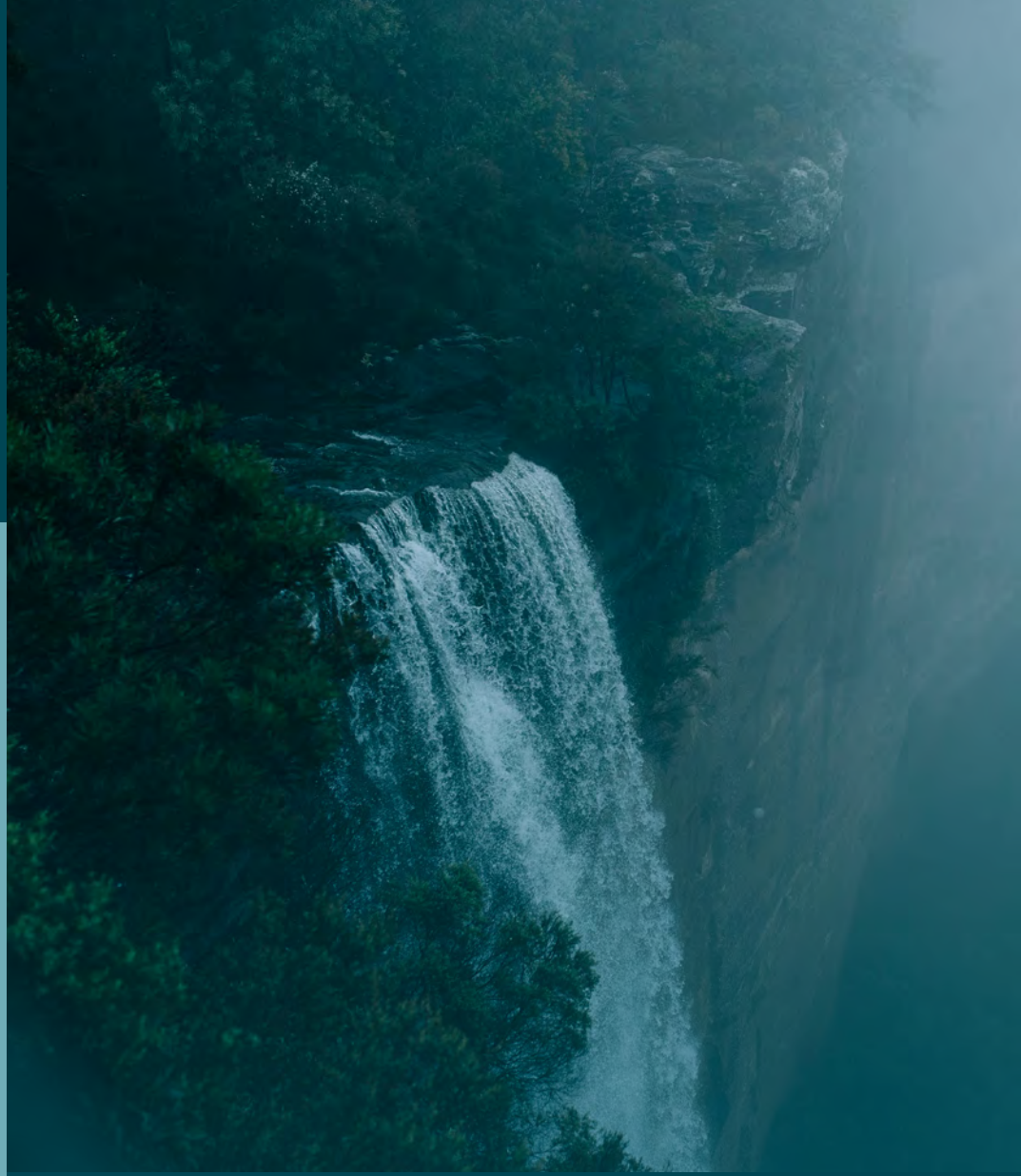


PART 8



Governance

Information Publication Scheme (IPS)

Entities subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS).

The Federal Court has published, on its website (www.fedcourt.gov.au/ips), materials relating to the IPS. This includes the Federal Court's current Information Publication Scheme Plan as well as information about the Federal Court's organisational structure, functions, appointments, annual reports, consultation arrangements and the Freedom of Information contact officer as well as information routinely provided to the Australian Parliament.

The Federal Court is required to comply with the regulatory framework of the FOI Act and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) subject to exceptions in relation to court documents and proceedings. Both these Acts are regulated by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The FOI Act gives the Australian public, including staff of the Federal Court, the right to access documents held by Australian Government agencies and Ministers. The *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) protects the privacy of individuals through regulating the way that certain agencies and organisations handle personal information. It also permits individuals to access their personal information and, like the FOI Act, allows individuals to request changes to their personal information.

The availability of some documents under the FOI Act will be affected by section 5 of that Act, which states that the Act does not apply to any request for access to a document of the Federal Court unless the document relates to matters of an administrative nature. Documents filed in court proceedings do not relate to matters of an administrative nature; they may, however, be accessible by way of an application for inspection of court documents under the Federal Court Rules.

Internal and external scrutiny

The Federal Court was not the subject of any reports by a parliamentary committee or the Commonwealth Ombudsman during the reporting period.

There were no external or internal evaluations during the reporting period.

Complaints

Complaints and complaints policy

The Federal Court has available avenues for the handling of complaints regarding the Federal Court, and Federal Court judges.

The Federal Court's general complaint policy is available on its website. (<https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/feedbackand-complaints>)

Complaints about judicial conduct

Judges, like all other citizens, are subject to the law, but the need to protect judicial independence in the interests of the whole community means that, in respect of their judicial conduct, they cannot be subject to direct discipline by anyone else, except in the extreme cases addressed by section 72(ii) of the *Constitution*.

Judges are accountable through the public nature of their work, the requirement that they give reasons for their decisions and the scrutiny of their decisions on appeal. With rare exceptions, all court hearings are open to the public and can be reported in the news media, and nearly all judgments of the Federal Court are available to the public through the internet.

Complaints about judges are received and considered in accordance with the Judicial Complaints Procedure and section 15(1AAA)–(1AB) of the Federal Court Act.

Financial management and compliance

The accountable authority, the CEO and Principal Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity, has overarching responsibility for the use and management of the public resources for which the accountable authority is responsible. This includes, appropriations for the Federal Court, the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Divisions 1 and 2) and the National Native Title Tribunal.

The Federal Court has an Operations and Finance Committee, which is made up of judges from the Federal Court as well as the CEO and Principal Registrar. For full details of financial management and compliance in 2025–26 please refer to the Federal Court of Australia Listed Entity Annual Report.

Correction of errors

There was one identified error contained in the Federal Court's 2024–25 Annual Report in Part 6, 'Report of the National Native Title Tribunal'. Figure 6.1 on page 158 (Registered Area & Body Corporate ILUAs, 1998–99 to 2024–25) is incorrect. The correct figures are displayed in Graph D of the 2025–26 Report of the National Native Title Tribunal.



*'A Reconciled Future — where Country thrives on
recognised native title rights and respectful relationships.'*