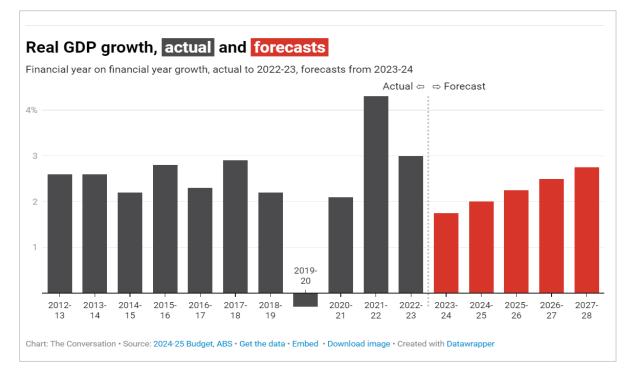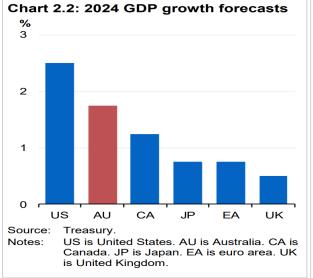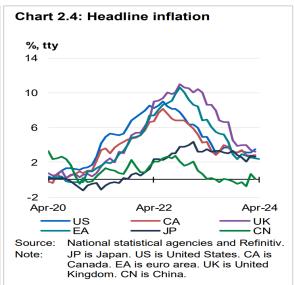# 2024-25 FEDERAL BUDGET BRIEFING

Budget Overview

Treasurer Jim Chalmers promised an "inflation-fighting and future-making budget". Through this year's budget, he is treading a "responsible middle path" helping those most struggling with the higher cost of living and keeping Australia out of a recession, without spending so much he stimulates the economy excessively and drives inflation back up. Economic growth is projected to pick up from an estimated 1.75% in 2023-24 to 2% in 2024-25 and 2.25% in 2025-26.

Real GDP growth, actual and forecasts

Financial year on financial year growth, actual to 2022-23, forecasts from 2023-24

Chart: The Conversation • Source: 2024-25 Budget, ABS • Get the data • Embed • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

Chart 2.2: 2024 GDP growth forecasts

Source: Treasury.
Notes: US is United States. AU is Australia. CA is Canada. JP is Japan. EA is euro area. UK is United Kingdom.

Chart 2.4: Headline inflation

Source: National statistical agencies and Refinitiv.
Note: JP is Japan. US is United States. CA is Canada. EA is euro area. UK is United Kingdom. CN is China.

Source: Budget Strategy and Outlook. Budget Paper No. 1 (link).

Disclaimer: Whilst all care has been taken in the preparation of this briefing, no liability is accepted for the veracity or accuracy of the information herein and no person should rely on its contents.

Executive Summary

This briefing summarises the Government policy priorities and funding in the technology sector. In summary, the Albanese Government is focused on:

1. **Establishing the Future Made in Australia** as its landmark industry policy, making Australia a "renewable energy superpower" and strengthening our defence capabilities and our economic security.
2. **Lowering its tech debt** by funding projects in numerous agencies
3. **Uplifting regional communities** and **ensuring digital inclusion**

However, there is minimal investment in critical technologies. In particular, this budget misses out on the opportunity to invest in Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption and development to drive national productivity across the economy.

1. Future Made in Australia

- **$22.7 billion** over the next decade to build a [Future Made in Australia program](#), which include:
  - **$3.2 billion** over the next decade through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to support the **commercialisation of technologies that are critical to the net zero transformation**
  - new **$1.7 billion Future Made in Australia Innovation Fund** will fund the deployment of innovative technologies and facilities linked directly to priority industries, including green metals and low carbon liquid fuels.

2. Lowering Government Tech Debt

Critical National ICT Systems

- **$187.8 million** over four years, and $11.1 million a year after, "to **upgrade ICT and security at DFAT** premises".
- **$174.5 million** over two years for **ICT infrastructure in Aged Care** that is "needed to implement the new Support at Home Program and Single Assessment System from July 1 2025."
- **$160.7 million** over four years, and $24.6 million a year after, to **upgrade the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission's IT systems and improve cyber security**, among other outcomes.
- **$145.4 million** over two years from 2024–25 to **maintain the National Measurement Institute's core scientific measurement and ICT capabilities**.
- **$83.9 million over two years "to boost fraud detecting IT systems** at the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)".
- **$78.7 million for upgrades to ICT** to enable the **ATO** "to identify and block suspicious activity in real time".
- **$57.9 million** over six years, and $3.8 million a year from 2029–30, for the **ABS to continue to modernise legacy systems** and operations for the Labour Force survey and Business Characteristics dataset."

- **$28 million** over four years that covers "**upgrades to Defence's export permit ICT system**".
- **$22.4 million** over four years to **modernise parliamentary business technology systems.**
- **$12.8 million** over four years for the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) to "**enhance IT to support business productivity and cyber security**."
- **$10.9 million** over four years from 2024–25 to make **"critical improvements" to Workforce Australia's IT system**
- **$10.9 million** over two years to **enhance the Go Global Toolkit online platform** to support Australian businesses to export goods and services.
- **$9.8 million** over two years for **"systems development" of the late-running Parliamentary Expenses Management System.**
- **$3 million** in 2024–25 for the Department of Education to **develop a business case "for an appropriate IT system"** to support higher education funding and governance reforms.
- **$2.6 million** to implement changes to the **Department of Education's Provider Registration and International Student Management System** "to improve integrity in the international education sector".

Digital Identity
- **$580.3 million** over four years, and $139.6 million a year after, for Services Australia to sustain and keep developing the **myGov platform**.
- **$288.1 million** over four years to boost adoption of **Digital ID**
- **$50 million** over four years, and $5.2 million a year after, "for **enhancements to the myGov platform**" stemming from the myGov user audit.

Strengthening STEM and data capability
- **$206.4 million** over four years, and $7.2 million a year after, to **"improve the data capability and cyber security**" **of the APRA and ASIC**, and "to continue the stabilisation of business registers and modernisation of legacy systems".
- **$196.8 million** over three years to support the delivery of the 2026 Census, "including ensuring **safe collection and storage of Census data**, activities to increase engagement and participation and facilitating access to the Census through myGov."
- **$2.2 million** in 2024–25 for Prime Minister & Cabinet for "projects to uplift capability across the Australian Public Service, including AI integration and **enhancing the quality of data to inform policy analysis**."
- **$1.9 million** in the next year to "**conduct a data-matching pilot**" between Home Affairs and the ATO "of income and employment data to mitigate exploitation of migrant workers and abuse of Australia's labour market and migration system."

Fighting Scams

- **$37.3 million** over four years in anti-scam funding for the ACCC, ASIC and ACMA "to administer and enforce mandatory industry codes for regulated businesses to address scams on their platforms and services, initially targeting telecommunications, banks and digital platforms services relating to social media, paid search engine advertising and direct messaging."

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3. Regional Communities

Regional Infrastructure

- **$50 million** for a pilot program to help mobile coverage on **regional highways** and major roads.

- **$43.2 million** over five years to the federal communications department "to support the delivery of communications priorities, including responding to emerging and evolving online harms, **boosting regional connectivity**, digital inclusion and communications resilience".

- **$2 million** in funding for **mobile and internet connectivity along the train route between Hornsby and Wyong**, north of Sydney.

First Nation Digital Inclusion

- **$68 million** for a range of First Nations digital inclusion programs, including $40 million "to roll out **community wi-fi in remote communities**"; $22 million for a "First Nations Digital Support Hub and a network of digital mentors to increase access to online services and improve digital literacy and online safety among First Nations people"; and $6 million "to improve national data collection on First Nations digital inclusion."

4. Jobs, Skills, Migration and Apprenticeships

- **$10.6 million** for implementing a reporting solution for the Australian Skills Guarantee, and for a business case to **develop a modern ICT solution for Trades Recognition Australia to assess migrants' skills.**

5. Critical Technologies

AI

- **$39.9 million** over five years to support the **adoption and use of AI technology** in a safe and responsible manner, including $21.6 million for a "reshaped National AI Centre", and $2.6 million "to respond to and mitigate against national security risks related to AI."

Quantum

- **$466.4 million** in equity and loans to go to PsiQuantum to build a **quantum computer** in Queensland.

Space and Defence Industry and Capability

- **$448.7 million** over 11 years to "establish Australia's partnership with the United States on the next generation of the **Landsat satellite earth observation program** (Landsat Next)".

For More Information

Budget Overview | Budget Measures

AIIA Media Responses

The AIIA has published a series of media responses:

- AIIA expresses disappointment with federal budget's minimal investments in critical technologies

- Government has important role in supporting critical tech development Australia

- Future Made in Australia Act must include support for enabling ICT capabilities

About the AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.