Urban Congestion Fund
- \$824 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance (North)
- \$186 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance (South)

**South Australia** – \$2.6 billion which includes the following projects:

- \$1.5 billion for the North-South Corridor
- \$260 million for the SA Regional Roads Package
- \$341 million for the Urban Congestion Fund
- \$220 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance

**Western Australia** – \$1.6 billion which includes the following projects:

- \$349 million for the Tonkin Highway



- \$115 million for the Fremantle Traffic Bridge
- \$140 million for the Albany Ring Road
- \$122 million for the Urban Congestion Fund
- \$393 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance (North)
- \$142 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance (South)

**Northern Territory** – \$622 million which includes the following project:

- \$492 million for the Roads of Strategic Importance

**Tasmania** – \$313 million which includes the following projects:

- \$210 million for Roads of Strategic Importance
- \$68 million for the Tasmanian Freight Rail Revitalisation Program
- \$35 million for the Urban Congestion Fund

**Australian Capital Territory** – \$50 million for new projects

To read the Minister's media release on the 2019-20 Budget and for a detailed list of federally funded key projects, click [here](#).

Further information on budget measures in the Infrastructure Regional Development and Cities portfolio can be found [here](#).

## Energy & Environment

The Federal Government have announced several investments into renewable energy technology renewable energy market. The Government's commitment to the energy and environment portfolio is to improve affordability and reliability of energy for Australians.

- \$1.4 billion of equity will be invested into *Snowy Hydro 2.0*. The investment will help bring 2000MW of renewable energy to the grid which is equivalent to 175 hours of storage and can service up to 500,000 homes in peak demand. To read Barton Deakin's Snowy Hydro 2.0 brief, click [here](#).
- \$56 million will be invested into both the *Battery of the Nation* and *Marinus Link*. Working with the Tasmanian Government, a second electricity transmission connection will be created between Tasmania and Victoria, a project that will connect Tasmania's renewable power generation capability with the mainland.
- 12 power generation projects have been shortlisted to be underwritten by the government. To see the short list of projects, click [here](#).
- \$2 billion commitment to the *Climate Solutions Fund*, a program that will help Australia to continue to meet their global emissions reductions targets. To read Barton Deakin's Climate Solutions Fund brief, click [here](#).
- \$3.2 million investment to establish a Priority Transmission Taskforce to better deliver projects
- \$50.4 million investment to support micro-grids feasibility studies for improved power generation in regional and remote communities



- \$284 million tax exempt payment to assist 3.9 million Australian's with power bills. This equates to a payment of \$75 for singles and \$125 for couples to reduce household energy bills.
- \$8.4 million investment to open the Beetaloo Basin for gas exploration and development. This commitment will help to increase the speed of gas supplies from the Northern Territory to the east coast of Australia.
- \$137.4 million of funding over four years for the restoration of the environment. This commitment will help to protect threatened species and their habitats.

To read the Minister's media release for the climate and environment on the 2019-20 Budget, click [here](#).

To read the Minister's media release for energy on the 2019-20 Budget, click [here](#).

Further information on budget measures in the Environment and Energy portfolio can be found [here](#).

### Industry, Innovation & Science

- \$19.5 million investment over four years into the national Space Infrastructure Fund. This includes allocations of \$2 million for the delivery of space manufacturing capability in New South Wales and \$6 million for the Mission Control Centre in South Australia.
- \$3.4 million package over four years to encourage higher participation from women and girls in STEM. This funding will continue to support the Science in Australia Equity Program.
- \$15.1 million over three years to expand Questacon's educational programs.

To read the Minister's media release on the Budget 2019-20, click [here](#).

Further information on budget measures in the Industry, Innovation & Science portfolio can be found [here](#).

### Further information

If you wish to access any of the Budget Documents, click [here](#).

To access a transcript of the Budget Speech, click [here](#).

If you would like to access an overview of the Budget, click [here](#).

To access the government's tax relief estimator, click [here](#).

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**For more information on any of the elements in this Budget Brief, please contact [Paul Fitzgerald](#) on 0408 406 547 or [Georga Nonnenmacher](#) on 0457 662 422 or [Keiran Humpherson](#) on (02) 9191 7888.**

