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**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications, Sport and the Arts**

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Mr Josh Burns MP
Committee Chair
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

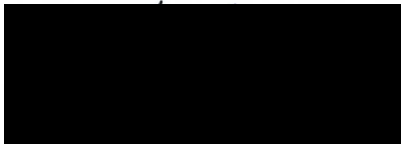
via: JCPAA@APH.GOV.AU

Dear Mr Burns

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2023–24.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts submission is enclosed.

Yours sincerely



Maree Bridger
Chief Operating Officer

4 / 12 / 2025

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Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

INQUIRY INTO COMMONWEALTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023–24

SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

5 December 2025

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department) is pleased to provide this submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (the committee) Inquiry into Commonwealth Financial Statements 2023–24.

At the completion of the 2023–24 financial statements audit, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reported one moderate risk audit finding relating to the department's management of non-financial assets. The department's submission addresses the actions the department has taken to remediate the audit finding and continue to strengthen the department's internal control framework.

Asset Management

As at 30 June 2024, the department recognised \$207.9 million as departmental and \$981.4 million as administered non-financial assets. The department manages a broad and geographically dispersed asset base across Australia, including the Indian Ocean Territories. The balances include land and buildings, heritage and cultural, property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other non-financial assets. The department is required to recognise non-financial assets under Australian Accounting Standards AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurements*, AASB 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment*, AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* and AASB 138 *Intangible Assets*.

In 2023–24, the ANAO identified weaknesses in the department's management of non-financial assets, including:

- absence of adequate controls surrounding the non-financial asset stocktake
- inability to identify some assets via physical inspection due to level of information recorded in the asset register
- identification of projects that were reflected as assets under construction that had been completed or were in use
- impairment analysis had not been undertaken exhaustively for all assets
- assets identified in the department's asset register at nil value. This increases the risk that assets may not be valued appropriately, if they are still in use.

This was raised as a moderate audit risk finding.

In response to the finding, the department undertook a comprehensive review of the asset management process in conjunction with the preparation of the 2024–25 financial statements. This included:

- an update to the department’s stocktake process, including the stocktake plan, stocktake procedure manual and stocktake count sheets to confirm roles and responsibilities, and adequately capture the execution of the required documentation and quality assurance over the stocktake process and results.
- an update to the asset accounting policy to enhance the requirement of asset identifiers, including the use of barcodes and, where appropriate, geospatial data to support reliable visual identification and tracking of assets.
- enhancing the roles and responsibilities of the central asset management team to support an additional level of quality assurance.
- implementing a quarterly review process to identify assets under construction that are complete or in use to ensure timely recognition of assets in use.
- strengthening the impairment assessment process through updates to the stocktake count sheets to capture a detailed assessment of the condition of assets and early indicators of impairment.
- undertaking a comprehensive asset revaluation process on selected asset classes, in line with the department’s asset revaluation schedule, which included a detailed assessment of the fair value of non-financial assets, useful lives and nil value assets to confirm the values were materially correct.
- uplifting the quality assurance process relating to the department’s assessment of the asset revaluation outcomes, including a review of the valuation assumptions, impairment indicators and useful life assessments, to confirm the appropriateness of valuation recommendations.

The department has finalised all remediation activities included in the ANAO’s recommendations. At the completion of the 2024–25 financial statements audit, the ANAO closed the moderate audit risk finding.