

## HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

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

#### OVERVIEW

The High Court is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. It was established in 1901 by section 71 of the Constitution.

The Constitution confers both an appellate and an original jurisdiction upon the High Court. Appeals from the Supreme Court of the States and Territories, from the Federal Court of Australia and from the Family Court are heard pursuant to special leave granted. The High Court is also the final arbiter upon Constitutional questions. These may come on appeal from a lower court or be initiated by an application to the High Court itself.

The outcome does not include Justices' salaries and allowances. These are administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

#### APPROPRIATIONS AND RESOURCING

The total appropriation for the Court in the 2004–05 Budget is \$11.731m. Table 1.1 shows the total appropriation for the Court for 2004–05. The total price of the output does not include judicial salaries and allowances which are administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

#### ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS

The High Court does not have an Appropriation for an equity injection or loan or an Appropriation for administered capital.

## HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA— APPROPRIATIONS 2004–05

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

Outcome	Departmental (price of outputs)					Administered			Total appropriations	
	Revenue from Government (appropriations)			Revenue from other sources	Price of outputs	Annual appropriations	Special appropriations	Total administered appropriations		
	Bill No 1 (A)	Special approps (B)	Total (C = A+B)	(D)	(E = C+D)	Bill No 1 (F)	Bill No 2 (SPPs & NAOs) (G)	(H)	(I = F+G+H)	(J=C+I)
<b>Outcome 1 –</b> To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia	11,731	-	11,731 97.9%	256	11,987	-	-	-	-	11,731
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,731</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,731</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>11,987</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,731</b>
<b>Departmental capital (equity injections, loans and previous years' outputs)</b>										-
<b>Administered assets and liabilities</b>										-
<b>Total appropriations</b>										<b>11,731</b>

- Columns C, E and I refer to information provided in Total Resources for Outcome tables.
- Under the appropriation structure, Bill No 2 includes Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs), New Agency Outcomes (NAOs), administered capital and departmental capital via departmental injections and loans.
- Refer to Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance for application of agency revenue.
- Revenue from other sources includes sales of goods and services. Non-appropriated departmental and administered revenues detailed in Table 1.3.

## REVENUE FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCES

**Table 1.3: Revenue from independent sources**

	Estimated Revenue 2003–04 \$'000	Estimated Revenue 2004–05 \$'000
<b>DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE</b>		
Sales of goods and services	76	79
Interest	252	162
<b>Total sales of goods and service and interest</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>241</b>
Other revenue	75	15
<b>Total other</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Estimated Departmental Revenue</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>ADMINISTERED REVENUE</b>		
Fees and Charges	868	870
<b>Total Estimated Administered Revenue</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>870</b>

## SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

The High Court of Australia has no special appropriations.

## Section 2: Outcomes and outputs information

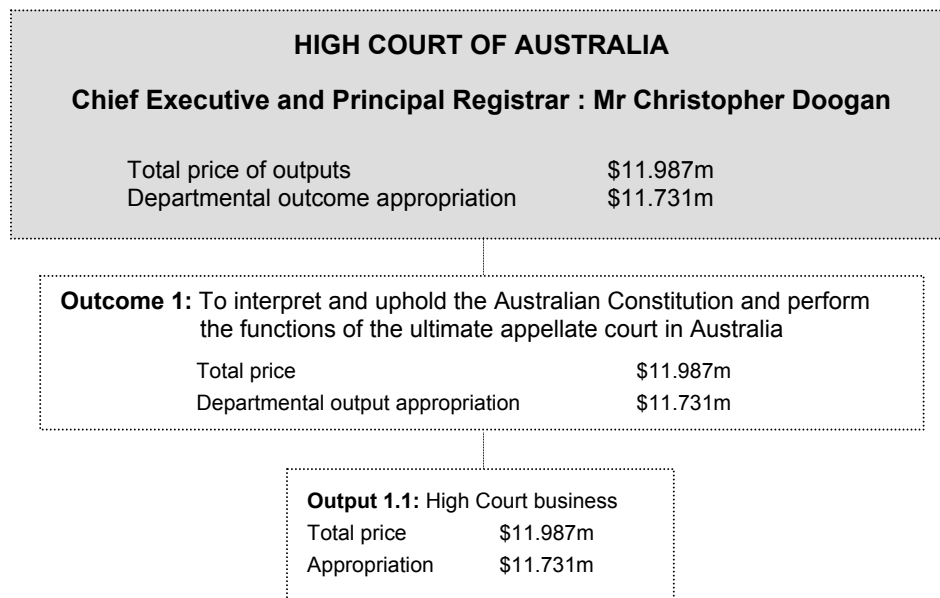
### OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

The High Court of Australia works to achieve the outcome specified by Government. The following section provides a departmental overview, and then the outcome is discussed. The following map shows the relationship between the outcome and output.

Financial detail and non-financial information is provided as follows:

- Outcomes and Outputs Map – details outcome and output resourcing and illustrates the relationship between the outcome and contributing output.
- Table 2.1.1 – details financial information for outcome 1.

### Outcomes and Outputs Map



### **OUTCOME 1 — TO INTERPRET AND UPHOLD THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION AND PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ULTIMATE APPELLATE COURT IN AUSTRALIA**

The High Court is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. It was established in 1901 by s.71 of the Constitution. The functions of the High Court are to interpret and apply the law of Australia; to decide cases of special federal significance including challenges to the Constitutional validity of laws; and to hear appeals, by special leave, from Federal, State and Territory courts.

The total price of the output includes all expenses associated with the business of the High Court with the exception of judicial salaries and allowances, which are administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

#### **Measures affecting Outcome 1**

There are no new measures in the 2004–05 Budget.

#### **Other variations to Outcome 1**

The Government will provide an increase in funding of \$0.105m to supplement the Court's increased Comcover premium for 2004–05.

## OUTCOME 1 — RESOURCING

Table 2.1.1 shows how the 2004–05 Budget Appropriations translate to total resourcing for outcome 1, including administered expenses, revenue from government (appropriation), revenue from other sources, and the total price of outputs.

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

	Estimated actual 2003–04 \$'000	Budget estimate 2004–05 \$'000
<b>DEPARTMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Output Group 1.1 - High Court business	12,244	11,731
<b>Total revenue from government (appropriations) Contributing to price of departmental outputs</b>	<b>12,244</b>	<b>11,731</b>
<b>REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>		
Sales of goods and services	76	79
Interest	252	162
Other	75	15
<b>Total revenue from other sources</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Total price from departmental outputs (Total revenue from government and from other sources)</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>11,987</b>
<b>Total estimated resourcing for Outcome 1 (Total price of outputs and administered appropriations)</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>11,987</b>
<b>Average staffing level (number)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>

## OUTCOME 1 – CONTRIBUTION OF OUTPUTS

The High Court of Australia has one outcome, as follows:

*To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia*

There is one output for the High Court's outcome:

*High Court business*

## EVALUATIONS

Information on judicial workloads can be found in the High Court's Annual Report.

## Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

### **ANALYSIS OF BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

An analysis of the Court's budgeted financial statements, as reflected in the Court's budgeted financial statements and administered notes for 2004–05, is provided below.

#### **Departmental**

##### **Statement of Financial Performance**

The Court is budgeting for an operating surplus of \$0.086m for 2004–05 compared to an operating surplus of \$0.682m in 2003–04. The result in 2004–05 is attributable to the commitment by the High Court to fund activities in 2004–05 associated with the centenary celebrations in 2003–04. Funding for these activities is reflected in the larger than usual increase in appropriations in 2003–04.

##### **Statement of Financial Position**

The Court's budgeted net asset position of \$157.416m for 2004–05 represents an increase of \$0.086m from the 2003–04 estimated actual. The increase is due to the budgeted operating surplus for the year.

#### **Administered**

Administered items comprises fees and charges collected in accordance with Schedule 1 of the High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations. The fees and charges collected each month are automatically transferred from the Court's fees and charges account to consolidated revenue.

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

		Estimated Actual 2003–04 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2004–05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005–06 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2006–07 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2007–08 \$'000
<b>REVENUE</b>						
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>	1					
Revenues from government		12,244	11,731	11,928	11,863	11,983
Goods and services	2	76	79	79	79	79
Interest		252	162	162	162	162
Other		75	15	15	15	15
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<b>12,647</b>	<b>11,987</b>	<b>12,184</b>	<b>12,119</b>	<b>12,239</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>						
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>						
Employees	3	5,575	5,940	5,960	6,010	6,060
Suppliers		4,620	4,197	4,252	4,302	4,352
Depreciation and amortisation		1,760	1,764	1,774	1,767	1,767
Other		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>		<b>11,955</b>	<b>11,901</b>	<b>11,986</b>	<b>12,079</b>	<b>12,179</b>
Borrowing costs expense		10	-	-	-	-
<b>Operating surplus or deficit from ordinary activities</b>		<b>682</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>
Gain or loss on extraordinary items		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net surplus or deficit</b>		<b>682</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>

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

		Estimated Actual 2003–04 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2004–05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005–06 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2006–07 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2007–08 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<b>Financial assets</b>						
	4	3,937	2,668	3,060	3,288	3,535
	5	91	90	90	90	90
		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>4,028</b>	<b>2,758</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>3,625</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>						
		141,300	140,200	139,100	138,000	136,900
		11,817	14,283	15,159	16,092	17,025
		1	1	1	1	1
		228	238	288	288	288
		1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210
	6	500	550	550	550	550
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>155,056</b>	<b>156,482</b>	<b>156,308</b>	<b>156,141</b>	<b>155,974</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>159,084</b>	<b>159,240</b>	<b>159,458</b>	<b>159,519</b>	<b>159,599</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
<b>Provisions</b>						
		1,438	1,489	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>1,438</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Payables</b>						
		300	319	330	350	370
		16	16	14	15	15
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>316</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>385</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,754</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>1,885</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>						
<b>Parent entity interest</b>						
		53,476	53,476	53,476	53,476	53,476
	7	102,115	102,115	102,115	102,115	102,115
		1,739	1,825	2,023	2,063	2,123
<b>Total parent entity interest</b>		<b>157,330</b>	<b>157,416</b>	<b>157,614</b>	<b>157,654</b>	<b>157,714</b>
<b>Outside equity interest</b>		<b>157,330</b>	<b>157,416</b>	<b>157,614</b>	<b>157,654</b>	<b>157,714</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>157,330</b>	<b>157,416</b>	<b>157,614</b>	<b>157,654</b>	<b>157,714</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY MATURITY</b>						
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>3,993</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>3,115</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>3,590</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>155,091</b>	<b>156,517</b>	<b>156,343</b>	<b>156,176</b>	<b>156,009</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>1,017</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>1,093</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		<b>737</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>792</b>

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

	Estimated Actual 2003–04	Budget Estimate 2004–05	Forward Estimate 2005–06	Forward Estimate 2006–07	Forward Estimate 2007–08
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Appropriations for outputs	12,340	11,731	11,928	11,863	11,983
Sales of goods and services	74	79	79	79	79
Interest	282	162	162	162	162
Other	134	35	35	35	35
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>12,830</b>	<b>12,007</b>	<b>12,204</b>	<b>12,139</b>	<b>12,259</b>
<b>Cash used</b>					
Employees	5,315	5,659	5,760	5,810	5,860
Suppliers	4,803	4,477	4,452	4,501	4,552
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>10,118</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>10,311</b>	<b>10,412</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>1,847</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash used</b>					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8 1,889	3,140	1,600	1,600	1,600
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Cash from capital injections	50	-	-	-	-
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash used</b>					
Repayment of debt	9 111	-	-	-	-
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>(61)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>(1,269)</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>247</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	3,175	3,937	2,668	3,060	3,288
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>3,937</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>3,535</b>

**Table 3.4: Departmental Capital Budget Statement for the period ended 30 June**

	Estimated Actual 2003–04 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2004–05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005–06 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2006–07 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2007–08 \$'000
<b>CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>					
Total equity injections	50	-	-	-	-
Appropriation for previous year's outputs	96	-	-	-	-
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Purchase of non-financial assets	50	-	-	-	-
Other	96	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>					
Funded by capital appropriations	50	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by departmental resources	1,839	3,140	1,600	1,600	1,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>

**Table 3.5: Departmental Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement (Budget year 2004–05)**

	Land	Buildings	Specialist military equipment	Other infrastructure plant and equipment	Heritage and cultural assets	Library holdings	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at the start of year	5,500	135,800	-	2,194	1,210	9,623	228	154,555
Additions	-	-	-	1,440	-	1,600	100	3,140
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoverable amount write-downs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(1,100)	-	(510)	-	(64)	(90)	(1,764)
Write-off of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of year	<b>5,500</b>	134,700	-	3,124	1,210	11,159	238	155,931
<b>Total additions</b>								
Self funded	-	-	-	1,440	-	1,600	100	3,140
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,440</b>	-	<b>1,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,140</b>

**Table 3.6: Schedule of Budgeted Revenues and Expenses  
Administered on behalf of Government for the period ended 30 June**

		Estimated Actual 2003–04	Budget Estimate 2004–05	Forward Estimate 2005–06	Forward Estimate 2006–07	Forward Estimate 2007–08
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>REVENUES</b>						
<b>Non-taxation</b>						
Goods and services	10	868	870	870	870	870
Other sources of non-taxation revenues		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total non-taxation</b>		<b>868</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>Total revenues administered on behalf of the Government</b>		<b>868</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Other	10	868	870	870	870	870
<b>Total expenses administered on behalf of the Government</b>		<b>868</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>

**Table 3.8: Schedule of Budgeted Administered Cash Flows  
for the period ended 30 June**

		Estimated Actual 2003–04	Budget Estimate 2004–05	Forward Estimate 2005–06	Forward Estimate 2006–07	Forward Estimate 2007–08
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>						
<b>Cash received</b>						
Taxes, fees and fines	10	868	870	870	870	870
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>868</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>Cash used</b>						
Cash to Official Public Account		868	870	870	870	870
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>868</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Basis of accounting

The budgeted statements of the High Court have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Accounting Standards Board (Accounting Guidance Releases) and the consensus views of the Urgent Issues Group; and having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts and the Explanatory Notes to Schedule 2 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders 1.

#### 1. Increase in Appropriations

The larger than usual increase in Appropriations in 2003–04 primarily relates to additional funding provided to the Court for its centenary celebrations.

#### 2. Sales of goods and services

This item consists of the following:

- subscriptions to High Court judgments and transcripts
- room hire to legal practitioners, and
- other sundry minor revenue.

#### 3. Employee expenses

This item in the Statement of Financial Performance consists of:

- salaries, wages and allowances
- employer superannuation contributions
- provision for long service leave, and
- provision for recreation leave.

#### 4. Cash

The item “cash” shown in the Statement of Financial Position includes funds on deposit with the Reserve Bank of Australia and cash on hand in the form of permanent advances.

#### 5. Receivables

The item “receivables” in the Statement of Financial Position represents interest receivable on funds held in the Reserve Bank and sundry debtors.

**6. Prepaid Expenses**

This item consists of rent paid in advance on leased premises.

**7. Reserves**

Land, buildings, plant and equipment were re-valued in accordance with the "deprival" method of valuation at 30 June 2001.

In future land, buildings, plant and equipment will be re-valued at fair value in accordance with AASB 1041, *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets*.

**8. Capital Acquisitions**

The increase in capital expenditure in 2004-05 relates to the upgrade of lifts in the High Court building and the implementation, over two years, of a major upgrade to the Court Reporting services at the Court.

**9. Leases**

During the 2004 financial year, finance leases in relation to certain office equipment assets were paid out. The leases were non-cancellable and for fixed terms averaging four years with a 5% residual. It is estimated that all leases held by the Court at 30 June, 2005 will be operating type leases.

**10. Administered items**

This item comprises fees and charges collected in accordance with Schedule 1 of the High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulations.