

Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2015-16

DECEMBER 2015

Statement by

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Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia
and
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Minister for Finance of the Commonwealth of Australia

For the information of honourable members

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NOTES

- (a) The following definitions are used in this Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO):
- 'real' means adjusted for the effect of inflation;
 - real growth in expenses and payments is calculated by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the deflator;
 - the Budget year refers to 2015-16, while the forward years refer to 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19; and
 - one billion is equal to one thousand million.
- (b) Figures in tables and generally in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components are due to rounding:
- estimates under \$100,000 are rounded to the nearest thousand;
 - estimates \$100,000 and over are generally rounded to the nearest tenth of a million;
 - estimates midway between rounding points are rounded up; and
 - the percentage changes in statistical tables are calculated using unrounded data.
- (c) For the budget balance, a negative sign indicates a deficit while no sign indicates a surplus.
- (d) The following notations are used:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| - | nil |
| na | not applicable (unless otherwise specified) |
| \$m | millions of dollars |
| \$b | billions of dollars |
| nfp | not for publication |
| (e) | estimates (unless otherwise specified) |
| (p) | projections (unless otherwise specified) |
| NEC/nec | not elsewhere classified |

- (e) The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are referred to as 'the Territories'. References to the 'States' or 'each State' include the Territories. The following abbreviations are used for the names of the States, where appropriate:

NSW	New South Wales
VIC	Victoria
QLD	Queensland
WA	Western Australia
SA	South Australia
TAS	Tasmania
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NT	Northern Territory

- (f) In this paper the term Commonwealth refers to the Commonwealth of Australia. The term is used when referring to the legal entity of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The term Australian Government is used when referring to the Government and the decisions and activities made by the Government on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia.

FOREWORD

The *Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2015-16* (MYEFO) has been prepared in accordance with the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*. The Charter requires that the Government provide a mid-year budget report which provides updated information on the Government's fiscal position.

Consistent with these requirements:

- **Part 1: Overview** – contains summary information on the key fiscal and economic indicators and outlook.
- **Part 2: Economic outlook** – discusses the domestic and international economic forecasts and projections that underpin the budget estimates.
- **Part 3: Fiscal strategy and outlook** – provides a discussion of the fiscal strategy and outlook, in addition to a summary of the factors explaining variations in the cash flow statement, the operating statement and the balance sheet since the 2015-16 Budget. This part includes discussion of the sensitivity of the budget estimates to changes in economic parameters, confidence intervals around forecasts, expenses by function, tax expenditures, payments to the States, and a debt statement.
- **Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2015-16 Budget** – provides details of decisions taken since the 2015-16 Budget that affect revenue, expense and capital estimates.
- **Appendix B: Australian Government Budget Financial Statements** – provides financial statements for the general government, public non-financial corporations and total non-financial public sectors.
- **Appendix C: Statement of risks** – provides details of general developments or specific events that may have an impact on the fiscal position, and contingent liabilities which are costs the government may possibly face, some of which are quantified.
- **Appendix D: Historical Australian Government data** – provides historical data for the Australian Government's key fiscal aggregates.

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