



ICRC

independent competition and regulatory commission

Annual Report 2025-26

Report 7 of 2026, September 2026



The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission is a Territory Authority established under the *Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997* (the ICRC Act). We are constituted under the ICRC Act by one or more standing commissioners and any associated commissioners appointed for particular purposes. Commissioners are statutory appointments. Richard Owens is the current Senior Commissioner who constitutes the Commission and takes direct responsibility for delivery of the outcomes of the Commission.

We have responsibility for a broad range of regulatory and utility administrative matters. We are responsible under the ICRC Act for regulating and advising government about pricing and other matters for monopoly, near-monopoly and ministerially declared regulated industries, and providing advice on competitive neutrality complaints and government-regulated activities. We also have responsibility for arbitrating infrastructure access disputes under the ICRC Act.

We are responsible for managing the utility licence framework in the ACT, established under the *Utilities Act 2000* (Utilities Act). We are responsible for the licensing determination process, monitoring licensees' compliance with their legislative and licence obligations and determination of utility industry codes.

Our objectives are set out in section 7 and 19L of the ICRC Act and section 3 of the Utilities Act. In discharging our objectives and functions, we provide independent robust analysis and advice.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



Artwork by Lynnice Church

Table of Contents

Senior Commissioner's overview	1
Activities during 2025–26	1
Looking forward	2
The commission's approach	3
Part A. Transmittal certificate	4
Part B. Organisational overview and performance	6
B.1 Organisational overview	7
B.1.1 Commission's functions and mission	7
B.1.2 Operating environment, priorities, and outlook	8
B.1.3 Governance arrangements	11
B.2 Performance analysis	12
B.2.1 Electricity price regulation	12
B.2.2 Electricity market monitoring	12
B.2.3 Water and sewerage price regulation	13
B.2.4 Water and sewerage capital contribution code review	13
B.2.5 Utility licencing, consumer protection and performance reporting	14
B.3 Scrutiny	15
B.4 Risk management	16
B.5 Internal audit	17
B.6 Fraud prevention	18
B.7 Freedom of information	19
B.8 Community engagement and support	20
B.9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reporting	21
B.10 Disability Inclusion Act 2024 reporting	22
B.11 Multiculturalism Act 2023 reporting	23
B.12 Period Products and Facilities (Access) Act 2023 reporting	24
B.13 Work health and safety	25
B.14 Human resources management	26
B.15 Ecological sustainability reporting	28
Part C. Financial management reporting	30
C.1 Management discussion and analysis	31
C.1.1 General overview	31
C.1.2 Total expenditure	31

C.1.3 Total income	33
C.1.4 Total Assets	34
C.1.5 Total liabilities	35
C.2 Financial statements	37
C.3 Capital works	38
C.4 Asset management	39
C.5 Government contracting	40
Appendices	41
Appendix 1 Financial statements and audit report	42
Appendix 2 Statement of performance and Independent limited assurance report	78
Appendix 3 Section 9 reporting requirements	85
Investigations	85
Final reports and special reports	85
Access agreements	86
Arbitration of disputes	86
Notices issued under section 41 and general use of information obtained	86
Other functions exercised by the commission	87
Appendix 4 Annual reports (Government Agencies) compliance statement	88
Part 1 Directions overview	88
Part 2 Annual report requirements	88
Part 3 Reporting by exception	88
Part 4 Annual report requirements for specific reporting entities	88
Part 5 Whole of government annual reporting	88
Appendix 5 Commission's publications 2025-26	90
Glossary and abbreviations	91

Senior Commissioner's overview

In 2025-26, the commission delivered on our core pricing and regulatory functions, setting prices for water and sewerage services as well as standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers on ActewAGL's regulated tariffs. We maintained our regulatory oversight of licensed utilities, promoting the long-term interests of consumers in relation to price, quality, safety, reliability and security of the service.

Our regulatory activities during 2025-26 contributed to ensuring that: residential and small business consumers could obtain electricity, water and sewerage services at regulated prices that reflect the efficient and prudent costs of providing those services; important consumer protections were available; and the utilities operating in the Territory had incentives to deliver services at a standard expected by Territory households and businesses.

In delivering these outcomes our greatest challenge remains maintaining the right level of skills, experience and resources to meet the diverse workload.

We continue to address these challenges through the strength and flexibility of our team. We work collaboratively within the commission and leverage our networks across other regulators. We maintain the investments made in information and knowledge management as well as our risk management and business continuity strategies.

Activities during 2025–26

In undertaking our core pricing functions, we:

- set the maximum allowed increase in average retail electricity prices for 2026-27 in accordance with our 2024 price direction for the three-year regulatory period from 1 July 2024
- set maximum prices for regulated water and sewerage services for 2026–27 in accordance with our 2023 price direction for the five-year regulatory period from 1 July 2023
- approved an update to the precinct map and set the precinct charge for 2026–27 under the industry code on capital contributions for water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades.

On 19 June 2026 the Treasurer provided terms of reference to conduct a price investigation for the supply of electricity to small customers on standard retail contracts. The ensuing price direction will be for the period of 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2030. The price direction must make provision for annual recalibrations to be undertaken and the determination of the reference price.

In September we completed a review of the *Water and Sewerage Services Capital Contribution Code 2017*. This code sets funding arrangements for future water and sewerage infrastructure necessitated by population growth in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The revised code provides greater certainty in prices going forward, closer alignment with ACT Government housing policies and increased transparency on timeframes for developers.

We also commenced a review of sewerage tariff structure and the possible implementation of liquid trade waste charging. We release an issues paper in November 2025 and received a large range of feedback to assist in the review.

We met our ongoing responsibility for ensuring that utilities providing services in the Territory comply with legislative requirements, licence conditions, and industry and technical codes by:

- determining the 2026–27 annual utility licence fees and the 2026–27 energy industry levy amounts
- approving Icon Water's guidance to developers on the Code
- monitoring utilities and retailers' compliance with the *Consumer Protection Code 2020* and *ACT Retail Electricity (Transparency and Comparability) Code 2021* (Transparency and Comparability Code)
- monitoring compliance with *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation 2011* regarding no new gas connections
- receiving, investigating and responding to complaints
- monitoring and reporting on licenced utilities' performance and compliance with their licence conditions in 2025-26.

In 2025-26, we published our annual reporting on the electricity retailers' compliance with obligations included in the Consumer Protection Code.

We released our second ACT Retail Electricity Market Monitoring Report, providing detailed analysis of price trends and market developments. We found that most customers pay below the reference price, reinforcing the benefits of engaging in the market and moving off the standing offer. Those customers that remain on the same offers for longer are more likely to pay higher charges for electricity. The commission will continue to monitor market performance to ensure that consumers benefit from competition and that the market remains responsive to their needs.

We commenced a review of the Consumer Protection Code, including releasing an issues paper. The review will ensure that the Code remains current and is operating as intended.

Looking forward

We will continue to undertake other core pricing, regulatory and compliance functions and provide advice to the Government as requested.

For our core pricing work, we will set the maximum allowable price for water and sewerage services for 2027-28 in accordance with our 2023 price determination. We will complete the price investigation into the supply of electricity to small customers on standard retail contracts and set a price direction for 2027-30. This direction will set the maximum allowed change in average retail electricity prices for 2027-28 with a separate rate of change defined for time-of-use tariffs as per the terms of reference.

Our review of sewerage tariff structure and the possible implementation of liquid trade waste will progress with a draft report and final report expected by mid-2027. This will allow the findings to feed into an expected price investigation for water and sewerage services ahead of the end of the current regulatory period.

We will continue to undertake our annual regulatory and compliance functions, including monitoring and reporting on utility performance and licence compliance, monitoring and reporting on electricity retailers' compliance with industry codes, and setting utility licence fees and energy industry levies. In addition, we will continue to monitor developments in energy markets and assess the implications for ACT economic regulation of the industry to ensure our regulatory and consumer protection framework remains up-to-date and appropriate.

This will include the conclusion of our review of the Consumer Protection Code. Taking on the feedback from the issues paper, we will produce a draft report and allow for further consultation ahead of a final report and revised code in 2027.

And we look forward to assisting the Government during 2026–27 with advice on industry-related or other matters as required.

The commission's approach

In undertaking our pricing, regulatory and compliance functions and providing advice and analysis to the Government, we balance economic, social and environmental considerations, as required by the objectives set out in our enabling legislation. In doing this, we place a high priority on ensuring our decisions, findings and recommendations are based on reliable evidence and have been informed by broad consultation with interested parties, including consumers and regulated industries. Engaging with other regulators is also important for sharing information, promoting appropriate consistency, and reducing regulatory costs.

We understand Territory households and businesses are experiencing significant cost of living pressures. We continue to work to ensure that regulated prices for electricity, water and sewerage services reflect only efficient and prudent costs, including a reasonable return on the investments needed to provide services into the future. We monitor consumer protections, including the utilities' hardship policies, to ensure they remain appropriate and adequate. The Transparency and Comparability Code is an important additional protection for electricity consumers to help them choose a plan that is right for them and will save them money.

One of our strategic priorities is to make it easier for consumers, regulated businesses and other interested parties to be informed about, and participate in, our decision-making processes. During 2025-26, we continued offering hybrid platforms for meetings to improve the balance between ease of access and the effectiveness of engagement.

Another of our ongoing strategic priorities is to build and maintain organisational capacity and the resilience and flexibility to continue delivering our strategic objectives with a small team. In 2025-26, we recruited qualified staff and continued our focus on learning and development, building our capacity to continue providing robust factual analysis to inform our regulatory decisions and our advice to the Government. Our reputation for producing high-quality decisions and advice and undertaking a diverse range of regulatory activities that protect Territory consumers, coupled with the collaborative and supportive working environment at the commission, assisted us in attracting new employees despite the tight labour market.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Commission staff led by Chief Executive Officer Mr Lachlan Phillips for their high-quality advice and assistance. Their support since I commenced in the role in September 2025 has been invaluable and the output they achieve for a small team is impressive. I thank them for their hard work and commitment to delivering outcomes that contribute to the wellbeing of Territory energy and water consumers.

I would also like to recognise the contributions of my predecessor, Mr Joe Dimasi, as the Senior Commissioner for ICRC from 2016 to 2025. Mr Dimasi left a record of decisions promoting competition, economic efficiency and improved customer outcomes for the Canberra community. He has greatly enhanced the reputation and skills of the Commission through sharing his vast experience with staff.

Richard Owens

Senior Commissioner

**Part A.
Transmittal certificate**

PART
A



Mr Chris Steel MLA
Treasurer
ACT Legislative Assembly
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Treasurer,

We are pleased to present to you the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's Annual Report for 2025–26.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 7(2) of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* and in accordance with the requirements under the Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions.

It has been prepared in conformity with other legislation applicable to the preparation of the annual report by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission.

We certify that the information in the attached report, and information provided for whole of government reporting, is an honest and accurate account and that all material information on the operations of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission has been included for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

We hereby certify that fraud prevention has been managed in accordance with the *Public Sector Management Standards 2006 (repealed)*, Part 2.3 (see section 113, Public Sector Management Standards 2016).

Section 13 of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* requires that you present the report to the Legislative Assembly within 15 weeks after the end of the reporting year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Owens
Senior Commissioner
2 September 2026

Mr Lachlan Phillips
Chief Executive Officer
2 September 2026

Part B.
Organisational overview
and performance

PART
B

B.1 ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

B.1.1 Commission's functions and mission

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission was established under the *Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997* (ICRC Act)¹, originally as the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Commission.

Under the ICRC Act, the commission has a range of regulatory and advisory functions, covering making price directions and recommendations about price regulation; advising the minister about proposed access arrangements and arbitration of access disputes; investigating and reporting on competitive neutrality complaints and on government-related activities; and investigating and reporting on matters referred by the minister and other referring authorities.

In 2024 the ACT Legislative Assembly provided the commission with civil enforcement powers better aligned with economic regulators in other jurisdictions. These powers include the ability to accept court enforceable undertakings, issue infringement notices and seek penalties and injunctions from the Supreme Court. The commission has published its compliance and enforcement strategy to guide industry on meeting our expectations on the delivery of essential services regarding quality, safety, reliability, and security.

While the focus of the commission's operations has changed over time², its fundamental mission, as set out the objectives in the ICRC Act, has remained constant: to promote effective competition in the interests of consumers while facilitating an appropriate balance between economic efficiency, environmental and social considerations. When making price directions, the commission is also required to consider the interests of consumers in promoting efficient investment in, and operation of, regulated services into the future. These objectives, and the more detailed requirements of section 20 of the ICRC Act, guide the commission's decision making.

In short, the commission must balance the interests of consumers who want reliable services at the lowest price, with the need to ensure that the regulated service provider earns enough revenue to cover its efficient costs as well as provide an appropriate return on investment. In doing this, the commission considers environmental and social factors as well as any service quality, reliability and safety standards. The commission's regulatory approach aims to deliver both viable utility services and reasonable prices.

The commission has additional regulatory functions under the *Utilities Act 2000* (Utilities Act). The objectives under section 3 of the Utilities Act align with its overall mission. In summary, they are to promote competition, protect the interests of consumers, promote ecologically sustainable development in the provision of utility services, and encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient, and high-quality utility services at reasonable prices.

Under the Utilities Act, the commission is responsible for managing the licensing framework for non-National Energy Retail Law (NERL) utility service providers in the Territory, including issuing licences and monitoring licence compliance. The commission also has responsibility for industry codes (which may apply to NERL retailers) and approving standard customer contracts. The commission also determines fees and levies paid by utilities operating within the Territory to recover the costs of the regulatory functions undertaken by the commission and other Territory

¹ [Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997](#)

² Reflecting the move to national energy regulation, introduction of National Competition Policy, and the changing needs of the Government and Territory community.

bodies such as the Utilities Technical Regulator, the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) and national regulatory costs.

In providing advice to the Government and other referring authorities, the commission's vision is to deliver high-quality, evidence-based findings, and (if required) recommendations, that are timely, satisfy the terms of reference, and contribute to improving the wellbeing of the Territory community.

B.1.2 Operating environment, priorities, and outlook

Volatility and the pace of change in the regulated industries is a significant operational challenge. While we saw reduced market volatility in extreme weather events in 2025-26, the increased risk remains for both water and energy industries. International economic and political events continued to influence energy markets and weigh on economic indicators such as inflation. Energy markets continue to feature significant change, risk and uncertainty due to the transition to renewable energy generation with increased complexity in markets and the regulatory framework. Consumers continue to face significant cost of living pressures, which can be exacerbated by rising electricity and water prices. The commission currently has only a small role in the ACT's gas transition, but this policy and corresponding electrification targets form an important context to our regulation of the electricity market.

Our market monitoring of retail electricity offers demonstrated the advantages to be gained from a competitive market for engaged customers, and the importance of safety net price regulation of standing offers for other customers. It also highlighted the challenges and "loyalty tax" paid by disengaged customers. This was our second monitoring report, and developing our data sets and understanding of the levels of competition in the ACT market will provide a strong foundation for our upcoming price investigation in retail electricity. We also continue to monitor the performance of the Transparency and Comparability Code in supporting customers to engage effectively with electricity retailers, including complex offers associated with batteries and direct engagement with the wholesale market.

While the water industry demonstrates less volatility than energy, a combination of factors is bringing about significant decisions on infrastructure investment. These factors include Canberra's growing population, a peak in ageing infrastructure and uncertainty from both extreme weather events and longer-term impacts of climate change on both supply and demand of water. Prudence in investment will be required to ensure customers are not paying more than necessary, or earlier than required to meet these challenges.

Our water and sewerage service investigation final report of 2023 identified several areas that could benefit from a review of the methods and models we will use in the price investigation. We have timed these reviews to smooth out our cyclical work program while providing sufficient time to include any updates in our next water and sewerage price investigation. As well as reducing the peak workload, completing these reviews before starting the price investigation reduces the workload for our stakeholders during the investigation because consultation on these issues has already occurred. It also provides our stakeholders, including Icon Water, greater certainty about the approaches we will apply during the price investigation.

We continue to review our industry codes, licence conditions and guidance material on a regular basis to ensure the consumer protection framework continues to meet the community's needs, and our regulatory and compliance activities continue to achieve our legislative objectives.

We place a high priority on encouraging consumers, regulated businesses and other interested parties to participate in our decision-making processes, and be informed about our decisions,

consumer protections, and regulatory obligations. It remains a priority for us to continue to improve the presentation and readability of our reports and ensure the guidance material for utilities and the public on our website is clear and meets our stakeholders' needs. We continue to use technology to make it easier for stakeholders to participate in our consultation processes.

The cycle of our core regulatory work increases the challenges facing a small agency; both for managing pressures on staff in meeting deadlines associated with the commission's decision-making responsibilities and the ongoing risks in maintaining suitably qualified and right-sized workforce. Amongst high demand for regulatory expertise, we continue to focus on attracting and retaining suitably qualified employees.

Throughout 2025-26 we worked with economic regulators from other jurisdictions to develop a new training program to better equip new staff in the theory and application of regulatory economics. We also hosted the Utilities Regulators Forum with Commonwealth, State and Territory energy and water regulators, providing opportunities for all our staff to build networks and engage on new approaches and emerging issues in economic regulation. We will continue to offer flexible working arrangements, a supportive and collaborative working environment, good training opportunities, and interesting, meaningful work to maintain our ability to attract and retain staff.

The commission is carefully incorporating the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into our work. AI is used regularly to increase productivity in administrative tasks and personal efficiency. This builds confidence and expertise within the commission as we explore how we might use it more systematically across our core regulatory functions. Alongside this we are working within the ACT Government framework as we refine our governance and security standards.

Our ongoing efforts to maintain a deep pool of expertise allows us to meet our core pricing and regulatory functions and improves our responsiveness to ministers' requests for advice on a variety of matters. Such requests for advice allow us to use our expertise to deliver high-quality analysis, findings and recommendations that contribute to improving the wellbeing of the Territory community.

Performance during 2025–26

During 2025-26, our regulatory pricing activities contributed to ensuring that residential and small business consumers could obtain electricity, water and sewerage services at regulated prices that reflect the efficient and prudent costs of providing those services. In undertaking our core pricing functions, we:

- set the maximum allowed average change in average retail electricity prices for 2026-27 in accordance with our 2024-27³ price direction
- set maximum prices for regulated water and sewerage services for 2026-27 in accordance with our 2023-28 price direction⁴
- approved an update to the precinct map and set the precinct charge for 2026–27 under the industry code on capital contributions for water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades⁵

³ [Retail Electricity Prices 2024-27 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

⁴ [Regulated Water and Sewerage Services Prices 2023–28 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

⁵ [Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\);](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)
[Regulated Water and Sewerage Services Prices \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

During 2025-26, we met our ongoing responsibility for ensuring that important consumer protections are available. The utilities operating in the Territory were incentivised to deliver services at a standard expected by Territory households and businesses and comply with legislative requirements, licence conditions, and industry and technical codes. In undertaking our regulatory and compliance functions, we:

- determined the 2025–26 utility licence fees and the 2025–26 energy industry levy amounts⁶
- monitored and reported on compliance with the Consumer Protection Code⁷ by licensed utilities and electricity retailers
- monitored and reported on licenced utilities’ performance and compliance with their licence conditions in 2024–25
- monitored electricity retailers’ compliance with the Transparency and Comparability Code
- investigated and responded to direct complaints and those referred from partner agencies
- introduced annual reporting requirements for Icon Water’s regulated water and sewerage services.⁸

These outcomes were all achieved within the required timelines and consistent with the commission’s performance measures for 2025–26, as reported in the Statement of Performance (Appendix 2 of this report).

The commission has a statutory role in handling competitive neutrality complaints. No complaints were received in 2025–26.

Outlook for 2026-27 and beyond

Our workload for 2026-27 and future years will continue to be diverse, covering our core pricing, regulatory and compliance functions and advice to the Government.

For our core pricing work, we have received terms of reference for a new price direction for retail standing offer electricity prices commencing 1 July 2027. We will also set the maximum prices for water and sewerage services for 2026-27 in accordance with our 2023 price direction.

We expect to receive terms of reference for a new price direction for water and sewerage services commencing 1 July 2028.

For our regulatory and compliance functions, we will continue to monitor compliance with the Consumer Protection Code and the Transparency and Comparability Code. We will monitor and report on utility performance and licence compliance and the electricity retailers’ compliance with their obligations under the Consumer Protection Code. We will also set the annual utility licence fees and energy industry levy; regularly review our industry codes to ensure they remain up-to-date and appropriate. We continually monitor developments in energy and water markets to ensure our regulatory frameworks remain up-to-date and appropriate.

In 2026-27 we will complete our review into sewerage tariffs including liquid trade waste schemes ahead of the next price investigation. We will also complete a review of the Consumer Protection Code, ensuring it remains fit for purpose, provides appropriate protections for consumers and incentives for industry while aligning with other local and national frameworks.

⁶ [Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

⁷ [Consumer Protection Code Review 2019 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

⁸ [Icon Water’s Annual Performance on Regulatory Finances \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

We will continue assisting the Government in monitoring the performance of utilities in the natural gas transition through obligations under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* and licence requirements.

We will assist the Government with advice on industry-related or other matters as required. And we will fulfil our statutory role in handling competitive neutrality complaints, subject to receiving any complaints.

B.1.3 Governance arrangements

Commission executive

The commission is constituted by Senior Commissioner Richard Owens. Mr Owens was appointed Senior Commissioner on 2 September 2025.

Mr Owens has around 30 years' experience in competition and regulation issues. His previous roles include Executive General Manager at the Australian Energy Market Commission, leading an independent expert review into electricity transmission planning for the NSW Minister for Energy, a member of the secretariat for the Finkel review into the National Electricity Market, and a member of AEMO's Consumer Panel for the Integrated System Plan.

Mr Owens is also an Associate Commissioner of the Utilities Commission of the Northern Territory and a consultant at Farrierswier.



The commission's CEO is Mr Lachlan Phillips. Under section 10B of the ICRC Act, the CEO is responsible for ensuring the commission's Statement of Intent is implemented effectively and efficiently, managing the day-to-day operations of the commission's secretariat, and regularly advising the commission about the commission's operations and financial performance.

Mr Phillips has been with the commission since 2021, initially as the Deputy CEO. Mr Phillips has had a range of senior regulatory roles with the Commonwealth across media classification, aviation and transport security. Mr Phillips was Australia's transport counsellor to the Middle East and is an experienced non-executive director of not-for-profit boards.

Executive remuneration

The ACT Remuneration Tribunal determines the remuneration of the Senior Commissioner and the CEO.

Significant committees

Due to its small size, the commission does not have any significant committees. The commission is not a member of any significant committees of an ACT directorate or public sector body.

B.2 PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The commission undertakes a diverse range of activities and functions to protect the interests of Territory consumers and businesses over the medium to longer term through our regulatory decisions and advice to the Government. This section describes the main activities we undertook in 2025-26 to meet our legislative objectives.

B.2.1 Electricity price regulation

Annual price reset

On 25 May 2026, the commission released its annual update of regulated retail electricity prices for small customers in the ACT, to apply from 1 July 2026.⁹ The updated prices were made in accordance with the *Price Direction: Standing Offer Prices for the Supply of Electricity to Small Customers 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027*.¹⁰

The price adjustment allows a maximum average increase of 2.7%, or a decrease of 0.5% in real terms (excluding inflation). With the increase, bills for ACT customers on standing offers are estimated to sit around the middle of the range across jurisdictions, though still lower than NSW.

The increase in regulated electricity prices for 2026-27 is mainly driven by the increase in network costs and the ACT Government's large-scale feed-in tariff (LFiT) scheme costs, partially offset by a fall in wholesale electricity costs.

Network costs increased 15% in 2026-27, adding 4.1 percentage points to the price increase. This reflects higher AER-approved transmission and distribution charges and inflation effects. The ACT's LFiT scheme costs increased 90%, based on the Government's \$95 million Reasonable Cost Determination, adding 4.0 percentage points to the price increase.

Wholesale energy purchase costs decreased from \$163 per megawatt-hour (MWh) in 2025-26 to \$143/MWh in 2026-27, reducing the overall price change by 5.5 percentage points. Lower wholesale costs reflect improved supply conditions: more renewable generation and battery storage, less reliance on high-cost gas during peak demand, and fewer price spikes.

B.2.2 Electricity market monitoring

The commission monitors the ACT retail electricity market and reports annually on its competitiveness to ensure consumers benefit from efficient market outcomes.

On 4 December 2025, we released the second ACT Retail Electricity Market Monitoring Report, which provides key developments in the ACT's retail electricity market over the past year, highlighting key trends in pricing, competition, customer participation, and affordability.¹¹

The report finds around 80% of customers pay below the reference prices determined by the ACT Government, with many saving 20% or more. Customers who shop around can still find significant savings and avoid the 'loyalty tax' that comes with staying on older plans.

⁹ [Retail electricity price recalibration 2026-27 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/retail-electricity-price-recalibration-2026-27)

¹⁰ [Price Direction: Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/price-direction-standing-offer-prices-for-the-supply-of-electricity-to-small-customers)

¹¹ [Annual Report: ACT retail electricity market monitoring 2025 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/annual-report-act-retail-electricity-market-monitoring-2025)

Other findings include growing customer engagement, with more consumers actively comparing and switching plans. The report finds electricity costs remained a relatively small share of income for average households in the ACT, while low-income households who spend proportionally more, benefitted from available government support. Competition in the market continues to strengthen, with a stable number of active retailers and decreasing market concentration.

These findings suggest increasing competitive pressure and greater market dynamism in the ACT. We will continue to monitor market performance to ensure that consumers benefit from competition and that the market remains responsive to their needs.

B.2.3 Water and sewerage price regulation

Annual price reset

On 2 June 2026, the commission released the annual update of the maximum prices that Icon Water can charge for its regulated water and sewerage services from 1 July 2026.¹² This adjustment to maximum prices was made in accordance with the *Price Direction: Regulated water and sewerage services 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028*.¹³

Maximum water and sewerage prices for 2026-27 increased for both residential and non-residential customers. A typical household consuming 200 kilolitres of water per year will see an increase of \$91, or around 6.3%, in their annual combined water and sewerage bill. Non-residential customers will see annual combined bill increases ranging from around 6.0% to 6.8%, depending on their water usage and the number of flushing fixtures.

In 2023, we approved a forecast price increase of 6.1% to reflect ongoing inflationary pressures and the large investment required to maintain and upgrade water and sewerage infrastructure in the ACT. From 2023-28 Icon Water was approved to recover over \$280 million for major capital works, including upgrades to key water and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

The price increase of 6.3% for a typical residential customer is slightly higher than the estimated price increase of 6.1% in our final decision for the 2023-28 regulatory period. This higher increase reflects the inclusion of pass-through costs associated with government charges, taxes and new regulatory obligations, plus higher inflation and financing costs.

One approved pass-through relates to the ACT Government's program to introduce individual water metering in new multi-unit developments by 2028. We approved \$3.7 million for Icon Water to implement this program, which is intended to improve billing equity and water use monitoring.

As part of the annual price reset, we approved the precinct charge developers pay to Icon Water to fund infrastructure upgrades. The 2026-27 precinct charge is \$920 per equivalent population, a reduction of \$41 from last year.

B.2.4 Water and sewerage capital contribution code review

On 1 September 2025, the commission released its final decisions¹⁴ on the review of the Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code (the Code) and a revised Code¹⁵.

¹² [Regulated water and sewerage services: 2026-27 price adjustment \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

¹³ [Price Direction: Regulated water and sewerage services \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

¹⁴ [Final Report: Review of Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

¹⁵ [Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

The Code is a vital mechanism that ensures new developments contribute equitably to the costs of expanding water and sewerage networks. It replaced the ‘last person standing’ approach, which assigned full infrastructure upgrade costs to a single triggering development, with a more equitable framework that distributes cost based on infrastructure demand of the developments.

We concluded that the Code continued to meet its objectives with some areas for refinement. The revised Code gave effect to changes aiming to enhance equity across different residential developments, improve price certainty for developers, and strengthen clarity and enforceability.

The revised Code took effect on 1 February 2026, with full implementation in July 2028. To support implementation, we published two fact sheets: one summarising the changes in the revised Code¹⁶, and another providing information on the legal framework, developers’ rights and obligations, and the complaint mechanisms in relation to capital contribution charges¹⁷. Both fact sheets were published before the commencement of the revised Code.

On 30 June 2026, we also approved new guidance materials submitted by Icon Water, which formed part of the final decisions aimed at improving certainty and clarity for developers.

B.2.5 Utility licencing, consumer protection and performance reporting

Utilities licensed in the Territory must report annually on their performance under the Utilities Act and on their compliance with licence conditions and industry codes. Each year we assess the licensed utilities’ annual reports and publish a performance and compliance monitoring report to inform customers and other interested parties about how well the licensed utilities performed in delivering services and meeting their obligations.

The reporting framework encourages utilities to provide safe, reliable, efficient, and high-quality utility services by increasing their accountability for the quality of services provided to the community. We measure the reliability of services, number of customer complaints, compliance with consumer protections, and how each utility has met its licence and reporting obligations.

In February 2026, we published our Utility Licence Annual Report (ULAR) and the National Energy Retail Law (NERL) Retailer Compliance Report for the 2024-25 reporting year.¹⁸ The utility monitoring report captures the compliance of:

- Icon Water (water and sewerage)
- Evoenergy (electricity and gas distribution)
- Eastern Australian Pipeline Ltd (gas transmission)
- TransGrid (electricity transmission)
- Lumea (energy generation).

Under the Consumer Protection Code, utilities and energy retailers must pay rebates automatically to affected customers if they fail to meet a guaranteed service level. The value of rebates paid to customers by utilities and energy retailers decreased from a total of \$219,280 paid in 2023-24 to \$140,685 paid in 2024-25. This is primarily due to the efforts of Icon Water to provide sufficient notice to customers for planned interruptions to supply.

¹⁶ [Fact Sheet: Changes to the Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/fact-sheet/changes-to-the-water-and-sewerage-capital-contribution-code)

¹⁷ [Fact Sheet: Understanding your rights, obligations and review options as a developer \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/fact-sheet/understanding-your-rights-obligations-and-review-options-as-a-developer)

¹⁸ [Utility Licence Annual Reports \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/utility-licence-annual-reports)

B.3 SCRUTINY

No recommendations were made in relation to the commission in reports produced in 2025–26 by entities charged with responsibility for scrutiny.

B.4 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk assessment and management are integral to the commission's governance and decision-making processes. Our approach aligns with the ACT Government Risk Management Policy 2021 and is supported by a comprehensive framework, which includes a risk management policy and guidelines, a business continuity policy and plan, and a fraud and corruption prevention plan.

We manage identified risks through the regular review and update of our risk register. The register is based on the ACT Insurance Authority's guidance. It sets out risk management actions, assigns accountabilities, and specifies review schedules and responsibilities for each identified risk.

In 2025-26, the following were identified and added to our risk register, along with the corresponding mitigation actions:

- psychosocial risks — (i) psychosocial risks are explicitly identified in the commission's risk register and monitored regularly, (ii) staff have access to ACT Government policies, resources and support services that promote psychological health and wellbeing, (iii) regular discussions on workplace wellbeing are held at staff meetings, and (iv) our health and safety representative completed psychosocial safety training and provided information to staff on psychosocial hazards and available supports.
- artificial intelligence risks — (i) the commission monitors developments in the use of artificial intelligence and their potential impacts on regulated industries and the commission's work, (ii) staff are required to comply with ACT Government policies and guidance on the use of artificial intelligence, (iii) appropriate governance and disclosure arrangements apply where artificial intelligence tools are used, and (iv) artificial intelligence risks and controls are reviewed regularly as this emerging risk area develops.

To cultivate a positive risk culture, all staff are consulted annually in reviewing and updating the risk register and associated treatment strategies. Risk identification and management are shared responsibilities in the commission, and all staff contribute to our risk management activities. These activities are embedded into operational processes, which are communicated to all staff.

We also undertake risk management assessments for all major projects and contracts. These assessments are used to develop risk management activities which are aligned with our strategic objectives. The risk management activities are then built into project plans and contract monitoring plans.

In 2025–26, the commission developed a Risk Appetite Statement as an addition to this framework. The Statement helps direct how we manage risk, clarifying where we have room to innovate and take measured risks in carrying out our work. At the same time, it makes clear that in areas already covered by established government policies and procedures, staff should follow accepted practice rather than seek out new or different approaches. The Risk Appetite Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis, alongside our risk register.

The Senior Commissioner and CEO have broad responsibility for overseeing risk management in the commission and for ensuring that effective risk assessment and management are integrated into our decision-making. Commission staff report regularly to the commission, including at the monthly commission meetings, on current and emerging risks and the effectiveness of the risk management activities we are undertaking.

B.5 INTERNAL AUDIT

In accordance with the ACT Government Internal Audit Framework, the commission considers the need for an internal audit committee, taking into consideration our small size, overall risk profile, history of past issues and incidents, and relative lack of organisational complexity. The commission has concluded that it is not practicable or cost-effective to establish an internal audit committee.

We have established alternative mechanisms for ensuring the Senior Commissioner and CEO have support in fulfilling their governance roles and discharging their responsibilities, including for the design and operation of risk management and internal control frameworks. As discussed in section B.4, we have established a framework and processes for assessing and managing risks and take active steps to develop a risk management culture within the organisation.

We have an in-house finance manager to undertake day-to-day accounting and finance functions, including implementing the commission's internal controls in conjunction with the CEO and senior managers. Accounts are reconciled monthly, and a finance report is prepared for, and discussed at, each monthly commission meeting.

Since 1 July 2021, we have engaged Shared Services Finance in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate under contract to provide oversight and assurance and to fill the Chief Finance Officer role. This ensures there is a high level of external oversight and assurance over our financial accounts and internal controls.

B.6 FRAUD PREVENTION

In September 2025, we completed the 2-yearly review and update of our fraud and corruption prevention plan, which sets out detailed descriptions of the control measures in place to prevent fraud and corruption occurring within the commission. The plan sets out the actions that will be taken to ensure any allegations of fraud and corruption are appropriately managed.

Revisions to the plan reflected the completion of planned improvements as well as better alignment with Whole of Government policies. We have documented the overlapping controls from other processes such as our protective security framework. We continued to develop and document procedures listed as internal controls.

In accordance with the ACTPS Integrity Policy, the commission has a senior executive responsible for business integrity risk (SERBIR). The CEO is our SERBIR and is responsible for reporting to the Senior Commissioner on compliance with the ACTPS Integrity Policy. A risk report is a standing item in the CEO's report for commission meetings, which are attended by our designated disclosure officer. The SERBIR is responsible for taking direct reports of allegations of potential fraud and corruption from staff. The SERBIR and our designated disclosure officer both have responsibility for dealing with reports under the public interest disclosure process.¹⁹

Our fraud and corruption prevention plan was presented to, and discussed with, all staff in September 2025. Our office and induction manual, which is made available to all staff, draws the attention of staff to the plan. The plan is now set for review in September 2027.

In terms of our operations, the risks of fraud or mishandling funds are actively managed through the separation of roles between initiator and authoriser of payments. Authority limits appropriate to our operations, scale and size are in effect. Financial accounts are reconciled monthly by our finance manager, reviewed by Shared Services Finance and the CEO, and discussed at commission meetings. Most revenue transactions are by direct credit to our bank account. There are no cash payments for services supplied and there is an appropriate checks-and-balances authorisation and payment process.

No reports or allegations of fraud or corruption were received in 2025–26.

¹⁹ [Public Interest Disclosures \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

B.7 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act) gives individuals the right to:

- access government information, unless access to the information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest
- ask for personal information to be changed if it is incomplete, out-of-date, incorrect, or misleading
- appeal a decision about access to a document or a decision in relation to a request to amend or annotate a personal record.

Under the FOI Act, we make available a range of documents through the ACT Government's Open Access information portal²⁰ and our website,²¹ including:

- functional information
- information about the work of the commission tabled in the Legislative Assembly
- our reports
- budget statements.

The commission is responsible for responding to freedom of information (FOI) requests and has an FOI Officer who can assist with FOI-related questions and requests. The process for lodging FOI requests, along with contact information and links to the FOI Request Form, are set out on our website.²² Under section 28 of the FOI Act, the commission also maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log.

The commission received zero FOI requests over the reporting year.

²⁰ [Open Access Information \(www.act.gov.au\)](http://www.act.gov.au)

²¹ [Home \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

²² [Freedom of Information \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

B.8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Community consultation is a critical component of our regulatory decision-making processes and the development of analysis and advice for the Government. Through public engagement, we ensure that our decisions and advice are well informed by robust evidence.

As part of our price investigations and other reviews, we seek feedback and information from consumers and consumer groups. We use this feedback to help ensure that regulated prices promote efficient investment in and delivery of regulated services in the long-term interests of consumers and that consumer protections are adequate. The views and information provided by other community groups, including environmental and social groups, also help us balance economic efficiency, environmental and social considerations. Importantly, community consultation provides a channel to hear from parties beyond the regulated businesses.

In delivering analysis and advice requested by the Government, community consultation helps us identify key issues, assess relevant information, test our preliminary analysis and findings, and strengthen the evidence base underpinning our work. This contributes to the credibility and quality of our analysis and advice.

As part of our 2025-26 Sewerage Tariff and Liquid Trade Waste Charging review, we consulted with stakeholders to seek information and views on issues and potential improvements to the current sewerage structure. We also sought their views on the potential introduction of a liquid trade waste tariff. We received 9 submissions within the consultation period for the issues paper. Additional feedback and submissions were received after the consultation period closed, prompted by Icon Water's customer engagement program, including a supplementary submission from Icon Water. Feedback from this engagement informed the development of our draft report, which is expected to be released in September 2026.

The Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC), which we established in 2018-19, continued to play a key role in keeping consumer representatives informed and engaged on issues affecting consumers. The CCC members are drawn from peak bodies representing a wide range of consumer interests, including the business sector, consumer groups representing general as well as vulnerable consumers, and social and environmental groups. The ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) is also a member of the CCC. In 2025-26, we held two CCC meetings—one in December 2025 and one in June 2026, with both online and in-person attendance options to support accessibility and participation.

The commission has direct engagement with the community. We respond to all public enquiries as well as facilitating engagement between consumers and regulated entities. We receive, as well as pass on, enquiries to and from other agencies including the Utilities Technical Regulator and the ACAT. All our reports are circulated to the media, and we seek to publicise our decisions and advice to customers to better inform the community.

B.9 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER REPORTING

As described in section B.1, the commission has a range of regulatory and advisory functions under the ICRC Act and the Utilities Act. In summary, these functions together aim to promote effective competition in the interests of consumers; encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient, and high-quality utility services at reasonable prices; balance economic efficiency, environmental and social considerations; and contribute to improving the wellbeing of the Territory community through advice and analysis requested by the Government.

Our work is not directed at one group of consumers, residents or businesses operating in the Territory. We do not have specific programs or initiatives directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; however, the commission considers both the National Agreement and ACT Agreement principles in the exercise of its functions during the reporting year.

Our work affects most Territory residents and businesses operating in the Territory, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and business operators. For example, our price directions for regulated water and sewerage services and for electricity services provided to small customers on standard contracts, as well as the consumer protections set out in the Consumer Protection Code, are relevant to all Territory residents and small businesses using utility services. The Transparency and Comparability Code helps all Territory households and small businesses find a better electricity offer that helps them save money on their bills.

Our work to promote effective competition that benefits consumers and to encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient, and high-quality utility services at reasonable prices helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate in the Territory economy and society.

In undertaking our work, we consult widely and value the views of all Territory consumers, businesses, and other interested parties. We consider the needs and interests of all stakeholders in making regulatory decisions and developing advice for the Government.

In 2025-2026, to build on the cultural awareness training completed in 2024-25, the commission engaged local Ngunnawal artist, Lynnice Church, to create an aboriginal artwork. We will include this artwork in our published reports and on our website as part of a rebrand moving forward.

B.10 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACT 2024 REPORTING

Under section 18 of the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024* (the Act), the commission is required to report annually on its progress in implementing measures that promote disability inclusion and remove barriers to participation.

In 2025-26, the commission took a number of steps to embed the principles of inclusion and accessibility in its operations:

- Improving accessibility – in 2024-25 we commenced a review of commission’s website and all publications, including issues papers, draft decisions and fact sheets. This ongoing work aims to ensure all materials are available in accessible formats and written in plain English, so they can be understood and accessed by a wider audience. In addition, as part of its internal style guide, the commission commits to formatting its publications to be screen-reader accessible.
- Ongoing improvements – we are integrating the principles of the Act into our stakeholder engagement framework and regulatory approach, to ensure disability inclusion is systematically considered across all functions, where appropriate.

The commission remains committed to upholding the principles of inclusion and accessibility and will continue to embed these principles in its ongoing operations and culture.

Currently, the commission does not have an action plan for the Act. The commission will continue to monitor the progression of action plans within the Directorate as they become available. The Act provides that public sector bodies may adopt an action plan of another agency.

B.11 MULTICULTURALISM ACT 2023 REPORTING

We promote effective competition that benefits consumers and to encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient, and high-quality utility services at reasonable prices. As described in section B.9, our work is broadly directed at consumers, residents and businesses operating in the Territory; however, the Utilities Act and ICRC Act also require us to consider social issues in our decision making.

In line with the charter for multiculturalism, we consult widely and value the views of all Territory consumers, businesses, and other interested parties. We work to consider the needs and interests of all stakeholders in making regulatory decisions and developing advice for the Government. We provide a broad platform for all Territory residents to provide input to our decision-making processes.

Internally the commission embraces multiculturalism with half our staff coming from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Our need for specialist technical expertise recognises overseas qualifications and experience in our recruitment processes.

We continue to engage with and respect individuals of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

B.12 PERIOD PRODUCTS AND FACILITIES (ACCESS) ACT 2023 REPORTING

Our workplace has appropriate toilets, sanitary waste, and handwashing facilities, provided in a way that respects the dignity of the person.

We make information on where and how to access period products available through the access arrangements listed on <https://www.act.gov.au/community/women/free-period-products>.

The ACTPS Employment Portal includes detailed information about Menstruation and Menopause Flexible Working Arrangements and Leave for ACTPS staff.

B.13 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

We see workplace health and safety as a shared responsibility between staff, the CEO and the Senior Commissioner. Ensuring a working environment that is healthy and safe for all commission staff is a high priority, and the commission targets zero incidents for its staff. Monthly commission meetings have a standing agenda item on work health and safety risks and reports of any incidents.

Staff are consulted and invited to raise any workplace health and safety concerns at the weekly staff meetings and regular operational team meetings. Staff contribute annually to the review and update of our risk register, which includes a dedicated work health and safety category.

In 2025-26, psychosocial and artificial intelligence risks were included in our risk register as key work health and safety risks.

In 2025-26, the commission further strengthened its risk management framework through the development of a Risk Appetite Statement. The statement articulates the commission's appetite for risk across its key operational, regulatory and governance functions and supports informed decision-making, accountability and the effective management of organisational risks.

The commission remains focussed on minimising the risks of viral diseases including Influenza and COVID. Staff were encouraged to follow COVID Smart behaviours, such as remain at home when unwell, and practice good hand and respiratory hygiene. Encouragement and support were also provided for COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines. In 2025-26, we coordinated and funded an annual Influenza vaccination program for staff.

Staff were reminded of the Employee Assistance Program and other resources available to support them in dealing with work or personal issues affecting their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

In 2025-26, we continued to provide flexible working arrangement to our staff, where staff attended the office on selected days a week and work from home on the remaining days of the week. This 'hybrid' working arrangement has been popular with commission staff as it combines flexibility with greater team cohesion, collaboration opportunities, and interpersonal connections. If staff worked alone in the office, they were advised to notify their manager and carry their electronic access pass and phone when moving through the building.

The commission had one elected health and safety representative and two staff with first aid and fire warden responsibilities.

In 2025-26, the commission recorded zero work health and safety incidents.

There were no instances of serious injury or illness, or of dangerous incidents that required notification to the regulator in accordance with Part 3 section 38 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the Act). No notices were issued to the commission under Part 10 of the Act in 2025-26. There were no enforceable undertakings under Part 11 of the Act nor any findings of a failure to comply with a safety duty under Part 2 Division 2.2, 2.3 or 2.4 of the Act.

B.14 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

As noted in previous annual reports and discussed in section B.1 of this report, the commission's small size and the cyclical nature of its core regulatory functions create ongoing challenges in attracting and retaining expert staff. In 2025-26, we continued to address these challenges by implementing three priority strategies:

- recruiting qualified and experienced staff to replace those who left for other opportunities
- effectively managing our cyclical work program to avoid placing undue pressure on staff in meeting the deadlines associated with our decision-making responsibilities under our core regulatory functions
- building and maintaining a deep pool of expertise to ensure the commission is equipped with the capability to respond to Government requests for advice.

These three strategies have improved our capacity to attract and retain the specialised, highly qualified staff required to undertake our regulatory and advisory functions. In 2025-26, we successfully recruited new employees to replace departing employees. We have smoothed out many of the peaks and troughs in our work, which provides a more stable workload and career path for staff.

We continued to adopt flexible working arrangements, including 'hybrid' working arrangements that allow our staff to work from home for part of the week and remote working arrangements. Greater flexibility in working arrangements is valued by our staff and help us retain highly skilled and experienced employees.

Our work is highly technical, requiring a good understanding of regulatory economics, financial and economic modelling, regulatory law, and regulatory policy. Our staff have expertise covering these key skill areas, with several staff having postgraduate qualifications in economics, as well as experience in regulation and economic policy. Reflecting the high level of training and expertise of our staff, learning and development plans are individually tailored to meet the development needs of each staff member and to broaden and deepen their existing skills and expertise.

During 2025-26, our people continued to participate in a range of professional development opportunities, including training courses provided through the ACTPS training calendar, third-party professional courses for regulators, as well as seminars and leadership programs.

While we undertake workforce planning to ensure our staff are equipped with the capacity and capabilities needed to achieve our objectives, we also recognise the importance of flexibility. Given our small size, we need flexibility to be able to respond in a timely way to requests for advice from the Government, any unanticipated issues raised by stakeholders during our investigations and other regulatory work, and developments in the operating environment. At times, we supplement our permanent staff with short-term engagements of specialist consultants or temporary staff to support delivery of specific projects.

Our workforce profile changed during 2025-26 due to staff departures and new appointments. The following table shows the workforce composition for 2025-26.

Table 1: 2025-26 workforce profile

	Male	Female	Total
Commission staff			
FTE	5.0	5.0	10.0
Headcount	5	5	10
Classification (by headcount)			
Administrative officers	0	2	2
Senior officers	4	3	7
Executive officers	1	0	1
Employment category (by headcount)			
Casual	0	0	0
Permanent full-time	5	3	8
Permanent part-time	0	2	2
Temporary full time	0	0	0
Temporary part time	0	0	0

Half of our staff identified as being from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds. As a small agency, to protect individual privacy of our staff, we do not publish information on matters such as length of service, age, and other reportable data. Also, due to our small number of staff, recruitment and separation rates can be highly volatile and are therefore not meaningful; therefore, we do not publish these rates.

Because of our small size and the highly specialised nature of our work, we cannot implement specific employment strategies, such as for people with disability, apprenticeships or traineeships. As a small agency, we do not have the capacity to employ a graduate every year. We did not participate in the ACTPS Graduate Program in 2026.

B.15 ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

In exercising our functions under the ICRC Act, our objective is to promote effective competition in the interests of consumers while facilitating an appropriate balance between economic efficiency, environmental and social considerations. Our consultation processes invite stakeholder comments on environmental matters as well as on economic efficiency, social issues and any service quality, safety, reliability, and security standards comments. We also consider relevant ACT Government legislative and policy requirements, including requirements in environmental legislation and policies. In this way, the ACT Government's ecologically sustainable development principles are integrated into our decision-making processes.

We also consider the ecologically sustainable development principles and relevant legislative requirements in our operational processes. Consistent with the ACT Government Carbon Neutral Framework, we make careful use of our resources and work to reduce our resource consumption where possible.

Table 2 shows our sustainable development performance for 2025-26 and how it compares to our 2024-25 performance.

Our estimated electricity use decreased by 9% in 2025-26, while our estimated gas usage increased by 15%. Both usage figures are estimated based on our share of floor space in the building because our electricity and gas usage are not separately metered.

We maintained our low use of paper with 10 reams purchased in 2025-26 (13 reams of paper purchased in 2024-25). All paper purchased was recycled.

The amounts of paper and cardboard, co-mingled material and organic material that were recycled is consolidated for the building and the amounts of these materials collected from our tenancy are not separately measured. The figures are estimated based on our share of floor space in the building.

We did not receive any requests during 2025-26 for staff to assist in the preparation of the State of the Environment Report. The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment did not investigate any of our activities.

Table 2: Sustainable development performance, 2025-26 and 2024-25

Indicator as at 30 June	Unit	2025-26 ²³	2024-25 ²⁴	Percentage change (%)
Stationary energy usage				
Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	14,323	15,759	-9.11
Natural gas use (non-transport)	Megajoules	60,133	52,042	15.55
Diesel (non-transport)	Kilolitres	0	0	0
Liquid Petroleum Gas	Kilolitres	0	0	0
Fleet vehicles				
Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV)	Number	0	0	0
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV)	Number	0	0	0
Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)	Number	0	0	0
Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles	Number	0	0	0
Water usage				
Water use	Kilolitres	37	37	-1.2
Resource efficiency and waste				
Waste to landfill	Litres	988	1,039	-4.88
Co-mingled material recycled	Litres	212	473	-55.27
Paper and cardboard recycled (incl. secure paper)	Litres	362	365	-0.93
Organic material recycled	Litres	23	18	29.42
Greenhouse gas emissions				
Emissions from natural gas use (non-transport) ²⁵	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	3.10	2.68	15.67
Emissions from diesel use (non-transport)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	0	0	0
Emissions from transport fuel use	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	0	0	0
Total emissions ²⁶	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	3.10	2.68	15.67

²³ Data for this reporting period was extracted at 9am on 3 August 2026.

²⁴ Note that some data reported for 2024-25 in the table may differ from figures reported in the 2024-25 Annual Report. These differences are due to utility invoice data entering the system after the data extraction date and retrospective updates to agency occupancy.

²⁵ Emission factors used to calculate natural gas and fleet fuel are based on the latest National Greenhouse Accounts factors.

²⁶ Emissions reported include Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions only. Scope 1 are direct emissions from sources owned and operated by the government, including emissions from transport fuel, fossil fuel gas, and refrigerants. Scope 2 emissions from mains electricity are considered zero in the ACT due to the ACT's 100% renewable electricity supply.

Part C.
Financial management
reporting

PART
C

C.1 MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

C.1.1 General overview

Objectives

The commission has responsibilities for a broad range of competition, regulation and consumer protection matters. We are responsible under the ICRC Act for regulating and advising government on pricing and other matters for monopoly, near-monopoly and ministerially declared regulated industries, and providing advice on competitive neutrality complaints and government-regulated activities. We are responsible for arbitrating infrastructure access disputes under the ICRC Act.

Under the Utilities Act, we are responsible for managing the licensing framework for non- National Energy Retail Law utility service providers in the ACT, including issuing licences and monitoring licence compliance.

We are also responsible for making industry codes and approving some standard customer contracts. Our objectives and functions are set out in sections 7 and 19L of the ICRC Act and section 3 of the Utilities Act. The commission principally operates on a reasonable cost recovery basis.

Financial Performance

The following financial information is based on audited financial statements for 2024-25 and 2023-24 and the forward estimates for 2025-26. The 2024-25 Financial Statements and Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) use the original budget published in 2024-25 Budget Statements for comparative purposes.

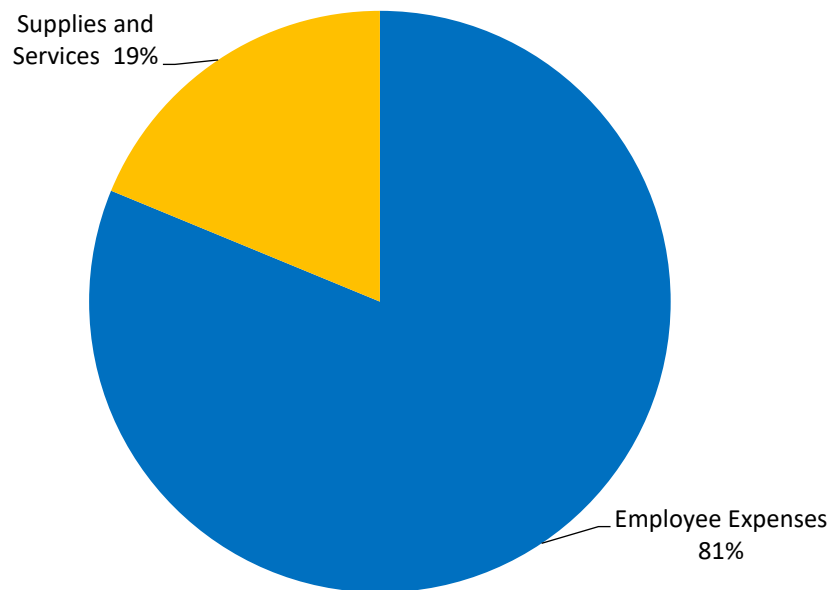
The following financial information is based on audited financial statements for 2025-26 and 2024-25 and the forward estimates for 2026-27. The 2025-26 Financial Statements and Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) use the original budget published in 2025-26 Budget Statements for comparative purposes.

C.1.2 Total expenditure

Components of Expenditure

Figure 1 shows the components of our expenditure for 2025-26. The main components of ordinary expenditure were:

- Employee Expenses of **\$1.924** million (81 percent); and
- Supplies and Services of **\$0.447** million (19 percent).

Figure 1: Total of Expenditure 2025-26

Comparison to Budget

Total expenditure was **\$2.371** million and was **\$0.086** million (4 percent) lower than the budget of **\$2.457** million. The result is broadly consistent with budget.

Comparison to 2024-25 actual expenditure

Total expenditure was **\$2.371** million and was **\$0.172** million (8 percent) higher than the 2024-25 actual result of **\$2.199** million. The increase in expenditure is primarily due to expected employee cost increases as well as consultant costs relating to the 2026-27 Electricity Price Reset Energy Purchase Cost Assessment and three yearly Tax Compliance Review.

Future trends

For 2026-27, expenditure is expected to increase to **\$2.841** million reflecting the anticipated consultant costs associated with the investigations into, and price direction determinations for, both the retail electricity supplied to small customers on standard retail contracts and the regulated water and sewerage services.

More generally, expenses may vary over the forward estimates for activities that are not performed on an annual basis, including major price investigations and unanticipated references or other requests for commission services from government and non-government sources.

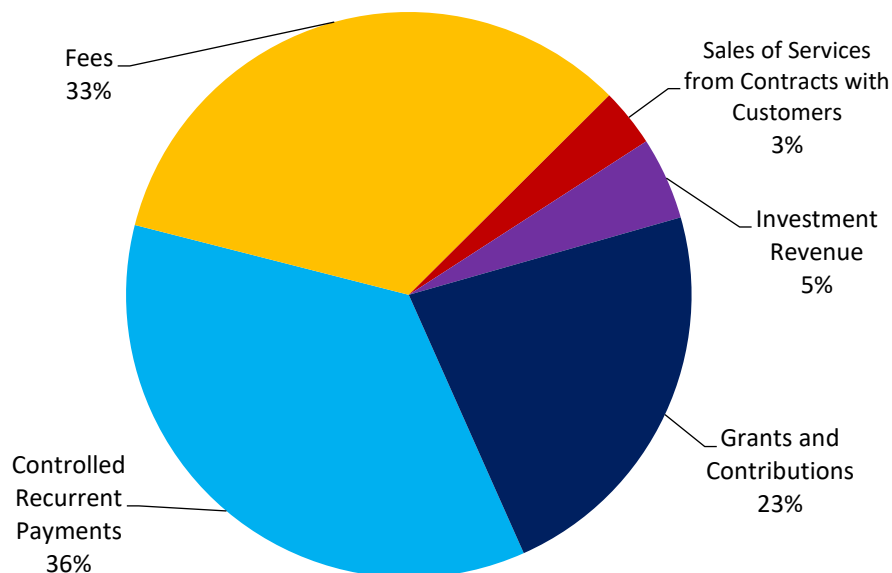
C.1.3 Total income

Components of Income

Figure 2 shows the components of our income for 2025-26. The main components of income were:

- Controlled Recurrent Payments of **\$0.824** million (36 percent) received from the ACT Government for the commission's energy industry regulatory activities;
- Fees of **\$0.776** million (33 percent) for water, sewerage, electricity transmission and gas transmission regulatory activities under the Utilities Act;
- Grants and Contributions of **\$0.526** million (23 percent) which the major component consists of the service level agreement with the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate for services and activities provided by the commission which require representation or involvement, and are not recoverable under a referral from a referring authority under the ICRC Act;
- Sales of Services from Contracts with Customers of **\$0.077** million (3 percent) relating to work undertaken on a pricing investigation into retail electricity supplied to small customers on standard retail contracts; and
- Investment Revenue of **\$0.109** million (5 percent).

Figure 2: Total Income 2025-26



Comparison to Budget

Income for the year was **\$2.312** million and was **\$0.021** million (1 percent) higher than the budget of **\$2.291** million. The result is broadly consistent with budget.

Comparison to 2024-25 actual income

Total income in 2025-26 was **\$2.312** million, an increase of **\$0.033** million (1 percent) from the 2024-25 actual result of **\$2.279** million. Income levels were broadly in line with those reported in the previous financial year.

Future trends

For 2026-27, income is expected to increase to **\$3.269** million due to increased sale of services from contracts with customers. The increase is attributable to the recovery of costs for the investigation into, and price direction determination for, retail electricity supplied to small customers on standard retail contracts. It also includes recovery of costs for commencing the investigation into, and price direction determination for, regulated water and sewerage services.

More generally, income may vary over the forward estimates due to activities that are not performed on an annual basis, including major price investigations and receipt of unanticipated references or other requests for commission services from government and non-government sources.

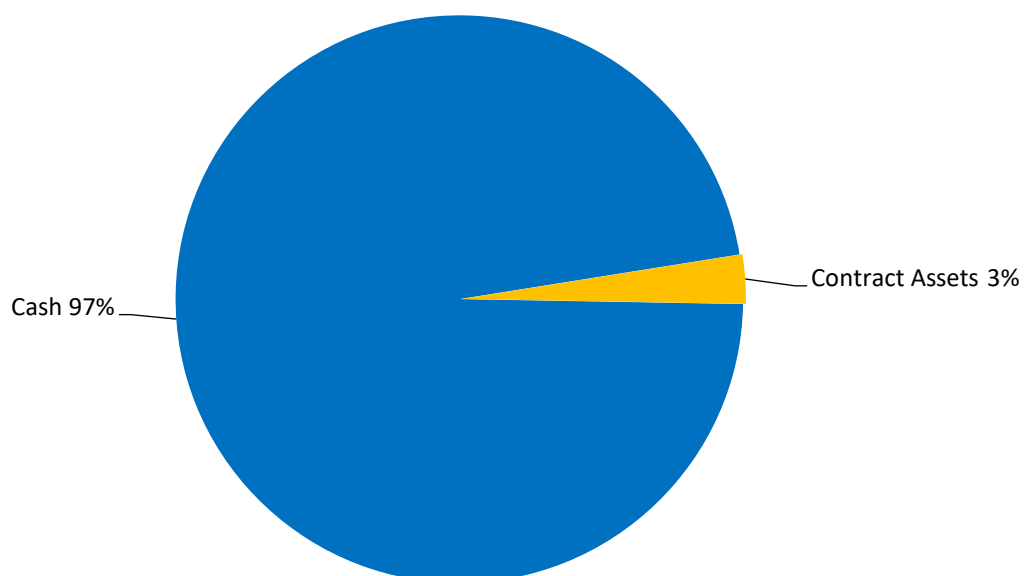
C.1.4 Total Assets

Components of Total Assets

Figure 3 shows the components of our Total Assets at 30 June 2026. The components were:

- Cash of **\$2.678** million (97 percent); and
- Contract Assets of **\$0.077** million (3 percent).

Figure 3 – Total Assets at 30 June 2026



Comparison to Budget

At 30 June 2026, Total Assets were **\$2.755** million, and this was above the budget of **\$2.724** million by **\$0.031** million (1 percent). The result is broadly consistent with budget.

Comparison to 2024-25 actual assets

At 30 June 2026, Total Assets were **\$2.755** million, and this was higher than the 2024-25 actual of **\$2.643** million by **\$0.112** million (4 percent). The results are broadly consistent across the two financial years.

Liquidity

A common indicator used to measure liquidity is the current ratio, which measures the ability to fund short-term liabilities from short-term cashable assets. A ratio of less than 1:1 may indicate a reliance on future revenue streams to meet short-term debts.

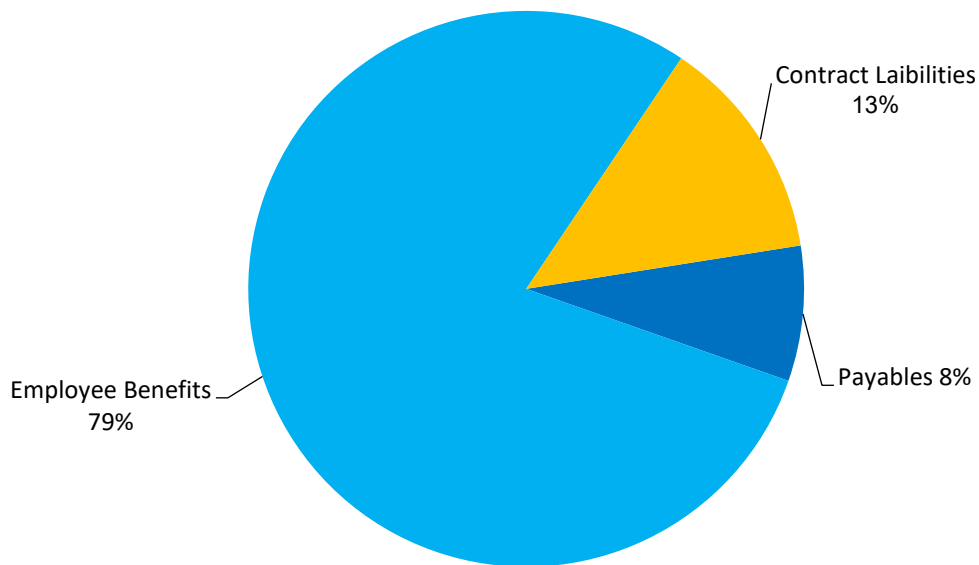
At 30 June 2026, our current ratio was 3.34:1 indicating a strong financial position. We maintain a high level of liquidity due to the cost recovery model we principally operate under, where significant expenditure can be required to perform an activity and those costs may not be recovered for an extended period.

C.1.5 Total liabilities

Components of Total Liabilities

Figure 4 shows the components of our Total Liabilities at 30 June 2026. The components were:

- Employee Benefits of **\$0.671** million (79 percent);
- Contract Liabilities of **\$0.108** million (13 percent); and
- Payables of **\$0.065** million (8 percent).

Figure 4 – Total Liabilities at 30 June 2026

Comparison to Budget

At 30 June 2026, Total Liabilities were **\$0.844** million, and this was **\$0.051** million (6 percent) lower than budget of **\$0.895** million. The difference is mainly due to lower than anticipated payables and contract liabilities, resulting from the timing of accrued expenses and trade payables and payments received for performance obligations which have not yet been completed as at 30 June 2026.

Comparison to 2024-25 actual liabilities

At 30 June 2026, Total Liabilities were **\$0.844** million, which is an increase of **\$0.171** million (25 percent) on the 2024-25 actual of **\$0.673** million. This is mainly due to the increase in contract liabilities relating to Utility Licence Fee funds received in advance and an increase in employee benefits.

C.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The commission has prepared financial statements for 2025-26 in accordance with the relevant accounting standards. The statements were independently audited as required by the *Financial Management Act 1996*, ACT Accounting Standards, and the 2026 Annual Report Directions. The audit opinion, financial statements and accompanying notes to the statements are set out in Appendix 1.

C.3 CAPITAL WORKS

The commission does not have a capital works program.

C.4 ASSET MANAGEMENT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026, the commission's asset base consists of a relatively small footprint of office furniture and equipment.

We lease our ICT office equipment through ACT Government Shared Services. Leasing these assets ensures we continue to conduct our business and achieve our outcomes while ensuring value for money. We regularly reassess our asset requirements and ensure assets are replaced at the end of their useful life.

At 30 June 2026, the commission's total value of plant and equipment was zero.

We lease office accommodation in Canberra's CBD where it occupies less than half of a floor. This accommodated the commission secretariat of 12 staff (headcount as at 30 June 2026) and provided an office for the Senior Commissioner.

C.5 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

The online ACT Government Contracts Register records contracts with suppliers of goods, services and works, with a value of \$25,000 or more. A full search of Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission contracts notified with an execution date from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 can be made at <https://www.tenders.act.gov.au/contract/search>.

We have complied with the *Government Procurement Act 2001* during the reporting year.

There were no exemptions in 2025-26 from the secure local job code requirements under the *Government Procurement Act 2001*.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement

For 2025-26, the commission's performance against the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy (ATSIPP) performance measures is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy (ATSIPP) performance measures in 2025-26

No.	ATSIPP performance measure	Result
1	The number of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises that responded to Territory tender and quotation opportunities issued from the Approved Systems.	0
2	The number of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises attributed a value of Addressable Spend in the financial year.	1
3	Percentage of the financial year's Addressable Spend of \$67,381 that was spent with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises – target 2.25%.	0.1%

Creative Services Panel procurement

The Creative Services Panel is a whole of government arrangement for the purchase of creative services, including:

- Advertising
- Marketing
- Communications and engagement
- Digital
- Graphic design
- Photography and video
- Media buying.

During 2025-26, we did not undertake any expenditure through the panel.

Appendices

APX

APPENDIX 1 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDIT REPORT

- Independent Auditor's report
- Statement of responsibility – Chief Executive Officer
- Statement by the Chief Financial Officer
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Operating Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2026
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2026
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Statement of Appropriation for the year ended 30 June 2026
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF INDEPENDENT COMPETITION AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (Commission) for the year ended 30 June 2026 which comprise the statement of responsibility and statement by the chief finance officer, operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, statement of appropriation and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- (i) present fairly, in all material respects, the Commission's financial position as at 30 June 2026, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (ii) are presented in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and comply with Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of this report.

I am independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (Code). I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Commission for the financial statements

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- preparing and fairly presenting the financial statements in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and relevant Australian Accounting Standards;
- determining the internal controls necessary for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements so that they are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud; and
- assessing the ability of the Commission to continue as a going concern and disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Under the *Financial Management Act 1996*, the Auditor-General is responsible for issuing an audit report that includes an independent opinion on the financial statements of the Commission.

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal controls;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Commission;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Commission's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in this report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of this report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether they represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Chief Executive Officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Tim Larnach
Audit Principal, Financial Audit
28 August 2026

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (the commission) I am responsible for the preparation of the annual financial report as well as the judgements exercised in preparing it. In my opinion, the commission's financial statements fairly reflect the financial operations for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position on that date.

Mr Lachlan Phillips
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
20 August 2026

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

In my opinion, the commission's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, are in agreement with its accounts and records and fairly reflect its financial operations for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position on that date.

Calvin Robinson
Chief Finance Officer
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
24 August 2026

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Content of the Financial Statements

Financial Statements

Operating Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Appropriation

Overview Notes

Note 1 Objectives of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Note 2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements
Note 3 Impact of Accounting Standards Issued But Yet to be Applied

Income Notes

Note 4 Fees
Note 5 Sales of Services from Contracts with Customers
Note 6 Grants and Contributions Income

Expense Notes

Note 7 Employee Expenses
Note 8 Supplies and Services

Asset Notes

Note 9 Cash
Note 10 Receivables and Contract Assets

Liability Notes

Note 11 Payables and Contract Liabilities
Note 12 Employee Benefits

Other Notes

Note 13 Financial Instruments
Note 14 Commitments
Note 15 Related Party Disclosures
Note 16 Budgetary Reporting

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Operating Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

		Actual	Original	Actual
	Note	2026	Budget	2025
	No.	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income				
Controlled Recurrent Payments	#	824	824	798
Fees	4	776	882	865
Sales of Services from Contracts with Customers	5	77	-	-
Grants and Contributions Income	6	526	507	500
Investment Revenue		109	78	116
Total Income		2,312	2,291	2,279
Expenses				
Employee Expenses	7	1,924	1,958	1,797
Supplies and Services	8	447	499	402
Total Expenses		2,371	2,457	2,199
Operating Result		(59)	(166)	80
Total Comprehensive Result		(59)	(166)	80

The above Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Refer to the Statement of Appropriation.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2026

		Actual	Original	Actual
	Note	2026	Budget	2025
	No.	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current Assets				
Cash	9	2,678	2,393	2,385
Receivables	10	-	331	-
Contract Assets	10	77	-	258
Total Current Assets		2,755	2,724	2,643
Total Assets		2,755	2,724	2,643
Current Liabilities				
Payables	11	65	190	74
Contract Liabilities	11	108	220	-
Employee Benefits	12	653	456	579
Total Current Liabilities		826	866	653
Non-Current Liabilities				
Employee Benefits	12	18	29	20
Total Non-Current Liabilities		18	29	20
Total Liabilities		844	895	673
Net Assets		1,911	1,829	1,970
Equity				
Accumulated Funds		1,911	1,829	1,970
Total Equity		1,911	1,829	1,970

The above Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Accumulated Funds Actual 2026 \$'000	Total Equity Actual 2026 \$'000	Total Original Budget 2026 \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2025	1,970	1,970	1,995
Comprehensive Income			
Operating Result	(59)	(59)	(166)
Total Comprehensive Result	(59)	(59)	(166)
Balance at 30 June 2026	1,911	1,911	1,829

	Accumulate Funds Actual 2025 \$'000	Total Equity Actual 2025 \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2024	1,890	1,890
Comprehensive Income		
Operating Result	80	80
Total Comprehensive Result	80	80
Balance at 30 June 2025	1,970	1,970

The above Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

		Actual	Original	
	Note	2026	Budget	Actual
	No.	\$'000	2026	2025
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Receipts				
Controlled Recurrent Payments		824	824	798
Fees		1,142	882	388
Sales of Services from Contracts with Customers		-	-	257
Grants and Contributions Receipts		483	485	471
Licence Fees Collected for Payment to Other Regulators ¹		788	-	752
Investment Receipts		109	78	117
Goods and Services Tax Input Tax Credits from the Australian Taxation Office		35	45	36
Goods and Services Tax Collected from Customers		48	-	247
Total Receipts from Operating Activities		3,429	2,314	3,066
Payments				
Employee Payments		1,851	1,965	1,649
Supplies and Services		411	518	362
Payment of Regulatory Costs to Other Regulators ¹		788	-	752
Goods and Services Tax Remitted to the Australian Taxation Office		48	-	339
Goods and Services Tax Paid to Suppliers		38	-	34
Total Payments from Operating Activities		3,136	2,483	3,136
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows) from Operating Activities	9	293	(169)	(70)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash		293	(169)	(70)
Cash at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		2,385	2,562	2,455
Cash at the End of the Reporting Period	9	2,678	2,393	2,385

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

¹ Utility licence fees are collected and administered on behalf of Regulators and paid to the regulators during each reporting period. Since Utility licence fees are collected from licensees and paid to the other regulators during each reporting period only the gross cash receipts and payments are shown in the Statement of Cash Flows.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Statement of Appropriation

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Description and Material Accounting Policies relating to Controlled Recurrent Payments

Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) are revenue received from the ACT Government to fund the costs of delivering outputs.

CRP are recognised when the commission gains control over the funding which is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash, given they do not contain enforceable and sufficiently specific performance obligations as defined by AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

Column Heading Explanation

The Original Budget column shows the amount that appears in the Statement of Cash Flows in the Statement of Intent. This amount also appears in the Statement of Cash Flows.

The Total Appropriated column is inclusive of all appropriation variations occurring after the Original Budget.

The Appropriation Drawn is the total amount of appropriation received by the commission during the year. This amount appears in the Statement of Cash Flows.

	Original Budget 2026 \$'000	Total Appropriated 2026 \$'000	Appropriation Drawn 2026 \$'000	Appropriation Drawn 2025 \$'000
Controlled				
Controlled Recurrent Payments	824	824	824	798
Total Controlled Appropriation	824	824	824	798

The above Statement of Appropriation is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Variances between '2025-26 Controlled Recurrent Payments Appropriation Drawn' and '2024-25 Controlled Recurrent Payments Appropriation Drawn'

The increase in CRP of \$0.026 million in 2025-26 reflects the commission's work relating to compliance activities.

Reconciliation of Appropriation for 2025-26

	Controlled Payments (CRP) \$'000
Original Appropriation	824
Total Appropriated	824
Controlled Appropriation Drawn	824

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 1 OBJECTIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT COMPETITION AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

Operations and Principal Activities

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (the commission) has statutory and regulatory, rather than commercial, objectives and functions. The commission's primary roles and responsibilities are established under the *Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997* (ICRC Act) and the *Utilities Act 2000* (Utilities Act). Together, the Acts set out the functions of the commission as:

- making price directions
- providing recommendations about price regulation
- providing advice to the Minister about proposed access regimes
- arbitrating disputes about access to services under access regimes
- maintaining a register of access agreements
- investigating and reporting on matters referred by the Minister and other referring authorities
- investigating and reporting on competitive neutrality complaints
- investigating and reporting on government-regulated activities
- issuing licences for the provision of certain types of utility services
- determining licence conditions
- monitoring and enforcing compliance with the licence conditions
- approving and reviewing standard customer contracts and industry codes for certain types of utility services.

The commission also has a statutory role under the *Electricity Feed-In (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008* in providing advice to the Minister relevant to the determination of the premium rate payable by National Energy Retail Law (NERL) retailers supplying electricity to renewable energy generators, and in monitoring compliance with the Electricity Feed-In Scheme through the Electricity Feed-In Code 2015 for NERL retailers.

The commission's objectives are outlined in the ICRC Act and the Utilities Act. The objectives set out in section 7 and 19L of the ICRC Act are to:

- promote effective competition in the interests of consumers
- facilitate an appropriate balance between efficiency and environmental and social considerations
- ensure non-discriminatory access to monopoly and near-monopoly infrastructure
- ensure when making a price direction in a regulated industry, promote the efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of regulated services for the long-term interests of consumers in relation to the price, quality, safety, reliability, and security of the service.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 1 OBJECTIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT COMPETITION AND REGULATORY COMMISSION - CONTINUED

Section 3 of the Utilities Act provides the commission with additional functions in accordance with the following objectives:

- encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient and high-quality utility services at reasonable prices
- minimise the potential for misuse of monopoly power in the provision of utility services
- promote competition in the provision of utility services
- encourage long-term investment, growth and employment in utility services
- promote ecologically sustainable development in the provision of utility services
- protect the interests of consumers
- ensure that advice given to the commission by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) is properly considered
- ensure that the Government's programs concerning the provision of utility services are properly addressed
- give effect to directions of the Minister under section 19 of the Utilities Act.

NOTE 2 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The *Financial Management Act 1996* (FMA) requires the preparation of annual financial statements for ACT Government Agencies. The FMA and the *Financial Management Guidelines* issued under the FMA, requires the commission's financial statements to include:

- an Operating Statement for the year;
- a Balance Sheet at the end of the year;
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year;
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year;
- a Statement of Appropriation for the year;
- the material accounting policies adopted for the year; and
- other statements as necessary to fairly reflect the financial operations of the commission during the reporting period and its financial position at the end of the year.

These general-purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (as required by the FMA), supplemented by following the ACT Accounting and Disclosure Policies.

ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared according to the historical cost convention.

CURRENCY

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the commission's functional currency.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 2 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

INDIVIDUAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT REPORTING ENTITY

The commission is an individual not-for-profit reporting entity.

REPORTING PERIOD

These financial statements state the financial performance, changes in equity and cash flows of the commission for the year ended 30 June 2026 together with the financial position of the commission as at 30 June 2026.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Budget Figures

To facilitate a comparison with the Budget Papers, as required by the FMA, budget information for 2025-26 has been presented in the financial statements. Budget numbers in the financial statements are the original budget numbers that appear in the Statement of Intent.

Prior Year Comparatives

Comparative information has been disclosed in respect of the previous period for amounts reported in the financial statements, except where an Australian Accounting Standard does not require comparative information to be disclosed.

Where the presentation or classification of items in the financial statements is amended, the comparative amounts have been reclassified where practical. Where a reclassification has occurred, the nature, amount and reason for the reclassification is provided.

ROUNDING

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000). Use of "-" represents zero amounts or amounts rounded down to zero.

GOING CONCERN

The 2025-26 financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the commission largely operates on a user-funded cost recovery basis and the commission's Statement of Intent for the 2026-27 budget and forward estimates demonstrate the commission has adequate resources to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 3 IMPACT OF ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED BUT YET TO BE APPLIED

All Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued but yet to be applied are applicable to future reporting periods and will be adopted from their application date.

Standards and Interpretations issued but yet to be applied have been assessed as not being relevant to the commission or will have an immaterial financial impact on the commission. However, AASB 18 *Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements* (applicable 1 January 2028 for not-for-profit public sector agencies) does contain some major presentation/disclosure changes that will impact on the commission including:

- that operating, investing and financing categories as well as additional subtotals have to be included in the commission's operating statement;
- the disclosure of management-defined performance measures and reconciliations of these measures with the subtotals required by AASB Standards; and
- enhanced requirements for the grouping (aggregation and disaggregation) of information in the financial statements and in the notes.

The AASB has issued an exposure draft (ED 338 *Application of AASB 18 and AASB 107 by Superannuation and Not-for-Profit Entities and Operating Cash Flow Reconciliation*) that outlines modifications to AASB 18 for not-for-profit public sector entities. If these modifications in the exposure draft are adopted, they will effectively enable the commission to continue to broadly apply the existing disclosure requirements contained in AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*. However, as this exposure draft is not yet finalised, the impact on the commission's financial statements from the adoption of AASB 18 cannot be determined at this time.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

INCOME NOTES

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES – INCOME

INCOME RECOGNITION

Revenue is recognised in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* where the contract is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, otherwise income is in the scope of AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

NOTE 4 FEES

Description and Material Accounting Policies relating to Fees

Utility Licence Fees

Utility Licence Fees are recorded under AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* as it constitutes contracts with customers and is an output of the commission's ordinary activities.

Utility licence fees are collected from utilities providing water and wastewater services, electricity transmission and gas transmission services to recover the reasonable costs incurred by the commission, the Technical Regulator and the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) in discharging their respective regulatory responsibilities. These fees are collected under the *Utilities Act 2000*. The fees are based on the estimated cost of regulatory activities for the financial year, which are adjusted based on revised end of year estimates and any over or under collection of fees identified in the current financial year. It is the commission's practice to adjust the fees in the following year if the actual costs incurred at the end of the financial year vary from the original estimate. The commission only records fee income relating to its own activities in its operating statement. Fees received by the commission and ultimately transferred to the Technical Regulator and ACAT are recorded on the Statement of Cash Flows as Licence Fees Collected for Payment to Other Regulators and Payment of Regulatory Costs to Other Regulators.

Material Accounting Judgements and Estimates - Fees

The commission has made material estimates regarding the amount of revenue to be recognised as utility licence fees using an activity-based costing model. The commission's model is used to determine the amount of revenue to be recognised for an activity based on the amount of time commission staff spend on the activity, direct costs associated with the activity and proportional allocation of indirect costs. The commission reviews this model on an ongoing basis and revises the model as appropriate.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Revenue from Regulatory Activities		
Utility Licence Fees ^{a)}	776	865
Total Fees	776	865

a) In 2025-26, lower Utility Licence Fees reflect the completion of our review of the Capital Contribution Code and water models.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 5 SALES OF SERVICES FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

Description and Material Accounting Policies relating to the Sale of Services

The commission earns revenue from user charge services. User charges revenue is derived by providing services to other ACT Government entities and to the public. User charges revenue is legally retained by the commission and driven by consumer demand. During 2025-26, the commission recognised user charges revenue in relation to work undertaken on the pricing investigation to determine the regulated prices of water and sewerage and the pricing investigation into retail electricity supplied to small customers on standard retail contracts.

Revenue is recognised when the commission satisfies the performance obligations which is over time (across the duration of a contract).

Material Accounting Judgements and Estimates – Revenue from Contracts with Customers

The commission has made material judgements and estimates regarding the amount of revenue to be recognised as User Charges under the Sales of Services from Contracts with Customers. The commission has reviewed each contract or agreement in terms of timing of satisfaction of performance obligations and determining the transaction price and the amounts allocated to performance obligations.

Revenue has been recognised when the commission is satisfied that its performance obligations for each contract have been met over time in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15.

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-ACT Government Customers		
User Charges Revenue	77	-
Total Sales of Services from Non-ACT Government Customers	77	-
Total Sales of Services from Contracts with Customers	77	-

User Charges revenue is derived by providing services to other entities, including other ACT Government agencies. User Charges revenue is legally retained by the commission and driven by customer demand.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 6 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME

Description and Material Accounting Policies Relating to Grants and Contributions Income

General Grants and Contributions Accounting Policy

Where the commission receives an asset or services for significantly less than fair value then the transaction is in the scope of AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* and income is recognised on receipt of the asset/services. The related expense and/or asset is recognised in the line item to which it relates, when the services are received.

Services received free of charge from ACT Government agencies are recognised as resources received free of charge, whereas goods and services received free of charge from entities external to the ACT Government are recognised as grants, donations or contributions.

All the services listed below are recognised in the Operating Statement or Balance Sheet as appropriate as services received free of charge given they are reliably measurable and would have been purchased if not provided to the commission free of charge.

Legal Services

Legal Services were received free of charge from the ACT Government Solicitor's Office (GSO). The GSO provided the commission with the fair value of the services provided.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) Resource Received Free of Charge

The commission is required by the ACT Government to use Shared Services for its HR processing. Shared Services is part of CMTEDD. Given Shared Services is directly appropriated by the ACT Government to provide certain services at a fixed cost to the commission, it means that the commission does not have to pay for these services.

Other Grants and Contributions Income

The commission has determined that the Service Level Agreement with CMTEDD relating to 'Other Grants and Contributions Income' does not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations for recognising revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. The purpose of the Service Level Agreement between the CMTEDD and the commission is to provide a mechanism by which the Government provides funding for the operation of the commission for a nominated period which is consistent with the appropriation received by CMTEDD for this purpose. The agreement only broadly specifies performance obligations and as such, AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* has been applied for recognising this income. This income is recognised upon receipt of funds.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 6. GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME - CONTINUED

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Resources Received Free of Charge from ACT Government Entities		
Legal Services	29	18
Shared Services - Fixed Costs	15	12
Total Resources Received Free of Charge	44	30
 Other Grants and Contributions Income		
Service Level Agreement with the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	482	471
Total Other Grants and Contributions Income	482	471
Total Grants and Contributions Income	526	501

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

EXPENSE NOTES

NOTE 7 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

Description and Material Accounting Policies Relating to Employee Expenses

Employee expenses comprise all costs incurred in relation to employing staff including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, annual leave loading, termination payments, workers' compensation insurance premiums, accrued flextime, non-monetary benefits, and other employee benefits and on-cost expenses.

Wages and salaries are recognised in the reporting period when the employee renders services to the commission. They are measured based on the amount paid to employees during the year as well as any wages and salaries due to employees that remain unpaid at the end of the financial year. (See Note 12 Employee Benefits for accrued wages and salaries, and annual and long service leave).

Superannuation Expenses

Employees of the commission will have different superannuation arrangements due to the type of superannuation scheme available at the time of commencing employment, including both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation scheme arrangements.

For employees who are members of the defined benefit Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the commission makes employer superannuation contribution payments to the Territory Banking Account at a rate determined by CMTEDD. The commission also makes productivity superannuation contribution payments on behalf of these employees to the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, which is responsible for administration of the schemes.

For employees who are members of defined contribution superannuation schemes (the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme Accumulation Plan (PSSAP) and schemes of employee choice), the commission makes employer superannuation contribution payments directly to the employees' relevant superannuation fund.

All defined benefit employer superannuation contributions are recognised as expenses on the same basis as the employer superannuation contributions made to defined contribution schemes. The accruing superannuation liability obligations are expensed as they are incurred and extinguished as they are paid.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Wages and Salaries	1,610	1,524
Annual Leave Expense	37	30
Long Service Leave Expense	26	39
Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium	18	17
Superannuation Contributions to the Territory Banking Account	33	-
Productivity Benefit	3	-
Superannuation to External Providers	190	180
Flextime Expense	7	7
Total Employee Expenses^{a)}	1,924	1,797

a) The increase in Employee Expenses relates primarily to higher wages and salaries and the recognition of Superannuation Contributions to the Territory Banking Account. Staffing levels remained relatively stable during the year.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 8 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Description and Material Accounting Policies Relating to Supplies and Services

General – Supplies and Services

Purchases of Supplies and Services generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations, recognised in the reporting period in which these expenses are incurred. Supplies and Services are measured at the amount paid or payable, or where Supplies and Services have been provided free of charge, they are measured at their fair value at the time they are provided.

Professional Services

This includes payments made to consultants and contractors for additional specialised or temporary work required by the commission.

Auditor Service Fees

Auditor fees consist of financial audit services provided to the commission by the ACT Audit Office. No other services were provided by the ACT Audit Office.

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditor Fees	51	53
Information Communication Technology	72	72
Office Rental and Operating Costs	123	118
Professional Services ^{a)}	118	65
Recruitment Costs	3	6
Subscriptions, Memberships and Conferences	36	42
Other	44	45
Total Supplies and Services	447	401

a) Professional Services expenditure increased in 2025-26 due to external contractors assisting with the review of a cost component of regulated electricity prices.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

ASSET NOTES

NOTE 9 CASH

Description and Material Accounting Policies Relating to Cash

The commission managed two bank accounts in 2025-26 with Westpac Banking Corporation. The first account was the commission's operating account, and the second bank account was cash relating to the Licence Fees collected for payment to other regulators and payment of regulatory costs to other regulators.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
(a) Cash Balances		
Cash at Bank	2,678	2,385
Total Cash	2,678	2,385
(b) Reconciliation of Cash at the End of the Reporting Period in the Statement of Cash Flows to the Equivalent Items in the Balance Sheet.		
Total Cash Recorded in the Balance Sheet	2,678	2,385
Cash at the End of the Reporting Period as Recorded in the Statement of Cash Flows	2,678	2,385
(c) Reconciliation of the Operating Result to Net Cash Inflows from Operating Activities		
Operating Result	(59)	80
Cash Before Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities	(59)	80
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities		
Decrease in Receivables	-	257
Decrease/(Increase) in Contract Assets	181	(258)
(Decrease) in Payables	(9)	(78)
Increase/(Decrease) in Contract Liabilities	108	(220)
Increase in Employee Benefits	72	149
Net Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities	352	(150)
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflows) from Operating Activities	293	(70)

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 10 RECEIVABLES AND CONTRACT ASSETS

Description and Material Accounting Policies relating to Receivables and Contract Assets

Accounts Receivables

Accounts receivables are measured at amortised cost, with any adjustments to the carrying amount being recorded in the Operating Statement.

Contract Assets

Contract Assets relate to the commission's right to consideration for work completed but not invoiced at the reporting date in respect of Utility Licence Fees. When a performance obligation is satisfied, before the customer pays consideration or before payment is due, the commission presents the contract as a contract asset, unless the commission's rights to that amount of consideration are unconditional, in which case a receivable is recognised.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current Receivables and Contract Assets		
<i>Current Receivables</i>		
Trade Receivables	-	-
<i>Total Current Receivables</i>	-	-
<i>Current Contract Assets</i>		
Work Performed Related to Contracts with Customers for Utility Licence Fees not yet Invoiced ^{a)}	-	258
Work Performed Related to Contracts with Customers for Electricity Price Investigation not yet Invoiced ^{b)}	77	-
<i>Total Current Contract Assets</i>	77	258
Total Current Receivables and Contract Assets	77	258
Total Receivables and Contract Assets	77	258

No receivables are past due or impaired.

- a) The decrease in Contract Assets relates to work performed on the Utility Licence Fees that was included in the 2025-26 Utility Licence Fee true up.
- b) The Contract Asset of \$77,000 in 2025-26 relates to user charges required to recover costs of a price investigation into retail electricity supplied to small customers on standard retail contracts.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

LIABILITY NOTES

NOTE 11 PAYABLES AND CONTRACT LIABILITIES

Description and Material Accounting Policies relating to Payables and Contract Liabilities

Payables

Payables include Trade Payables, Accrued Expenses and GST Payables.

Payables are initially recognised at fair value based on the transaction cost and, subsequent to initial recognition, at amortised cost, with any adjustments to the carrying amount being recorded in the Operating Statement. All amounts are normally settled within 14 days after the invoice date.

Contract Liabilities

Contract Liabilities relate to consideration received in advance from customers in respect of Utility Licence Fees. When an amount of consideration is received from a customer prior to the commission transferring a good or service to the customer, the balance of consideration which has not been transferred is presented as a contract liability.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current Payables and Contract Liabilities		
<i>Current Payables</i>		
Trade Payables	3	11
Accrued Expenses	57	56
GST Payable	5	7
<i>Total Current Payables</i>	65	74
<i>Current Contract Liabilities</i>		
Amounts Received Related to Contracts with Customers for Utility Licence Fees where the Performance Obligations have not yet been Satisfied ^{a)}	108	-
<i>Total Current Contract Liabilities</i>	108	-
Total Current Payables and Contract Liabilities	173	74

a) The \$108,000 relates to Utility Licence Fees received in advance in 2025-26 for methodology reviews that have been deferred and will be undertaken in 2026-27.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 11 PAYABLES AND CONTRACT LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Payables are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	65	74
Total Payables	65	74
Reconciliation of Contract Liabilities		
Contract Liabilities at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	-	220
Add: Payments received for performance obligations which have not yet been completed at the end of the Reporting Period	108	
Less: Revenue recognised that was Included in the Contract Liability Balance at the beginning of the Reporting Period	-	(220)
Contract Liabilities at the End of the Reporting Period	108	-

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 12 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Description and Material Accounting Policies relating to Employee Benefits

Accrued Wages and Salaries

Accrued wages and salaries are measured at the amount that remains unpaid to employees at the end of the reporting period.

Annual and Long Service Leave

Annual and long service leave including applicable on-costs that are not expected to be wholly settled before twelve months after the end of the reporting period when the employees render the related service are measured at present value of estimated future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period. Consideration is given to the future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. At the end of each reporting period, the present value of future annual leave and long service leave payments are estimated using market yields on Commonwealth Government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash flows.

Annual leave liabilities have been estimated on the assumption that they will be wholly settled within three years. This financial year the rate used to estimate the present value of future:

- annual leave payments is 98.0% (99.5% in the previous financial year)
- payments for long service leave is 95.5% (100.1% in the previous financial year).

The long service leave liability is estimated with reference to the minimum period of qualifying service. For employees with less than the required minimum period of qualifying service (ie 7 years for employees under 55 years and 1 year for employees 55 years or older), the probability that employees will reach the required minimum period has been taken into account in estimating the provision for long service leave and applicable on-costs.

On-costs only become payable if the employee takes annual and long service leave while in-service. The probability that employees will take annual and long service leave while in-service has been taken into account in estimating the liability for on-costs.

Significant judgements have been applied in estimating the annual and long service leave liabilities, given that the commission uses the Whole-of-Government present value, probability and on-cost factors. These factors are issued by ACT Treasury and apply to all ACT Government Agencies. ACT Treasury organises an actuarial review to be undertaken every three by the Australian Government Actuary to estimate each of these factors. The latest assessment was undertaken in December 2024 and early 2025, with the next review expected to be undertaken by late 2027.

Annual leave and long service leave liabilities are classified as current liabilities in the Balance Sheet where there are no unconditional rights to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months. Conditional long service leave liabilities are classified as non-current because the commission has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

Superannuation Liability

The employer superannuation benefits payable to commission employees, who are members of the defined benefit CSS or PSS Schemes, are recognised in the financial statements of the Superannuation Provision Account.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 12 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – CONTINUED

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current Employee Benefits		
Annual Leave	287	249
Long Service Leave	290	263
Accrued Salaries	69	60
Flexitime	7	7
Total Current Employee Benefits	653	579
Non-Current Employee Benefits		
Long Service Leave	18	20
Total Non-Current Employee Benefits	18	20
Total Employee Benefits	671	599
Estimate of when Leave is Payable		
Estimated Amount Payable within 12 months		
Annual Leave	171	149
Accrued Salaries	69	60
Flexitime	7	7
Total Employee Benefits Payable within 12 months	247	216
Estimated Amount Payable after 12 months		
Annual Leave	115	100
Long Service Leave	309	283
Total Employee Benefits Payable after 12 months	424	383
Total Employee Benefits ^{a)}	671	599

As at 30 June 2026 the commission employed 10.0 full time equivalent (FTE) staff. There were 9.0 FTE staff at 30 June 2025.

a) The increase in employee benefits is primarily due to the accumulation of annual leave and long service leave entitlements. Staffing levels remained relatively consistent with the prior year.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 13 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Material Accounting Policies Relating to Financial Instruments

Details of the material policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, with respect to each class of financial asset and financial liability are disclosed in each respective note. In addition to these policies, the following are also accounting policies relating to financial assets and liabilities.

Financial assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income or fair value through profit or loss on the basis of both:

- (a) the business model for managing the financial assets; and
- (b) the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

The following are the classification of commission's financial assets under AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*.

Items	Business Model	Solely for payment of Principal and Interest	Classification
	Held to collect principal and interest/sell	SPPI Test (basic lending characteristics)	
Cash	Held to collect	Yes	Amortised cost
Accounts Receivables	Held to collect	Yes	Amortised cost
Contract Assets	Held to collect	Yes	Amortised cost

Financial Liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

A greater proportion of financial assets are held in floating interest rate arrangements, compared to financial liabilities that are subject to floating interest rates. This means that the commission is not significantly exposed to movements in interest payable; however, it is exposed to movements in interest receivable. Interest rates decreased during the year ended 30 June 2026 and, as such, have resulted in a decrease in the amount of interest received. There have been no changes in risk exposure or processes for managing risk since last financial reporting period.

Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis has not been undertaken for the interest rate risk of the commission as it has been determined that the possible impact on income and expenses or total equity from fluctuations in interest rates is immaterial.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 13 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS - CONTINUED

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The commission's credit risk is limited to the amount of the financial assets it holds net of any provision for impairment.

Credit risk is managed by the commission for cash at bank by holding bank balances with the ACT Government's appointed transactional bank, Westpac Banking Corporation (Westpac). S&P Global Ratings has assigned a AA- issuer credit rating to Westpac. A 'AA-' credit rating means the obligor has a 'very strong to strong capacity to meet its financial commitments'.

The commission's receivables are predominantly from other ACT Government entities and entities where the ACT Government has entered into a joint venture agreement with a third party. Inter-agency receivables between ACT Government agencies are generally expected to have low credit risks and therefore the commission does not recognise any loss allowance for receivables collectible from other ACT Government agencies consolidated into the whole-of-government financial statements. The commission expects to collect all financial assets that are not past due or impaired, noting that no loss allowance is recognised for receivables collectible from other ACT Government agencies.

There have been no significant changes in credit risk exposure since last reporting period.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the commission will encounter difficulties in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. To limit its exposure to liquidity risk, the commission ensures that at any particular point in time it has a sufficient amount of funds in its bank account to meet its current financial liabilities. This is achieved by constantly monitoring receivables and payables levels and ensuring ongoing cash flows are sufficient to meet the commission's obligations as they fall due.

The commission's exposure to liquidity risk is low and the management of this risk has not changed since the previous reporting period.

Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The carrying amount and fair values of financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	Not No.	Carrying Amount 2026 \$'000	Fair Value 2026 \$'000	Carrying Amount 2025 \$'000	Fair Value 2025 \$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash	9	2,678	2,678	2,385	2,385
Receivables and Contract Assets	10	77	77	258	258
Total Financial Assets		2,755	2,755	2,643	2,643
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	11	60	60	67	67
Total Financial Liabilities		60	60	67	67

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 14 COMMITMENTS

Description and Material Accounting Policies Relating to Commitments

Commitments are a firm intention, but not a present obligation, at the end of the reporting period to incur future expenditure. As such, commitments do not constitute a liability. Commitments usually arise from contracts but can arise from other things like placing an order.

Commitments are measured at their nominal value and are inclusive of GST.

Other Commitments

Other Commitments contracted at reporting date but not recognised as liabilities, are payable as follows:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Within One Year	49	47
Later than One Year but not later than Five Years	6	14
Later than Five Years	-	1
Total Other Commitments	55	62

The commission's Other Commitments for 2025-26 relate to professional services and outsourced strategic accounting services that are performed by Shared Services. It also includes non-cancellable low value commitments that have not been recorded as lease liabilities under AASB 16 which relate to the provision of ICT equipment with Digital Canberra (DCBR).

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 15 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Description and Material Accounting Policies Relating to Related Party Disclosures

A related party is a person that controls or has significant influence over the reporting entity or is a member of the Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the reporting entity or its parent entity and includes their close family members and entities in which the KMP and/or their close family members individually or jointly have controlling interests.

KMP are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the commission, directly or indirectly.

KMP of the commission are the Senior Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer.

The Head of Service and the ACT Executive, comprising the Cabinet Ministers are KMP of the ACT Government and therefore related parties of the Commission.

This note does not include typical citizen transactions between the KMP and the commission that occur on terms and conditions no different to those applying to the general public.

(A) Controlling Entity

The commission is an ACT Government controlled entity.

(B) Key Management Personnel

B.1 Compensation of Key Management Personnel

Compensation of all Cabinet Ministers, including the Portfolio Minister, is disclosed in the note on related party disclosures included in the ACT Executive's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Compensation of the Head of Service is included in the note on related party disclosures included in CMTEDD's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Compensation by the commission to KMP is set out below.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	380	368
Post-employment benefits	45	43
Other long-term benefits	9	9
Total Compensation by the commission to KMP	434	420

B.2 Transactions with Key Management Personnel

There were no transactions with KMP that were material to the financial statements of the commission.

B.3 Transactions with parties related to Key Management Personnel

There were no transactions with parties related to KMP that were material to the financial statements of the commission.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 15 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

(C) Transactions with other ACT Government Controlled Entities

The commission has entered into transactions with other ACT Government entities in 2024-25 and 2025-26 consistent with day-to-day business operations provided under varying terms and conditions. The notes to the Financial Statements provide the details of transactions with other ACT Government Entities. Below is a summary of the material transactions with other ACT Government Entities.

Revenue

- Appropriation (Statement of Appropriation) – the commission receives ongoing funding in the form of Controlled Recurrent Payment appropriation from the ACT Government through the Territory Banking Account.
- Fees (Note 4) – the commission received approximately \$768,000 of Utility Licence Fees revenue from Icon Water Limited.
- Grants and Contributions Revenue (Note 6) – the commission received \$483,000 from CMTEDD for its funding operation as part of the Service Level Agreement.

Expenses

- Supplies and Services (Note 8) – the commission had a total of \$324,000 of expenses in 2025-26 with various ACT Government Entities. These entities include the ACT Property Group for office rent and operating expenses, the ACT Audit Office for audit services, insurance premiums paid to the ACT Insurance Authority, Digital Data & Technology Solutions for IT services and equipment and Financial Services expenses with Shared Services.

Liabilities

- Payables (Note 11) – the commission had \$57,000 in trade payables and accrued expenses with the ACT Audit Office for audit services and Digital Data & Technology Solutions for IT services and equipment at the end of 2025-26.
- Contract Liabilities (Note 11) – the commission had \$108,000 in contract liabilities in respect of Utility Licence Fees from Icon Water Limited.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 16 BUDGETARY REPORTING

Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates – Budgetary Reporting

Significant judgements have been applied in determining what variances are considered ‘major variances’. Variances are considered major if both of the following criteria are met:

- The line item is a significant line item: where either the line item actual amount accounts for more than 10% of the relevant associated category (Income, Expenses and Equity totals) or more than 10% of the sub-element (e.g. Current Liabilities and Receipts from Operating Activities totals) of the financial statements; and
- The variances (original budget to actual) are greater than plus (+) or minus (-) 10% and \$30,000 of the budget for the financial statement line item.

Operating Statement Line Items	Actual 2026 \$'000	Original Budget 2026 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Fees ^{a)}	776	882	(106)	(12.0)
Supplies and Services ^{b)}	447	499	(52)	(10.4)

Variance Explanations

a) The budget variance of \$106,000 in Fees mainly relates to lower than expected regulatory activities in 2025-26, consistent with the underlying contract liability recognised at 30 June.

b) The budget variance of \$52,000 in Supplies and Services is mainly due to a decrease in professional services expenditure for water and sewage reviews in 2025-26.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 16 BUDGETARY REPORTING – CONTINUED

Balance Sheet Line Items	Actual 2026 \$'000	Original Budget 2026 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Cash ^{c)}	2,678	2,393	285	12
Receivables ^{d)}	-	331	(331)	(100)
Contract Assets ^{e)}	77	-	77	100
Employee Benefits - Current ^{f)}	653	456	197	43
Contract Liabilities ^{g)}	108	220	(112)	(51)

Variance Explanations

c) The budget variance in Cash mainly reflects the budgeted outstanding receivable being received.

d) The budget variance in Receivables is due to the payment of the previously outstanding electricity price investigation invoice.

e) The budget variance of in Contract Assets is relates to the recovery of costs of a price investigation into retail electricity supplied to small customers on standard retail contracts that will be invoiced in 2026-27.

f) The budget variance in Employee Benefits - Current is due to lower than expected employee leave taken.

g) The budget variance in Contract Liabilities reflects reduced general regulatory activities in 2025-26.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

NOTE 16 BUDGETARY REPORTING – CONTINUED

Statement of Cash Flows Line Items	Actual 2026 \$'000	Original Budget 2026 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Fees ^{h)}	1,142	882	260	29
Licence fees collected for payment to other Regulators ⁱ⁾	788	-	788	100
Supplies and Services ^{j)}	411	518	(107)	(21)
Payment of regulatory costs to other Regulators ^{k)}	788	-	788	100

Variance Explanations

h) The budget variance in Fees mainly relates to the 2025-26 collection of the Utility Licence Fee Contract Asset held at the end of 2024-25.

i) The budget variance of \$788,000 in Licence Fees Collected for Payment to Other Regulators is due to this cash previously being accounted for as third party monies. After the publication of the budget, the commission assessed that these monies are now considered to be controlled by the commission and are disclosed on the Statement of Cash Flows.

j) The budget variance of \$107,000 in Supplies and Services mainly relates to GST remittances.

k) The budget variance of \$788,000 in Payment of Regulatory Costs to Other Regulators is due to this cash previously being accounted for as third party monies. After the publication of the budget, the commission assessed that these monies are now considered to be controlled by the commission and are disclosed on the Statement of Cash Flows.

APPENDIX 2 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE AND INDEPENDENT LIMITED ASSURANCE REPORT

- Independent Limited Assurance Report
- Statement of Responsibility – Chief Executive Officer
- Statement of Performance for the year ended 30 June 2026

INDEPENDENT LIMITED ASSURANCE REPORT

To the Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly

Conclusion

I have undertaken a limited assurance engagement on the statement of performance of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (Commission) for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Based on the procedures performed and evidence obtained, nothing has come to my attention to indicate the results of the accountability indicators reported in the statement of performance for the year ended 30 June 2026 are not in agreement with the Commission's records or do not fairly reflect, in all material respects, the performance of the Commission, in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

Basis for conclusion

I have conducted the engagement in accordance with the Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*. My responsibilities under the standard and legislation are described in the 'Auditor-General's responsibilities' section of this report.

I have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and the ACT Audit Office applies Australian Auditing Standard ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*.

I believe that sufficient and appropriate evidence was obtained to provide a basis for my conclusion.

Commission's responsibilities for the statement of performance

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- preparing and fairly presenting the statement of performance in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*; and
- determining the internal controls necessary for the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of performance so that the results of accountability indicators and accompanying information are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud.

Auditor-General's responsibilities

Under the *Financial Management Act 1996* and *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*, the Auditor-General is responsible for issuing a limited assurance report on the statement of performance of the Commission.

My objective is to provide limited assurance on whether anything has come to my attention that indicates the results of the accountability indicators reported in the statement of performance are not in agreement with the Commission's records or do not fairly reflect, in all material respects, the performance of the Commission, in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

In a limited assurance engagement, I perform procedures such as making inquiries with representatives of the Commission, performing analytical review procedures and examining selected evidence supporting the results of accountability indicators. The procedures used depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the results reported for the accountability indicators.

Limitations on the scope

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement are less in extent than those required in a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently the level of assurance obtained is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Accordingly, I do not express a reasonable assurance opinion on the statement of performance.

This limited assurance engagement does not provide assurance on the:

- relevance or appropriateness of the accountability indicators reported in the statement of performance or the related performance targets;
- accuracy of explanations provided for variations between actual and targeted performance due to the often subjective nature of such explanations; or
- adequacy of controls implemented by the Commission.

Tim Larnach
Audit Principal, Financial Audit
1 September 2026



INDEPENDENT COMPETITION AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

Statement of Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Statement of Responsibility

In my opinion, the Statement of Performance is in agreement with the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's records and fairly reflects the service performance of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 and also fairly reflects the judgements exercised in preparing the Statement of Performance for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Phillips', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lachlan Phillips
Chief Executive Officer
26 August 2026

Table 4: Statement of performance for the year ended 30 June 2026

Key Performance accountability indicators	Target 2025-26	Actual result 2025-26	Variance from target	Explanation of material variances	Notes
Water and sewerage services pricing	Annual price adjustment	Annual price adjustment	-		1
Retail electricity pricing	Annual price adjustment	Annual price adjustment	-		2
Utilities compliance and performance monitoring	1 report	1 report	-		3
Utility licence fees (water, sewerage services and energy sector utilities not subject to energy industry levy)	Licence fees determination and collection	Licence fees determination and collection	-		4
Utility levies (energy sector)	4 determinations	4 determinations	-		5
Industry Code determinations	1 determination	1 determination	-		6
Capital Contributions Code (water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades)	1 annual review and 1 approval of precinct map update if required	1 annual review and 1 approval of precinct map update	-		7
Advice on industry-related matters or competition policy issues	Subject to receipt of references	No references received	Not applicable		

The above accountability indicators were reviewed by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

Explanation of accountability indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026

The Statement of Performance is to be read in conjunction with the following information:

Notes

1. On 2 June 2026, we announced the maximum prices that Icon Water can charge for its regulated water and sewerage services from 1 July 2026 in accordance with the price direction for 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028²⁷. The report is available on our website: *Report 3 of 2026 – Regulated water and sewerage services: 2026-27 price adjustment*²⁸.
2. On 26 May 2026, we announced the maximum average percentage change by which ActewAGL can increase its regulated retail tariffs under our price direction for standing offer electricity prices for small customers from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027²⁹. The report is available on our website: *Report 2 of 2026 – Retail electricity price recalibration 2026-27: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers*³⁰.
3. Licensed utilities providing certain infrastructure services must submit a Utility Licence Annual Report that details how they met their non-technical licence conditions, relevant laws, industry codes, and other relevant regulatory obligations in the relevant year. On 18 February 2026, we published a monitoring report on the utilities' performance in 2024-2025. The report is available on our website: *Report 1 of 2026 – Utility Licence Annual Report (ULAR) and National Energy Retail Law (NERL) Retailer Compliance Report 2024-25*.³¹ The report also includes a section on how well the NERL retailers performed in delivering services and complying with customer protections.
4. We determined the annual licence fees payable by certain licensed utilities under the *Utilities Act 2000* for the year ending 30 June 2026 and collected those fees accordingly. The *Utilities (Annual Licence Fees Determination 2025-26) Notice 2025* was notified on 29 September 2026 and can be accessed on the ACT Legislation Register³² or through our website.³³

²⁷ [Regulated water and sewerage services \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

²⁸ [Regulated water and sewerage services: 2026-27 price adjustment \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

²⁹ [Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³⁰ [Retail electricity price recalibration 2026-27 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³¹ [Utility Licence Annual Report \(ULAR\) Monitoring Report 2024-25 \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³² [Utilities \(Annual Licence Fees Determination 2025-26\) Notice 2025 \(www.legislation.act.gov.au\)](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au)

³³ [Licence Fees and the Energy Industry Levy \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](https://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

5. As the Levy Administrator, the commission's Chief Executive Officer made 4 determinations under Part 3A of the *Utilities Act 2000* for the year ending 30 June 2026. These determinations are used to impose a levy on energy utilities to recover the ACT's national and local regulatory costs of regulating the energy industry sectors. The following determinations were published on 29 September 2025 and can be accessed on the ACT Legislation Register³⁴ or through our website³⁵:
- *Utilities (Energy industry levy – national regulatory costs) Determination 2025*;
 - *Utilities (Energy industry levy – local regulatory costs) Determination 2025*;
 - *Utilities (Energy industry levy – net regulatory cost) Determination 2025*; and
 - *Utilities (Energy industry levy – other) Determination 2025*.
6. On 1 September 2025 we released our final report and a revised Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code³⁶. These are available on our website *Report 5 of 2025 – Review of Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code*³⁷ and *Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code*³⁸
7. On 2 June 2026, we approved the updated precinct map for 2026-27 submitted by Icon Water and set the 2026-27 capital contributions charge for water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades under the Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code³⁸ made under section 58 of the *Utilities Act 2000*. The updated precinct map for 2026-27 is available on our website.³⁹ A summary of our review of the precinct map and capital contributions charge is included in our report on the annual adjustment of the prices Icon Water can charge for regulated water and sewerage services for 2026-27, which is available on our website *Report 3 of 2026 – Regulated water and sewerage services: 2026-27 price adjustment*.⁴⁰

³⁴ [Utilities \(Energy industry levy – national regulatory costs\) Determination 2025 \(www.legislation.act.gov.au\)](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)
[Utilities \(Energy industry levy – local regulatory costs\) Determination 2025 \(www.legislation.act.gov.au\)](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)
[Utilities \(Energy industry levy – net regulatory cost\) Determination 2025 \(www.legislation.act.gov.au\)](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)
[Utilities \(Energy industry levy – other\) Determination 2025 \(www.legislation.act.gov.au\)](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)

³⁵ [Licence Fees and the Energy Industry Levy \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³⁶ [Review of Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³⁷ [Review of Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³⁸ [Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

³⁹ [Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

⁴⁰ [Regulated water and sewerage services: 2026-27 price adjustment \(www.icrc.act.gov.au\)](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au)

APPENDIX 3 SECTION 9 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 9 of the ICRC Act sets out specific reporting requirements the commission must address in its annual report:

- investigations
- final reports and special reports
- price directions
- advice about proposed access agreements
- the number of access agreements notified
- arbitration disputes
- determinations of arbitration disputes
- number of notices issued under section 41
- general use by the commission of information and documents obtained as a result of notices issued under section 41
- any other functions exercised by the commission.

Investigations

Pursuant to section 16 of the ICRC Act, the Treasurer directed the Commission to determine a price direction for the standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers who consume less than 100MWh of electricity over any period of 12 consecutive months. The Treasurer issued the Terms of Reference (DI2026-95) on 12 June 2026. We will undertake this work over the 2026-27 regulatory period.

Final reports and special reports

Review of Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code

On 1 September 2025, we published our final report on the review of the Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code.

2024-25 Utilities Licence Annual Report (ULAR) monitoring report

On 18 February 2026, we published our monitoring report on the 2024-25 utility licence annual reports (ULAR) and National Energy Retail Law (NERL) Retailer Compliance Report.

Retail electricity price recalibration 2026-27

On 25 May 2026, we released the recalibration of standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers on ActewAGL's regulated tariffs for the financial year beginning 1 July 2026.

Regulated water and sewerage services – 2026-27 price adjustment

On 2 June 2026, we released the annual update of regulated water and sewerage services prices for 2026-27. The report sets out the maximum prices that Icon Water can charge customers for the financial year beginning 1 July 2026.

Review of sewerage tariff and liquid trade waste charging

On 6 November 2025, we released the issues paper for the sewerage tariff and liquid trade waste charging review. The commission will release a draft report during the 2026-27 regulatory period.

Review of the Consumer Protection Code 2020

On 4 June 2026, we released the issues paper for the review of the Consumer Protection Code. The commission will release a draft report during the 2026-27 regulatory period.

ACT Retail Electricity Market Monitoring Report

On 4 December 2025 we published the ACT Retail Electricity Market Monitoring Report 2025. This is a new report we will publish annually. The monitoring report focuses on retail electricity price trends and market competition outcomes, with the aim of increasing customers' awareness and assist with their decision-making.

Access agreements

Our responsibilities for access agreements, in relation to infrastructure facilities, are set out in Part 5 of the ICRC Act. We did not receive any notifications under Part 5 in 2025-26.

Arbitration of disputes

Part 6 of the ICRC Act provides for disputes about an access regime to be referred to the commission for arbitration. No disputes were referred to us in 2025-26.

Notices issued under section 41 and general use of information obtained

Section 41 of the ICRC Act provides that we can, by written notice, require a person to give us information or a document that may assist us in exercising our functions. No section 41 notices were issued in 2025-26.

Other functions exercised by the commission

Section 8(1)(g) and section 8(2) of the ICRC Act set out other functions of the commission. We exercised the following functions under the ICRC Act and Utilities Act in 2025-26:⁴¹

- utility licence annual reporting under section 25(2)(d) Utilities Act.
- determination of the energy industry levy under sections 54E, 54F, 54GA and 54H Utilities Act (NI2025-529), NI2025-530, NI2025-532, NI2025-533).
- determination of the annual licence fee under section 52 Utilities Act (NI2025-520).

⁴¹ Notifiable (NI) and disallowable (DI) instruments are available on the ACT Legislation Register website at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/>

APPENDIX 4 ANNUAL REPORTS (GOVERNMENT AGENCIES) COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Commission must comply with the 2026 Annual Report Directions (NI2026-218). The Directions are on the ACT Legislation Register: www.legislation.act.gov.au.

This Compliance Statement indicates the subsections under Parts 1 to 5 of the Directions that are applicable to the commission and the location of information that satisfies these requirements.

Part 1 Directions overview

The requirements under Part 1 of the Directions relate to the purpose, timing and distribution, and record keeping of annual reports. The commission has complied with all subsections of Part 1 of the Directions.

To meet section 15: Feedback in Part 1 of the Directions, our contact details are included in this Annual Report to help readers provide feedback.

Part 2 Annual report requirements

The information that satisfies the requirements of Part 2 is in this Annual Report as follows:

- A. Transmittal Certificate
- B. Organisational Overview and Performance, inclusive of all subsections
- C. Financial Management Reporting, inclusive of all subsections

Part 3 Reporting by exception

We have no information to report by exception under Part 3 of the Directions for 2025-26.

Part 4 Annual report requirements for specific reporting entities

Part 4 sets out the reporting requirements on subjects that only apply to the annual reports of specific reporting entities. The following subsection of Part 4 of the 2026 Directions is applicable to the commission and is included in this Annual Report:

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997, section 9 reporting requirements—Appendix 3.

Part 5 Whole of government annual reporting

All subsections of Part 5 of the Directions apply to the commission. Consistent with the Directions, the information satisfying these requirements is reported in one place for all ACT Public Service directorates and agencies, as follows:

- Bushfire Risk Management—Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual report
- Human Rights—Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual report
- Legal Services Directions—Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual report
- Territory Records—Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic, Development Directorate annual report

ACT Public Service Directorate annual reports are available at [Annual Reports - ACT Government Transparency Portal](#).

Under Attachment A Table A.1 2026 Directions the commission is required to provide a standalone report.

APPENDIX 5 COMMISSION'S PUBLICATIONS 2025-26

Report Number	Report Title
Report 5 of 2025	Review of Water and Sewerage Capital Contribution Code - Final Report (September 2025)
Report 6 of 2025	Annual Report (October 2025)
Report 7 of 2025	Review of sewerage tariff and liquid trade waste charging - Issues Paper (November 2025)
Report 8 of 2025	ACT Retail electricity market monitoring report 2025 (December 2025)
Report 1 of 2026	Monitoring Report on the 2024-25 Utility Licence Annual Report (February 2026)
Report 2 of 2026	Retail electricity price recalibration 2026-27: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers (May 2026)
Report 3 of 2026	Regulated water and sewerage services: 2026-27 price adjustment (June 2026)
Report 4 of 2026	Review of Consumer Protection Code - Issues Paper (June 2026)

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
ABN	Australian Business Number
ACAT	ACT Civil Administrative Tribunal
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
CCC	Consumer Consultative Committee
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Consumer Protection Code	Consumer Protection Code 2020
CRP	Controlled Recurrent Payments
DI	Disallowable instrument
FOI	Freedom of information
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 2016</i>
FTE	Full-time equivalent
FY	Financial year
Human Rights Act	<i>Human Rights Act 2004</i>
ICRC	Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
ICRC Act	<i>Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997</i>
NERL	National Energy Retail Law
NSW	New South Wales
NI	Notifiable instrument
UTR	Utilities Technical Regulator
Utilities Act	<i>Utilities Act 2000</i>



ICRC

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