



## **THE HON LINDSAY TANNER MP**

Minister for Finance and Deregulation

### **Media Release**

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### **44 Projects to Drive ICT Efficiency**

The Rudd Government today announced that 44 new IT projects from 20 different government agencies will share in funding as a result of the Australian Government's \$502.4 million investment in ICT efficiency.

These projects will be funded from the ICT Business-As-Usual Reinvestment Fund which was established following the Review of the Australian Government's Use of Information and Communication Technology conducted by Sir Peter Gershon in 2008.

Lindsay Tanner, Minister for Finance and Deregulation said: "In 2008 the Rudd Government embarked on an ambitious program to tackle the inefficiencies in everyday IT activities undertaken by agencies which contribute to the overall operational costs of running government."

"As part of this program, the Rudd Government achieved more than \$1 billion in savings over four years, half of which was used to set up the Reinvestment Fund to support new IT projects that further improve government agencies' operational efficiency and effectiveness."

To date, more than \$230 million from the ICT Business-As-Usual Reinvestment Fund has been allocated to 44 new projects.

For example:

- \$2 million was allocated to the Bureau of Meteorology initiative to improve the distribution of aviation, marine and general weather forecasts and warnings in regional offices. Ageing, leased, distributed equipment will be replaced with a more cost effective and operationally robust virtualised equipment clusters in each state.
- \$2.2 million was allocated to the Department of Human Services for a trial of automated outbound dialling technology which aims to facilitate a more efficient collection of outstanding child support payments.

Lindsay Tanner said: "The Rudd Government has set a tight fiscal strategy to ensure the Budget is returned to surplus as quickly as possible and a key part of this strategy is the ongoing pursuit of efficiency in government operations.

"Since coming to office, we have achieved savings of more than \$8.5 billion in the past three Budgets by reducing waste and inefficiency across government operations in a range of areas such as travel procurement, property management and IT operations.

"The efficiency gains from these 44 projects will generate further savings of an estimated \$78.9 million over four years and \$23.9 million annually beyond the forward estimates."

A further \$271.1 million will be available to agencies for new ICT efficiency enhancing projects over the next three years through the reinvestment fund.

A list of projects funded through the ICT Business-As-Usual Reinvestment Fund is attached below.

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**Projects that received funding from ICT business-as-usual re-investment fund:  
Attorney-General's Department: Data Integration Project**

This project will consolidate a range of applications used by the Attorney-General's Department which manage staff identity and access to business systems.

**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: Customs Connect Facility  
Environment Remediation**

This project will enable the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to build, rationalise and migrate required information to a new system.

**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: Data Warehouse Platform  
Consolidation**

This project will bring together cargo, passenger and other key sources of information and strengthen border security by improving intelligence and detection activities.

**Australian Customs & Border Protection Service: Email Archival Project**

This project will provide the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service with the ability to archive email in order to provide robust access to long term archives of email.

**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: Interactive Reporting Environment  
Remediation**

This project will replace Customs legacy systems which manage cargo and passenger reporting.

**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: Legacy Windows Domain Removal**

This project will upgrade and migrate the services from a number of Customs legacy Windows NT 4.0 domains into the Windows 2003 platform.

**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: Mainframe Optimisation**

This project will provide faster responses to the cargo industry on the status of their goods, and allow Customs to receive faster notification of suspicious and illicit consignments.

**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: Perpetual Software Licence**

This project will enable Customs to procure a perpetual licence for products currently purchased on a subscription basis, delivering ongoing reductions in annual licensing charges.

**Australian Customs & Border Protection Service: Unified Communications –  
Unclassified Network**

This project will replace Customs ICT infrastructure that is currently provided through a fragmented in-house and outsourced delivery model.

#### **Australian Customs and Border Protection Service: WAN Optimisation**

This project will allow faster movement of intelligence and clearance information between Customs frontline staff.

#### **Australian Electoral Commission: Migration of Enterprise Reporting Solution**

This project will allow increased collaboration with the AEC's joint roll partners (i.e. State and Territory electoral authorities).

#### **Australian Human Rights Commission: Replacement of Complaints Database Application**

This project will replace a 19-year-old complaint handling and records management system which supports a core business function of the agency.

#### **Australian Securities and Investments Commission: Implementation of New Data Centres**

This project will enable the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to relocate and consolidate existing data centres by mid-2011.

#### **Australian Trade Commission: Reducing International Telephony Costs**

This project will enable the engagement of local and industry experts to coordinate a tender, or series of tenders, to consolidate the procurement of the Austrade's international voice services across a diverse mix of countries delivering lower offshore fixed and mobile call plans.

#### **Bureau of Meteorology: Australian Data Archive of Meteorology Ingest Common Software Architecture**

This project will improve the management of the tens of thousands of weather and climate related observations that the Bureau of Meteorology receives and records every day.

#### **Bureau of Meteorology: Regional Infrastructure Virtualisation Project**

This project will increase reliability and reduce operational risks for distributing aviation, marine and general weather forecasts and warnings in six state offices.

#### **Bureau of Meteorology: Upgrade Business System Applications**

This project will consolidate multiple Bureau of Meteorology systems into a single system.

#### **Centrelink: ICT Shared Services - Human Services Portfolio**

This project will enable Centrelink to develop a common system to simplify service delivery across the Human Services portfolio.

#### **Centrelink: Virtualisation**

This project will enable Centrelink to utilise the current server fleet more efficiently.

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: Identity Lifecycle Management Solution**

This project will enable the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to integrate the management of access to their business systems, reducing manual handling.

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: Thin Client Solution for Regional and Rural Sites**

This project will improve the delivery of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's ICT services to regional and rural Biosecurity Services Group offices.

**Department of Finance and Deregulation: Central Budget Management System – Comprehensive Redevelopment**

This project will establish an automated data processing and enhanced reporting capability in the Central Budget Management System.

**Department of Finance and Deregulation: Consolidate Application Holdings and Maintenance**

This project will enable the Department of Finance and Deregulation to decrease the number of servers while leveraging existing technology.

**Department of Finance and Deregulation: Data Centre Strategy – Whole-of-Government Procurement Arrangements**

This project will enable the Department of Finance and Deregulation to implement the whole-of-government Data Centre Strategy.

**Department of Finance and Deregulation: Reduce Number of Databases**

This project will improve the efficiency of the Department of Finance and Deregulation's database fleet by improving the utilisation of existing capacity and reducing the number of physical machines.

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Improved Passports Integrity and Strengthened Issuance Systems**

This project will implement a workflow solution in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that supports efficient processing of passport applications, while contributing to the National Identity Security Strategy, and that is capable of managing projected growth in passport issue rates for at least the next ten years.

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Legacy Microsoft Access Database Conversion**

This project will improve the management of critical business functions, including compliance with Australia's international security obligations for the management and tracking of nuclear and chemical materials, and the recording of classified security information for Australia's diplomatic posts.

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Removal of Legacy Lotus Notes Applications and Services**

This project will enable the migration of around 55 outmoded applications to the Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade's standardised ICT platform.

#### **Department of Human Services: Automated Outbound Dialling Pilot**

This project will enable the Child Support Program in the Department of Human Services to test a new approach to minimise the high number of unsuccessful attempts to contact customers which would increase both voluntary payment and enforced collections through better targeted services.

#### **Department of Veterans' Affairs: Rationalisation of Application Platforms**

This project will deploy automated software code conversion technology to migrate the Department of Veterans' Affairs from its legacy code base to a new environment.

#### **Federal Court of Australia: Online services - eCourtroom Integration**

This project will enable the Federal Court of Australia to meet the growing demands being placed on it by judges, the legal community and the general public for a greater emphasis on the opportunities that new technologies can afford to improve the efficiency of service delivery.

#### **Geoscience Australia: Reinvestment in Geoscience Australia's Storage Facilities**

This project will replace Geoscience Australia's legacy data storage systems and provide for greatly increased scalability of data storage capacity.

#### **Insolvency & Trustee Service Australia: Email Archiving**

This project will enable the Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia to introduce email archiving to provide improved access to old email records.

#### **Insolvency & Trustee Service Australia: Improvements for the Debt Agreement Service**

This project will offer small to medium businesses administering debt agreements enhanced access to an online facility for electronic receipt and information sharing.

#### **Medicare Australia: Minor Enhancement for Pathology Claims**

This project will enable Medicare to implement automated pathology claims to reduce the need for manual intervention in processing.

#### **Medicare Australia: Remove Hard Coding from Medicare Assessing**

This project will enable Medicare to progressively replace hard coded business rules and lists, resulting in a more flexible ICT system.

#### **Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal: Archiving and Tiered Storage**

This project will develop and implement archiving and tiered storage for all Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal data and documents.

#### **National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT): Integration of an Electronic Document and Records Management System into the NNTT Standard Operating Environment**

This project will upgrade the National Native Title Tribunal's electronic and records management system to the latest stable market release.

**National Native Title Tribunal: Migration to VoIP as predominant Telephony Service**

This project will replace the National Native Title Tribunal's standalone office legacy phone services across eight interstate offices with a voice over internet protocol system.

**Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman: Public Contact Voice Networking Replacement**

This project will improve the quality of service offered to complainants contacting the office by telephone.

*Details on four projects funded from the ICT business-as-usual re-investment fund are not provided in this list as the projects were deemed commercial-in-confidence.*

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