

## Main points

- In 2009-10, 4,401 proposals received foreign investment approval. This compared with 5,352 in 2008-09, representing a decrease of 18 per cent. The real estate sector recorded 3,897 approvals, representing a decline of 19 per cent on the 4,827 approvals in 2008-09. There was an overall decline in approvals in other sectors in 2009-10 compared with 2008-09, from 525 approvals to 504 approvals, representing a decrease of 4 per cent. The decline in number of business approvals reflects the increased threshold of \$219 million from 22 September 2009. In 2008-09, there were 83 approvals for companies valued below the new threshold.
- Approvals in 2009-10 involved proposed investment of \$139.5 billion. This represented a 23 per cent decrease on the previous year's approvals of \$181.4 billion. Approved investment in real estate was \$20.0 billion in 2009-10 (compared with \$23.4 billion in 2008-09). This reflects the changes in 2009 and 2010 to the screening arrangements for temporary residents purchasing residential real estate. Approved investment in other sectors was \$119.5 billion, compared with \$158 billion in 2008-09, representing a decrease of 24 per cent. Some of this decline can be explained by several large investments in 2008-09 and some is attributable to the screening threshold change.
- In 2009-10, three proposals were rejected, all related to real estate purchases, the same number as last year. There were two Interim Orders made (three in 2008-09), extending the 30-day statutory decision-making period by up to 90 days.
- The mineral exploration and development sector was the largest destination by value, with approved investment in 2009-10 of \$80.9 billion (\$90.6 billion in 2008-09). The other major destinations were: real estate, with approved investment of \$20.0 billion (\$23.4 billion in 2008-09); manufacturing, with approved investment of \$16.2 billion (\$19.1 billion in 2008-09); and services, with approved investment of \$14.0 billion (\$31.7 billion in 2008-09).
- The United States of America (\$39.1 billion) was the largest source country for foreign investment proposals in 2009-10. The United Kingdom (\$28.6 billion), China (\$16.3 billion), Japan (\$6.0 billion) and Switzerland (\$5.9 billion) were the other major source countries of approved investment in 2009-10.
- On 10 December 2009, the Treasurer announced the appointment of Mr Brian Wilson and Mr Hamish Douglass to the Board. On 15 July 2010, the Treasurer announced the appointment of Ms Anna Buduls to the Board, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Ms Lynn Wood, after 15 years of service.

