



Australian Government

Comcare

Safety, Rehabilitation and
Compensation Commission

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2026–27

For activities and functions of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission and Comcare under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and Work Health and Safety Act 2011 relating to self-insured licensees under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*

Cost recovery involves government entities charging individuals or non-government organisations some or all of the efficient costs of a regulatory activity. This may include goods, services or regulation, or a combination of them. The Australian Government Charging Framework, which incorporates the Cost Recovery Guidelines (the CRGs)¹, sets out the framework under which government entities design, implement and review regulatory charging activities.

1. The Australian Government Charging Framework and the CRGs are available on the Department of Finance website (www.finance.gov.au).

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS)

This CRIS provides information on how the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) and Comcare implement cost recovery for their respective activities and functions under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act) and *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act)¹ relating to self-insured licensees under the SRC Act.

It also reports financial and non-financial performance information for these activities and contains financial forecasts for 2026–27 and three forward years. The SRCC and Comcare will maintain the CRIS until the activities or cost recovery for the activities has been discontinued.

1.2 Background

SRCC

The SRCC is established under section 89A of the SRC Act. The SRCC administers functions under the SRC Act, other than those functions attributed to Comcare. The SRC Act establishes the workers' compensation scheme covering Commonwealth employees and the employees of licensed entities.

The SRCC has several general and specific roles and functions conferred on it by the SRC Act and the WHS Act. The roles and functions under the SRC Act are to:

- > ensure that, as far as practicable, there is equity of outcomes resulting from administrative practices and procedures used by Comcare and a licensee in the performance of their respective functions under the SRC Act
- > advise the Minister about anything relating to the operation of the SRC Act or to the SRCC's functions or powers
- > prepare and issue general policy guidelines to Comcare or licensees in relation to their respective powers and functions
- > be the issuing authority and regulator of self-insurance licences, including setting licence fees
- > provide guidelines on the setting of premiums and a review point (if required) for employers' premium and regulatory contribution determinations
- > undertake other functions as conferred on the SRCC by any other Act.

Under the WHS Act, the functions of the SRCC are to:

- > advise the Minister on the administration of the WHS Act
- > advise and make recommendations to the Minister on the most effective means of giving effect to the objects of the WHS Act
- > enquire into and make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relating to work health and safety referred to the SRCC by the Minister
- > provide a forum for consultation between Comcare and persons conducting business or undertakings, workers and the bodies that represent them.

¹ Most licensees commencing after 1 January 2012 are not covered by the WHS Act unless coverage under the WHS Act is prescribed by the Minister or provided for in legislation.

Comcare

Comcare is established under the SRC Act. Comcare has regulatory functions and responsibilities under the SRC Act and WHS Act. Comcare also has non-regulatory responsibilities under the *Asbestos-related Claims (Management of Commonwealth Liabilities) Act 2005*, *Parliamentary Injury Compensation Scheme Instrument 2016* and the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*.

Comcare is the Commonwealth work health and safety regulator, a workers' compensation scheme administrator and an insurer and claims manager. It works with employees and employers to minimise the incidence and impact of harm in the workplace, improve recovery and return to work outcomes, and support engagement and better practice approaches to health and safety across the Comcare scheme. Comcare also provides support through expert advice and services to the SRCC and the Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority).

Comcare's purpose is to promote and enable safe and healthy work. Comcare focuses its efforts and investments to deliver against, and make an impact towards, two strategic priorities to achieve its purpose:

- > prevent work related injuries
- > deliver better return to work outcomes.

These strategic priorities reflect the different functions of Comcare and how we approach the prevention – early intervention – injury management – compensation and rehabilitation continuum. In delivering on the priorities, Comcare has a focus on psychological injury, to respond to the rise in work-related notifications and claims, and to recognise that the nature of work and workplaces is evolving.

Comcare's enabling priorities are drivers to building capability and ensure the agency can effectively deliver its strategic priorities:

- > making data driven decisions
- > uplifting leadership, effectiveness and efficiency
- > delivering client-centric services.

1.3 Description of the activity

Comcare and the SRCC regulate entities that have been granted a self-insurance licence (licensees) under the Comcare scheme. These activities support licensees meeting the requirements of the SRC Act, the WHS Act and any requirements of a licensee's licence. Comcare and the SRCC recover the costs of these activities through licence fees.

Cost recovery is appropriate because:

- > the activities can be attributed to a defined group of users (licensees) and costs can be allocated to activities in a reasonable and transparent manner;
- > licensees hold the approval through their self-insurance licence to accept and manage their own workers' compensation claims; and
- > the application of cost recovery is consistent with the government's policy objectives.

Costs are payable by:

- > organisations that have been granted a self-insurance licence (licensee); or
- > organisations that apply for a self-insurance licence from the SRCC (prospective licensee).

2. Policy and statutory authority to cost recover

2.1 Government policy approval to cost recover the activity

The legislative process, including Explanatory Memoranda for the original and amending legislation, and the passage of the SRC Act and the WHS Act by the Australian parliament, provides evidence of Government policy approval to cost recover activities related to licensees.

2.2 Statutory authority to charge

Licence Application Fees and Licence Fees

Section 102(2) establishes the authority for the SRCC to charge, in respect of a self-insurance licence application, an application fee equal to the amount estimated by the SRCC to be the cost of considering the application.

Section 104A of the SRC Act establishes the authority for the SRCC to charge for its regulatory functions and activities, and the regulatory functions and activities of Comcare by issuing licence fees.

The SRCC, acting under section 89R(1) of the SRC Act, has delegated the function of estimating and notifying the amount payable for licence application and licence fees to the CEO of Comcare.

3. Cost recovery model

The cost recovery model allocates costs to three main pools:

- > Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission
- > Comcare (WHS Act functions and activities)
- > Comcare (SRC Act functions and activities).

Diagram 1 shows this in further detail.

Diagram 1: Cost recovery model

SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION AND COMCARE COST RECOVERY—CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW OF CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS

	SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION		COMCARE (WHS ACT FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES)		COMCARE (SRC ACT FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES)	
Functions and activities:	<p>Ongoing functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ensure equity of outcomes > Advise the Minister > Issue guidelines > Reviews (premiums etc) > Determine licence fees <p>Self-insurance licences (monitor)</p> <p>WHS consultation forum</p>	<p>Variable functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Self-insurance licences (applications, financial monitoring and regulatory actions, renewal) > SRCC continuous improvement 	<p>Ongoing functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advise the Minister > Advise and inform on WHS > Promote and support education and training > Collect, analyse and publish statistics relating to WHS > Encourage relationships between duty holders and persons to whom they owe duties > Information sharing across jurisdictions 	<p>Variable functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Monitor and enforce compliance > Comcare WHS continuous improvement 	<p>Ongoing functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advise the Minister > Cooperate with other bodies > Research > Promote rehabilitation strategies > Publish guidelines and materials > Determine regulatory contributions and collect > Collect licence fees > Maintain contact with rehabilitation authorities > Part III rehabilitation powers 	<p>Variable functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Research (individual requests) > Comcare SRC Act continuous improvement
Types of operating costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SRCC costs 2. SRCC support costs (eg secretariat, account management, legal services) 3. Corporate costs (property, ICT etc) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence application costs 2. Monitoring and regulatory action costs 3. Prudential and financial costs 4. SRCC continuous improvement project costs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comcare costs (WHS) 2. Corporate costs (property, ICT etc) 3. Legal costs (WHS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comcare costs for enforcement actions 2. Comcare costs for WHS audits (premium payers) 3. Comcare continuous improvement project costs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comcare costs (SRC) 2. Corporate costs (property, ICT etc) 3. Legal costs (SRC) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research requests costs 2. Comcare costs for regulatory activities 3. Comcare continuous improvement project costs
Paid by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Licensees > Entities and Commonwealth Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Licence applicants > Licensees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Entities, Commonwealth Authorities and Public Authorities > Licensees covered by the WHS Act > Australian Defence Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Entities, Commonwealth Authorities and Public Authorities > Licensees covered by the WHS Act > Australian Defence Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Entities and Commonwealth Authorities > Licensees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Entities and Commonwealth Authorities > Licensees
Charging methodology:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Further distribute costs within licensees by entity > Further distribute costs within Entities and Commonwealth Authorities by FTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Licence application fees charged to licence applicants > Monitoring and regulatory action costs charged to licensees individually > Improvement projects costs negotiated per project subject to balance of cost recovered funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Split cost of functions and activities between groups (% split) > Further distribute costs within licensee group by 100% FTE > Further distribute costs within the Entities, Commonwealth Authorities and Public Authorities groups by 100% FTE > Apply ADF portion of costs to ADF only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Compliance costs charged to entities incurring > Improvement projects costs negotiated per project subject to balance of cost recovered funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Split cost of functions and activities between Licensees and Entities and Commonwealth Authorities (% split) > Further distribute costs within licensee group by 100% FTE > Further distribute costs within the Entities and Commonwealth Authorities by 100%FTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Regulatory costs charged to entities incurring > Improvement projects costs negotiated per project subject to balance of cost recovered funds

SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION

3.1 Outputs and business processes of the regulatory charging activity

Outputs

Licence fees fund the regulatory activities of the SRCC and Comcare to ensure that licensees are compliant with the requirements of the SRC Act, the WHS Act and any conditions of their licence.

Business process

There are three broad categories of business processes:

- > The SRCC's functions and activities;
- > Comcare – WHS Act functions and activities, and
- > Comcare – SRC Act functions and activities.

3.2 Costs of the regulatory charging activity

The regulatory charging activity consists of costs incurred by the SRCC and Comcare in carrying out their respective functions under the SRC Act and WHS legislation² that are reasonably referable to a licensee.

Comcare splits these costs into ongoing and variable functions and activities.

Ongoing costs

Ongoing costs cannot be directly attributed to an individual licensee. In some cases, the data to support attribution at the individual licensee level is not available, or it would be inefficient and costly to develop and maintain a model that allows cost recovery to such a precise degree.

The cost of ongoing functions is the full operating costs of the business areas within Comcare that perform functions and activities for the categories of work identified in section 3.1.

The full operating costs comprise of:

- > costs for staff working directly on the functions and activities;
- > supplier expenses involved in the delivery of the functions or activities; and
- > a proportion of Comcare's corporate costs (that is, a proportion of property, finance, human resources, information technology and other corporate costs).

Variable costs

These relate to variable activities that are performed for a specific licensee, for example, a scheduled review for a particular licensee.

The main cost drivers for variable activities are: the total direct labour effort of each activity. Total direct labour effort is calculated using hourly rates based on salaries outlined in Comcare's enterprise agreement and includes the full direct employee cost (direct costs) together with a proportion of Comcare's corporate costs. Resources included in direct costs are:

- > employee's salary; and
- > employee's superannuation and leave entitlement.

The tables below provide a breakdown of the total costs within the scope for cost recovery for this statement.

The 2026-27 estimated cost for ongoing functions and activities is outlined below, as well as the 'per unit' cost of variable functions and activities.

² The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*, the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, and the *Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2011*.

Table 1. Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation (SRCC) costs

Activities	Total estimated cost for 2026–27
Ongoing functions and activities	
SRCC costs This item includes SRCC meeting costs, travel, member remuneration and supplier costs.	\$3,003,604
SRCC Support costs This item includes secretariat, advice and support services.	\$521,036
SRCC data warehouse; scheme data management and reporting costs This item includes management of data in Comcare’s systems, maintenance and support of these systems, providing analysis and producing reports.	\$404,427
Corporate costs This item includes corporate costs for human resource management, property, information and communication technology, learning and development, finance.	\$2,292,292
Legal costs This item includes the costs of legal advice.	\$285,146
Variable functions and activities	
Licence application costs This item includes the cost of assessing applications for licences and issuing licences throughout the year.	Estimated cost of delivering activity
Licence extension and variation costs This item includes the costs involved in an extension or variation of a current self-insured licensee’s licence.	Estimated cost of delivering activity
Monitoring costs – Licence Compliance and Performance Model (LCPM) This item includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Scheduled Review Year Two > Scheduled Review Year Six > Extensive Review > Targeted Review > Ad-hoc Review initiated by the SRCC > Data Quality Reviews 	Estimated cost of delivering activity
Prudential and financial costs This item includes financial review and monitoring as prescribed by the SRCC.	Per unit costs:
Annual monitoring against SRCC financial indicators	1. \$4,640 per report
Quarterly continuous monitoring	2. \$2,659 per report

Activities	Total estimated cost for 2026–27
Ongoing functions and activities	
Comcare costs This item includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > notifications management > regulatory operational support activities > collect, analyse, report, and publish statistics relating to WHS > participating in multi-jurisdiction forums > advice and support provided through the helpdesk and website > providing information and advice in the field and > national forums, targeted forums and presentations. 	\$7,436,348
Corporate costs This item includes corporate costs for human resource management, property, information and communication technology, learning and development, and finance.	\$5,161,708
Legal costs This item includes the costs of legal advice (not prosecutions, as this cost is appropriation funded).	\$1,034,599
Variable functions and activities	
Comcare costs for targeted compliance and enforcement actions This item includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigation 2. Inspection 3. Responding to PIN disputes 4. Responding to entry permit holder disputes 5. Responding to Work Group and WHS Committee disputes 6. WHS Undertakings 7. Regulatory Programs 	Per unit costs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$29,502 2. \$8,822 3. \$3,619 4. \$2,343 5. \$2,343 6. Estimated cost of delivering activity 7. Estimated cost of delivering activity

Table 2. Comcare – WHS Act functions and activities

Activities	Total estimated cost for 2026–27	
Ongoing functions and activities		
Comcare costs		\$7,436,348
This item includes:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > notifications management > regulatory operational support activities > collect, analyse, report, and publish statistics relating to WHS > participating in multi-jurisdiction forums > advice and support provided through the helpdesk and website > providing information and advice in the field and > national forums, targeted forums and presentations. 		
Corporate costs		\$5,161,708
This item includes corporate costs for human resource management, property, information and communication technology, learning and development, and finance.		
Legal costs		\$1,034,599
This item includes the costs of legal advice (not prosecutions, as this cost is appropriation funded).		
Variable functions and activities		
Comcare costs for targeted compliance and enforcement actions	Per unit costs:	
This item includes:		
1. Investigation	1.	\$29,502
2. Inspection	2.	\$8,822
3. Responding to PIN disputes	3.	\$3,619
4. Responding to entry permit holder disputes	4.	\$2,343
5. Responding to Work Group and WHS Committee disputes	5.	\$2,343
6. WHS Undertakings	6.	Estimated cost of delivering activity
7. Regulatory Programs	7.	Estimated cost of delivering activity
Matters charged for under Schedule 2 of the WHS Regulations³	Per unit costs	Total items utilised
1.1 Approval of course of training in work health and safety	1.1 \$5,500	1.1 - 0
2.1 Approval of course of training in workplace entry by WHS entry permit holders	2.1 \$550	2.1 - 0
2.1 A Application for high-risk work licence		
2.1 B Application for replacement licence document	2.1 A \$65	2.1 A - 0
2.1 C Application for renewal of high-risk work licence	2.1 B \$30	2.1 B - 0
2.2 Application for registration	2.1 C \$30	2.1 C - 0
2.3 Application for registration	2.2 \$90	2.2 - 4
2.4 Application for renewal	2.3 \$100	2.3 - 234
2.5 Application for a general construction induction training card	2.4 \$100	2.4 - 510
These services are charged on an as used basis separate to the licence fees.	2.5 \$30	2.5 - 0

³ Further clarification regarding these fees items is available in Schedule 2 of the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011.

Table 3. Comcare – SRC Act functions and activities

Activities	Total estimated cost for 2026–27
Ongoing functions and activities	
<p>Comcare costs</p> <p>This item includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > research, information and statistics management – collect, analyse, report, share > policy and regulatory practice advice and support – scheme guidance, Permanent Incapacity guide > participate in multi-jurisdiction forums – Safe Work Australia, Technical Advisory Groups, Special Interest Groups, Heads of Worker Compensation Authorities > advice and support > education, forums, presentations > oversight of rehabilitation providers > reporting – for example, corporate governance, SRCC, Ministerial, Safe Work Australia. 	\$3,460,247
<p>Corporate costs</p> <p>This item includes corporate costs for human resource management, property, information and communication technology, learning and development, finance.</p>	\$1,218,535
<p>Legal costs</p> <p>This item includes scheme significant litigation management and legal advice.</p>	\$425,226

3.3 Design of regulatory charges

The licence fee is a regulatory charge that aims to recover the costs associated with the regulation of licensees by Comcare and the SRCC.

Cost recovery arrangements are used to drive improved performance and compliance across licensees through increased licence fees (driven by an increase in variable activities) for licensees who do not meet compliance and performance benchmarks and targets.

SRCC Ongoing Functions and Activity Costs

Most of the ongoing function and activity costs of the SRCC are allocated to licensees due to the role the SRCC plays in their regulation under the SRC Act. These ongoing costs are distributed across licensees at the start of the financial year by dividing the total estimated cost by the total number of entities.

SRCC Variable Functions and Activity Costs

Variable functions and activities charges are estimated based on activities conducted between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025 in the regulation of individual licensees, when determining the 2026-27 licence fees.

Comcare Ongoing Functions and Activity Costs

The costs of Comcare’s SRC and WHS ongoing functions and activities in regulating licensees are distributed across those licensees according to their coverage at the start of the financial year on a total full time equivalent (FTE) pro rata basis.

A 100 percent FTE split has been adopted for ongoing costs as the number of FTE of an entity is a large driver for the activities of Comcare with respect to that entity. The FTE total used to calculate costs represents FTE as reported by licensees.

Comcare Variable Functions and Activity Costs

Variable functions and activities are either costed by a fixed per-activity cost, or on a time and material basis (based on the estimated cost of delivery).

A fixed per-activity cost is used for activities where the process is highly predictable. This type of charge covers the estimated direct and corporate costs of a Comcare officer performing the activity.

Estimated cost of delivery charging is used for activities where the time and effort required varies significantly and must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Comcare charged licensees for plant licenses and high-risk work licenses on an as used basis separate from the licence fees.

New entrant application and licence fees

Applicants for a self-insurance licence will pay:

- > a licence application fee as determined by Comcare.

An entity granted a self-insurance licence commencing on or after 1 July will pay:

- > a licence application fee as determined by Comcare and attributable to the licensee's application for a self-insurance licence; and
- > a pro rata licence fee for the part of the year the licence will be granted. This amount includes ongoing function and activity costs for the part of the year the licensee will be self-insured.

4. Risk assessment

4.1 Cost Recovery Risk Assessment

Comcare has undertaken a risk assessment for this CRIS, using the Better Practice Template for a Charging Risk Assessment (CRA) for regulatory activities, provided by the Department of Finance. The risk assessment is provided in Attachment A. The SRCC and Comcare's Cost Recovery (licence fee) process is assessed as a medium risk.

5. Stakeholder engagement

5.1 Stakeholders

The following stakeholder groups were identified for this CRIS:

- > Primary: Licensees
- > Secondary: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Department of Finance.

5.2 Communication objectives

An ongoing communication strategy exists to ensure Comcare effectively engages, consults and communicates with self-insured licensees on their charges and any proposed changes to the charging methodology.

5.3 Engagement activities

Comcare supports licensees through tailored account management and engages with licensees as a group through quarterly Licensee Liaison Forums and License Fee Working Group meetings. Comcare advises licensees of indicative fees in April or May each year. This advice is provided to enable:

- > Consideration of predicted fees in licensees' budgeting processes, and
- > An opportunity for licensees to review and provide feedback to Comcare prior to the issuance of final fees.

For the 2026–27 charging period there has been no change to the statutory authority, policy approval and cost recovery methodology used in previous years. Final fees for 2026–27 will be issued from July 2026.

Date	Activity	Feedback or Comments
May 2026	Comcare to send out indicative fee letters to all licensees for information and review	Complete
May to June 2026	Comcare to consider feedback from licensees on indicative fees	In progress
June 2026	Licensee Liaison Forum: > 2026–27 licence fee update	Not yet due
July 2026	Comcare to issue final fees to all licensees	Not yet due

6. Financial estimates

The table below sets out financial estimates for the cost recovery arrangements for self-insured licensees for 2026–27 and three forward years.

	2026–27	2027–28 [#]	2028–29 [#]	2029–30 [#]
Expenses	\$29,606,000	\$29,260,000	\$30,112,000	\$30,799,000
Revenue	\$29,606,000	\$29,260,000	\$30,112,000	\$30,799,000
Balance	-	-	-	-

Explain material variance⁴

Explain balance management strategy In 2026-27 and the forward estimates, Comcare’s licence fees are based on the amount required to recover Comcare’s expected business as usual and project expenses.

[#] Portfolio Budget Statement forward year estimates are based on an indicative increase in wage and supplier costs. These figures are subject to change, and do not reflect any efficiencies or reduction in costs achieved by the SRCC or Comcare for the self-insured licensees.

7A. Financial performance

The table below sets out prior year revenue recovered for self-insured licensee functions and activities.

	Actual 2022–23	Actual 2023–24	Actual 2024–25	Estimated Actual 2025–26
Licence fees	\$20,549,000	\$19,597,000	\$26,909,000	\$27,264,000
Expenses	\$19,090,000	\$23,057,315	\$25,734,176	\$27,463,008
Balance	\$1,459,000	-\$3,460,315	\$1,174,824	-\$199,008

Explain material variance⁵

The surplus in 2024–25 was driven by several factors, including higher revenue and underspends across Comcare’s core services and projects. Where project underspends were associated with extended timeframes, the unspent funding has been deferred to 2025–26, with no resulting increase in licence fees.

The projected deficit in 2025–26 is primarily attributable to additional expenditure arising from projects rolled forward from 2024–25.

⁴ As defined by AASB1031 and Division 12 – Materiality and Disclosure of the Finance Minister’s Orders.

⁵ As defined by AASB1031 and Division 12 – Materiality and Disclosure of the Finance Minister’s Orders.

7B. Non-financial performance

Comcare’s annual Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) and Corporate Plan set out the performance measures and targets used to demonstrate performance towards achieving its purpose. The performance measures and targets align with the three principles of regulator best practice of:

- > Continuous improvement and building trust
- > Risk based and data driven
- > Collaboration and engagement.

The SRCC assesses the non-financial performance of regulatory charging activities through its operational plan and reporting in its annual report.

Further detail, including Comcare’s annual performance statements, is set out in the [Comcare and SRCC Annual Report 2024–25](#).

8. Key forward dates and events

A list of key dates and events necessary to maintain and implement the CRIS process throughout the year is below.

Any events that result in changes to the CRIS will be included in the CRIS approval and change register in the next section.

Date	Event
August 2026	Possible update of estimated financial results due to Mid-Year budget update.
April 2027	Indicative licence fees distributed for stakeholder consultation.
July 2027	Finalisation of 2028–29 licence fees.

9. CRIS approval and change register

The SRCC and Comcare will maintain an up-to-date CRIS approval and change register. This will allow changes to the CRIS resulting from changes to the cost-recovered activity (for example, new policy decisions or changes to the cost recovery model) to be recorded.

Approval date	Approver	Approval required
4 June 2026	Comcare CEO	Certification of the CRIS
17 June 2026	Minister	Approval of the CRIS
30 June 2026	SRCC	Noting of the approval of the CRIS

Attachment A – Comcare Charging Risk Assessment

Implementation risks	Low	Medium	High
1. What is the proposed change in annual cost recovery revenue for the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> <5%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 < 10 %	<input type="checkbox"/> >10% Or New
2. What is the total proposed annual cost recovery revenue for the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 – \$10m	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10m < \$20m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$20m +
3. What does the policy proposal or change in the cost recovered activity involve?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change in the level of existing cost recovery charges	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in the structure of existing cost recovery charges and/or composition of payers	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction of cost recovery for a new activity or for an existing activity (or its components) that has not been cost recovered previously
4. What type of cost recovery charges will be used?	<input type="checkbox"/> Levies only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fees only or fees and levies	<input type="checkbox"/> Fees, levies and other charges
5. What legislative requirements are necessary for imposition of cost recovery charges?	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not involve an Act of Parliament (e.g. Regulations, Determinations etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Involves an Act of Parliament (e.g. enabling Act or levy imposition Act)	<input type="checkbox"/> Requires State/Territory legislative changes or referral of powers to the Commonwealth
6. Does the proposal involve working with other Commonwealth, State/Territory and/or local government entities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - with Commonwealth entities only	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – with Commonwealth and State/Territory entities
7. What will be the expected impact of cost recovery on payers? This may depend on, among other things: > the change in the level of charges > the number of people affected > the cumulative effect from other government charges/regulation > the economic conditions etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High
8. What consultation has occurred with payers and other stakeholders about the proposed cost recovery?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consulted – no significant issues raised	<input type="checkbox"/> Consulted – significant issues raised but can be addressed	<input type="checkbox"/> Not consulted or consulted and significant issues raised but ongoing sensitivities
Overall CRA rating:	<input type="checkbox"/> LOW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM	<input type="checkbox"/> HIGH

Supporting analysis: Comcare’s Cost Recovery (Licence Fees) process (performed on behalf of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission) is assessed as a medium risk due to the annual revenue, the type of charges and the legislative requirements involved. A medium risk means that the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement can be approved by the responsible Minister and does not require the Finance Minister’s agreement for release before charging begins as per Department of Finance Regulatory Charging Risk Assessment Requirements.

Entity sign-off: Date 21 May 2026	Finance comment The CFO has been engaged directly in the duration of the CRIS and is in agreement with the methodology, budget and overhead financial data contained therein. The CFO assesses that the CRA is reflective of the input and is a fair representation of the outcome.	Date 21 May 2026
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