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*Transforming the ABS for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

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21<sup>st</sup> Century***

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[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)



## Overview

-  Relationship between Economics and Statistics
-  Contemporary understandings of the ABS
-  Challenges faced and what ABS is doing about it
-  Transforming the ABS for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
-  In conclusion

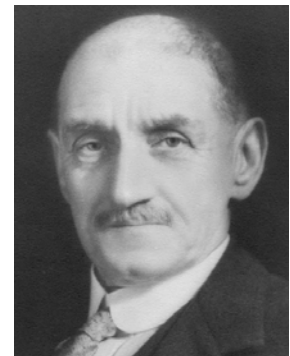


## Relationship between Economics & Statistics

In 1933 E.T. McPhee, the Commonwealth Statistician stated:

It is ... I think obvious that as economic opinions must rest largely on statistical evidence some knowledge of economics is essential to the proper selection of statistical data, ..... I feel that statistics and economics are so closely associated that in practice they are inseparable<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> McPhee to Secretary to the Treasury, 12 April 1933, AA A571, 33/1625.





## Contemporary understandings of the ABS



- Iconic national organisation with international reputation
- Independence, transparency and rigour
- Balancing conservatism and innovation
- Bespoke systems and processes



## Contemporary understandings of the ABS



In 2014-15:

- 650 ABS statistical products
- 15.2 million visits to the ABS website
- 2.7 million downloads of ABS data



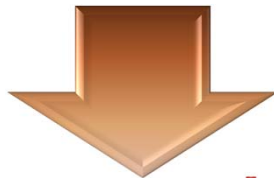


Over the past fifteen years:

Population – 25%

Economy – 60%

Cmth Govt Outlays – 90%



ABS staff – 25%



- Continuing to deliver high quality official statistics
- Growing and changing economy and society – and the measurement challenges
- Changing information environment
- Managing competing aspects
- More effective use





# Transforming the ABS for the 21st Century



**UNLEASHING THE POWER OF STATISTICS FOR A BETTER AUSTRALIA**  
**TRANSFORMING FOR THE FUTURE**

**WHILE CONTINUING TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY OFFICIAL STATISTICS  
 STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIPS  
 DRIVE HIGH PERFORMANCE**

**ENVIRONMENT**  
 We collaborate with stakeholders to understand and respond better to the current and future external environment

**STRATEGY**  
 Our strategies enable rigorous statistics, strong partnerships, and effective use of resources

**GOVERNANCE**  
 Our governance supports responsive decision making, prioritisation and management of enterprise risk

**TRANSFORMATION GOALS**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
 Our infrastructure is effective, efficient and adaptable

**CULTURE**  
 We are high performing, aligned, engaged, innovative and accountable

**PEOPLE**  
 We have a diverse, expert, motivated and agile workforce

**SUCCESS** **INFORMED DECISIONS** **TRUST AND SUPPORT** **A DYNAMIC STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Decisions on important matters are informed by quality official statistics and value added statistical solutions.

Government, business and the community continue to trust us and have confidence in our statistics.

We are a collaborative partner in building a responsive national statistical system that meets current and future requirements.

## Transforming For The Future

### While Continuing to

- Deliver High Quality Official Statistics**
- Strengthen Our Partnerships**
- Drive High Performance**



# In conclusion



**UNLEASHING THE POWER OF STATISTICS FOR A BETTER AUSTRALIA**  
**TRANSFORMING FOR THE FUTURE**

**WHILE CONTINUING TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY OFFICIAL STATISTICS  
 STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIPS  
 DRIVE HIGH PERFORMANCE**





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