

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Issued by the Authority of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (the Minister)

Australian Passports (Application Fees) Act 2005

Australian Passports Act 2005

Australian Passports (Application Fees) Amendment Determination 2024

Australian Passports (Fees) Amendment Determination 2024

Purpose of the supplementary explanatory statement

The purpose of this supplementary explanatory statement is to provide additional information on consultation conducted and levying of taxation in delegated legislation. This is done in accordance with paragraph 15J(1)(c) of the *Legislation Act 2003* and is in response to a request from the Senate Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation Committee, as part of their review of the instrument.

Amendments to the initial explanatory statement

Under 'Consultation' under the words 'Department of Finance' insert the following:

A New Policy Proposal regarding the one off Australian travel document fee increase and introduction of a Fast Track fee was consulted among Commonwealth agencies as part of the Cabinet decision making process. Feedback was considered by the Department.

Under 'Financial Impact' after the first sentence ending 'are imposed as taxes under the Fees Act' insert the following:

The Fees Act provides that a Minister's determination may specify fees in respect of Australian passports, travel related documents, endorsements, and observations. The Fees Act establishes a maximum (combined) application fee payable, commencing at \$1000 on 1 July 2005. The Fees Act and the Fees Determination provide for indexation of the maximum application fee and application fees each year. The formula for indexation is specified for the maximum fee in the Fees Act, and application fees in the Fees Determination.

Fees for Australian passports, travel related documents, endorsements, and observations are imposed as taxes. The Explanatory Memorandum for the Fees Act provides that any changes to application fees (other than ordinary CPI adjustments) will be settled as part of the annual Budget process. The decision to introduce the fast track processing fee was taken by the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet in the 2023–24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook budget process and was announced as a measure within the 2024–2025 Budget.