

Document prepared under section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)*

In response to a request for:

[D]ocuments and records detailing the total expenditure of public funds in relation to the matter commonly referred to as “*Celine v eSafety Commissioner*.”¹ For clarity, this request includes but is not limited to:

1. Total legal costs incurred by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.
2. External legal fees, including payments to counsel, solicitors, consultants, and any third-party advisors.
3. Internal legal and administrative costs attributable to the proceedings.
4. Any adverse costs orders made against the eSafety Commissioner, including the amount paid or payable.

1. Total legal costs incurred by the office of the eSafety Commissioner: **\$329,042.81**
2. External legal fees, including payments to counsel, solicitors, consultants, and any third-party advisors: **\$329,042.81**, consisting of
 - a. external legal fees of **\$131,572.50**
 - b. counsel’s fees of **\$188,110.59**
 - c. filing, transcript and court fees of **\$9,359.72**
3. Internal legal and administrative costs attributable to the proceedings: **eSafety does not record its internal legal and administrative costs on a matter-by-matter basis.** However, discrete staff travel costs associated with these proceedings total: **\$2,072.52**
4. Any adverse costs orders made against the eSafety Commissioner, including the amount paid or payable: **No adverse costs orders were made against eSafety**

All figures current as at the date of request (27 February 2026) and inclusive of GST where payable.

¹ Reference to ‘the matter commonly referred to as “*Celine v eSafety Commissioner*”’ has been taken to encompass both *Baumgarten and eSafety Commissioner* (Administrative Appeals Tribunal matter 2024/3798) and related proceedings *eSafety Commissioner v Baumgarten* before the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia (matter VID390/2025).

MATTER DETAILS		REQUEST FOR QUOTE								INVOICE PAYMENTS										
JIRA reference(s)	Work type	External Provider	Contact Name	Matter Description (include case ref/proceedings number once allocated)	Date received	Quote/Uplift Amount	Date Approved	Legal Register - Matter No.	Sharepoint Folder Link (re payments)	Purchase Order No.	Purchase Order End Date	Invoice Date	Invoice No.	Invoice Amount	Instruction to pay (date)	Total estimate (exc GST)	Total spent 23/24 (exc GST)	Total spent 24/25 (exc GST)	Total spent 25/26 (ex GST)	25/26 Estimate remaining (exc GST)
	Litigation - tribunal	AGS	s 22	Baumgarten and eSafety Commissioner - AAT 2024/3798	03.07.2024	\$16,000.00	21.08.2024	L5-427	POs	PE00942 Contract No: 25CeSC001 EXPIRED PO, do not use	03.07.2024 to 30.09.2024 with extension option period/s of 12 months					\$16,000.00		\$13,877.04		\$2,122.96
												09.08.2024	3337036	\$7,692.00	26.08.2024					
												06.09.2024	3339500	\$5,377.66	10.09.2024					
												11.10.2024	3343126	\$807.38	18.10.2024					
																Estimate	23/24 spend	24/25 spend	25/26 spend	balance
	Litigation - tribunal	AGS	s 22	Baumgarten and eSafety Commissioner - AAT [2024/3798] / Federal Court [VID390/2025]	15.01.2025	\$86,122.96	15.01.2025	L5-735	Invoices	Contract No. 25CeSC079 PE01019	03.03.2025 to 02.03.2027 - with two extension option periods of 12 months each.					\$346,122.96		\$13,332.00	\$301,833.77	\$30,957.19
						\$175,000.00	29.02.2025					13.05.2025	3362501	\$10,800.50	14.05.2025					
						\$55,000.00	10.11.2025					23.06.2025	3367194	\$2,531.50	24.06.2025					
						\$30,000.00	20.01.2026					10.07.2025	3369143	\$85,165.77	11.07.2025					
						\$30,000.00	20.01.2026					20.10.2025	3379614	\$63,336.32	21.10.2025					
												18.12.2025	3384984	\$153,331.68	18.12.2025					

<p>Costs as at 24 February 2026 FY 25/26: \$301,833.77 Contract No. 25CeSC079</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A briefing memo is being prepared for INVB <p>Key contact: s 22 [REDACTED] and s 22 [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Registry: Melbourne</p>	
<p>Chief Justice Mortimer Justice Beach Justice Horan</p>	
<p>References: ART Case 2024/3978; [2025] ARTA 59 and [2025] ARTA 153 Federal Court: VID390/2025; [2026] FCAFC 12 AGS Ref: 5217244</p>	