



### **Q: What is the total page count of the documents**

Describo Assistant:

The total page count across all the documents is 371 pages.

### **Q: Summarise**

Describo Assistant:

Here is a summary of the key points from the documents:

#### Australian Government Budget Financial Statements

- The Australian Government produces a set of financial statements for the general government sector, public non-financial corporations sector, total non-financial public sector, and public financial corporations sector.
- These statements include an operating statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement, and comply with both the ABS Government Finance Statistics and Australian Accounting Standards.
- The financial statements reflect the government's policy that the ABS GFS remains the basis of budget accounting policy, except where AAS is applied because it provides a better conceptual basis.

#### Budget Overview

- Global growth is expected to remain subdued over the next few years, with inflation remaining elevated. However, the Australian economy is well-placed to navigate these challenges.
- The government is delivering \$7.8 billion in cost-of-living relief, including tax cuts, energy bill relief, and increases to Commonwealth Rent Assistance.
- The government is investing \$22.7 billion over 10 years to build a "Future Made in Australia", including measures to accelerate Australia's transition to renewable energy, add value to resources, and strengthen economic security.
- The budget includes investments to strengthen Medicare, reform the NDIS, and support the care economy workforce.
- The budget also includes measures to broaden opportunity and advance equality, including initiatives to support gender equality and economic empowerment for First Nations Australians.

#### Economic Outlook

- Global growth is expected to remain flat at around 3.25% in 2024-26, the longest period of below-average global growth since the 1990s.
- The Australian economy is forecast to grow by 1.75% in 2023-24, with moderating but still elevated inflation, a resilient labour market, and a return to real wage growth.
- Inflation is expected to moderate faster than previously forecast, with the government's cost-of-living measures directly reducing inflation by 0.5 percentage points in 2024-25.
- The labour market remains strong, but conditions are expected to ease over 2024-25, with the unemployment rate forecast to rise to 4.5% by mid-2025.
- Business investment is expected to continue its upswing, while dwelling investment contracts further in 2023-24 before recovering.

#### Debt Statement

- Gross debt as a percentage of GDP is expected to be lower across the forward estimates compared to the 2023-24 MYEFO.
- Net debt is projected to be higher than the MYEFO estimate, primarily due to lower yields on AGS.



- Total interest payments on AGS are estimated to increase from \$22.4 billion in 2024-25 to \$34.1 billion by 2027-28.

**Q: What are the largest contributors to revenue and the largest costs identified?**

Describo Assistant:

Based on the information provided in the documents, the largest contributors to revenue and the largest costs are:

Largest contributors to revenue:

- Taxation revenue, which is forecast to be around \$656 billion to \$763 billion over the forward estimates period. The largest components are:

- Income taxes levied on individuals and enterprises (around \$505-\$586 billion)
- Goods and services tax (\$90-\$109 billion)
- Excise and customs duties (\$44-\$50 billion)

Largest costs:

- Current transfers, including:
  - Current grants (\$203-\$232 billion)
  - Personal benefits (\$153-\$192 billion)
- Interest expenses, which are estimated to increase from \$27.7 billion in 2023-24 to \$41.2 billion by 2027-28.
- Gross operating expenses, including:
  - Supply of goods and services (\$195-\$244 billion)
  - Wages and salaries (\$27-\$30 billion)
  - Superannuation (\$22-\$25 billion)

The budget also identifies substantial capital transfers, including mutually agreed writedowns (\$3-\$4 billion) and other capital grants (\$16-\$20 billion).

**Q: Break down excise and custom duties into it's components. Report the numbers in billions.**

Describo Assistant:

According to the information provided in Note 3 of the financial statements, the components of excise and customs duties are:

Excise and Customs Duty:

- Petrol: \$6.9 - \$8.0 billion
- Diesel: \$16.2 - \$19.4 billion
- Other fuel products: \$2.1 - \$2.3 billion
- Tobacco: \$10.5 - \$11.1 billion
- Beer: \$2.7 - \$3.2 billion
- Spirits: \$3.4 - \$4.2 billion
- Other alcoholic beverages: \$1.7 - \$2.0 billion

Customs Duty:

- Textiles, clothing and footwear: \$0.15 - \$0.19 billion
- Passenger motor vehicles: \$0.33 - \$0.38 billion



- Other imports: \$1.49 - \$1.65 billion

Less: Refunds and drawbacks: \$0.73 - \$0.85 billion

Total Excise and Customs Duty: \$44.7 - \$50.2 billion

***Q: How is this budget tackling cost of living pressures for minority groups and young adult? Detail any measures discussed and explain how they are supposed to help.***

Describo Assistant:

The budget discusses several measures aimed at tackling cost of living pressures for minority groups and young adults:

For low-income and vulnerable Australians:

- Increasing the maximum rates of Commonwealth Rent Assistance by an additional 10%, at a cost of \$1.9 billion over 5 years. This will help relieve rental stress for nearly 1 million low-income households.
- Extending eligibility for the higher base rate of JobSeeker Payment to single recipients with a partial capacity to work, providing an increase of at least \$54.90 per fortnight.
- Continuing the freeze on social security deeming rates for financial investments, benefiting around 876,000 income support recipients.
- Providing \$138 million over 5 years for community services under the Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity program to support those experiencing financial distress.

For students and young adults:

- Providing \$3 billion in student debt relief for over 3 million Australians with HELP and other student loans.
- Capping the HELP indexation rate at the lower of CPI or Wage Price Index to prevent student debt growing faster than wages.
- Introducing Commonwealth Prac Payments of \$319.50 per week to support over 73,000 students per year undertaking mandatory placements in critical sectors like nursing, teaching and social work.

These measures are intended to provide more targeted financial support and relief for lower-income Australians, including those on social security payments, as well as young adults burdened by student debt. The aim is to ease cost of living pressures and improve affordability, especially for vulnerable groups.



Context of the conversation:

/Users/mlarosa/src/datasets/2024 Federal Budget Papers

- Australian Government Budget Financial Statements.pdf

- Budget Overview.docx

- Debt Statement.pdf

- Economic Outlook.pdf