



Policy costing request—during the caretaker period for a general election

Name of policy:	Securing the Future of Farming
Person requesting costing:	Senator Richard Di Natale
Parliamentary party:	Australian Greens
Date of request to cost the policy:	27 June 2016
<i>Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.</i>	
Has a costing of this policy been requested under Section 29 of the Charter of Budget Honesty (ie from the Treasury or the Department of Finance)?	No
Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release):	Announced by Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert, 20 June 2016: http://greens.org.au/news/wa/greens-announce-package-help-farmers-sell-direct ; http://greens.org.au/local-food ; http://greens.org.au/soil-health ; http://greens.org.au/food-system .
Description of policy	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	<p>Helping our soils survive</p> <p>A capped amount of \$25m per year (including administration costs) from 2017-18 to 2020-21 provided to improve research and investment in soils quality through the funding of the National Soil Health Strategy.</p> <p>Helping farmers sell direct</p> <p>\$80m in grants over four years, from 2017-18 to 2020-21 for grants to connect farmers and local communities. Amounts are to be capped, \$20m annually, including administration costs.</p> <p>Saying no to corporate control</p> <p>Funding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$2m for the establishment of an independent Research and Development group tasked with scoping the establishment of a GM contamination cleanup fund.• \$2m for an inquiry into the assessment procedures for GM crops and products. <p>Comprehensive, mandatory labelling for foods containing any ingredient, additive or processing aid or other constituent produced using GM.</p>
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To support sustainable agriculture.

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:	
Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list the components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.	-
Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount? If a capped amount, are the costs of administering the policy to be included within the capped amount or additional to the capped amount?	Capped.
Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in funding or delivering the policy? If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged?	-
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	-
Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?	-
If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?	-
Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.	-

Expected impacts of the proposal				
If applicable, what are the estimated costs each year? If available, please provide details in the table below. Are these provided on an underlying cash balance or fiscal balance basis?				
Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) ^(a)				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-	51.6	50	46.7
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-	51.6	50	46.7
(a) A positive number for the fiscal balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in accrual terms. A positive number in the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.				
What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?	-			
Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?	-			
What is the expected community impact of the policy? How many people will be affected by the policy? What is the likely take up? What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?	-			
Administration of policy:				
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc)?	<p>Helping our soils survive – Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Helping farmers sell direct – Department of Agriculture and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Australia</p> <p>Saying no to corporate control – Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Department of Industry as appropriate</p>			
Please specify whether any special administrative arrangements are proposed for the policy and whether these are expected to involve additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).	-			
Intended date of implementation:	Initiatives are intended to start in the 2017-18 financial year.			

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<p>Intended duration of policy:</p>	<p>Helping our soils survive – 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021. Helping farmers sell direct – 2017-18 to 2020-21 Saying no to corporate control – funding from 1 July 2017, regulatory changes ongoing.</p>
<p>Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0).</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>NOTE: <i>Please note that: The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request. The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requestor. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requestor in advance of the costing being completed.</i></p>	