

13C. OTHER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, NEC

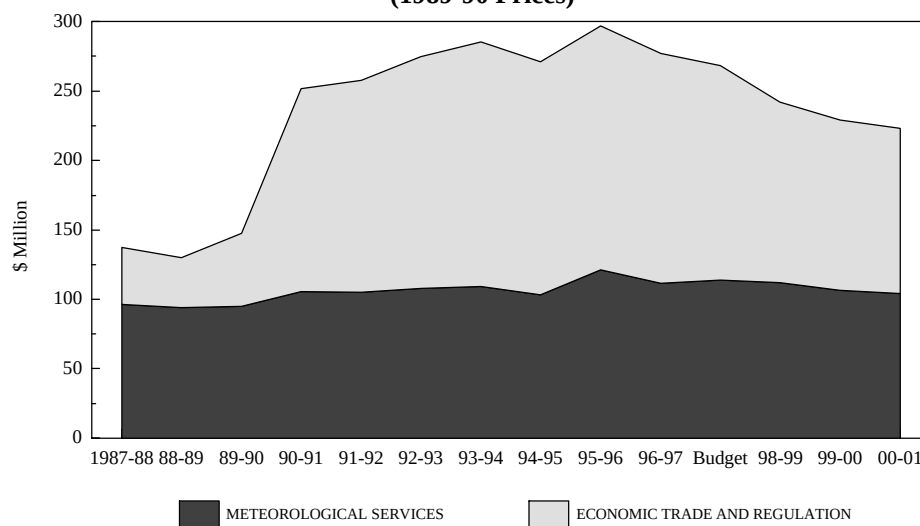
NATURE OF OUTLAYS

This function covers economic services provided by the Commonwealth which are not included in other function classifications. Outlays mainly comprise the operational costs of a number of advisory or regulatory agencies and various other agencies including the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

This function includes outlays of the following portfolios:

- Treasury;
- Administrative Services;
- Industry, Science and Tourism;
- Environment, Sport and Territories; and
- Transport and Regional Development.

**Chart 1. Overview of Commonwealth Outlays on
Other Economic Affairs, nec
(1989-90 Prices)**



TRENDS IN OUTLAYS ON OTHER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, NEC

The increase in outlays in 1990-91 reflects the establishment of a national scheme for the regulation of companies, and the securities and futures markets which are administered by the Australian Securities Commission (ASC). The fall in outlays, after 1994-95, is mainly due to reduced plant and equipment spending by the ASC and increased cost recovery of ASC services. Outlays decline from 1996-97 as a result of administrative savings in the ASC and the Industry Commission, and restructuring of the Australian Government Analytical Laboratories.

1997-98 AND FORWARD ESTIMATES

		1996-97 Estimate	1997-98 Budget	1998-99 Estimate	1999-00 Estimate	2000-01 Estimate
13C.1 Economic and Trade Regulation	\$m	191.8	182.5	157.4	152.4	151.4
	%		-4.8	-13.8	-3.2	-0.7
13C.2 Meteorological Services	\$m	129.0	134.6	135.5	132.1	132.4
	%		4.3	0.7	-2.5	0.2
TOTAL	\$m	320.8	317.1	293.0	284.5	283.9
	%		-1.1	-7.6	-2.9	-0.2

13C.1 ECONOMIC AND TRADE REGULATION

		1996-97 Estimate	1997-98 Budget	1998-99 Estimate	1999-00 Estimate	2000-01 Estimate
Industry Commission	\$m	26.3	24.8	19.9	20.1	21.4
	%		-5.7	-19.8	1.0	6.5
Trade Practices and Consumer Affairs	\$m	36.3	39.5	39.2	39.2	39.4
	%		8.8	-0.8	-	0.5
Regulation of Companies & Securities	\$m	101.4	95.1	80.8	76.8	75.9
	%		-6.2	-15.0	-5.0	-1.2
Other	\$m	27.9	23.0	17.6	16.4	14.7
	%		-17.6	-23.5	-6.8	-10.4
TOTAL	\$m	191.8	182.5	157.4	152.4	151.4
	%		-4.8	-13.8	-3.2	-0.7

Industry Commission

Pending the passage of legislation to establish the Productivity Commission (PC), the Government has merged the Industry Commission (IC), the Economic Planning Advisory Commission (EPAC) and the Bureau of Industry Economics (BIE) on an administrative basis. Appropriations to the IC and EPAC will be reallocated to the PC upon its commencement. The PC's role is to promote public understanding of productivity issues and its main functions encompass public inquiries commissioned by the Government, research projects, performance monitoring, benchmarking and business regulation review.

Trade Practices and Consumer Affairs

This item provides for the running costs of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). The ACCC is the major enforcement and consumer protection body responsible for the enforcement of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and the *Prices Surveillance Act 1983*. Outlays also include the running costs of the Bureau of Consumer Affairs.

Regulation of Companies and Securities

Outlays are dominated by the operating costs of the ASC, which cover the enforcement of national corporate regulation as well as information and registry services. Also included is a grant to the Australian Accounting Research Foundation, and the operating costs of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Companies and Securities Advisory Committee.

Other

This item covers the operations of several Commonwealth organisations. It includes the Commonwealth's contribution to the following standards organisations: the National Association of Testing Authorities, Standards Australia and the National Standards Commission. It also includes Commonwealth funding of the Australian Government Analytical Laboratories, the Australian Industrial Property Organisation, Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme and the National Competition Council.

13C.2 METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

This subfunction covers the running costs of the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and the Ionospheric Prediction Service (IPS), net of recoveries for services. BOM provides a range of weather and climate data, monitoring, forecasting, and warning information as well as advisory services for the general public and specialist users, such as the aviation industry and the defence force. It also undertakes research into the nature and mechanisms of the Australian and southern hemisphere climate, including greenhouse research. The IPS predicts the state of the ionosphere for users of radio communications systems, including for the defence force and telecommunications organisations.