INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Minister for Communications

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Department of Communications for the year ended 30 June 2014, which comprise: a Statement by the Departmental Secretary and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income; Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities; Administered Reconciliation Schedule; Administered Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Administered Commitments; and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Secretary’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Secretary of the Department of Communications is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister’s Orders made under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Department of Communications’ preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department of Communications’ internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Secretary of the Department of Communications, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

**Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Department of Communications:

(a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister’s Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and

(b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister’s Orders, including the Department of Communications’ financial position as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

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Australian National Audit Office

\[Signature\]

John Jones  
Executive Director  
Delegate of the Auditor-General  
Canberra  
30 September 2014