



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

<b>Name of policy:</b>	National Urban Forests Plan
Person requesting costing:	Senator Di Natale
Parliamentary party:	Australian Greens
Date of request to cost the policy:	30 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):	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
<b>Description of policy</b>	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	<p>The long term goal is to create a healthy and protected Urban National Park in every Australian major city, comprised of a series of significant protected bushland areas, connected together by metropolitan scale Greenways (or urban forests), green streets and household backyards across the metropolitan area.</p> <p><b>We propose \$25 million per year over ten years for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$15m Urban Forest Acquisition Fund</b> to enable the states to purchase areas of high conservation value natural habitat in urban areas, particularly areas under direct threat from development or neglect</li><li>• <b>\$5 million Community Grants</b> to enable local communities to contribute to the Greenways through precinct-scale or neighborhood scale plantings or infrastructure such as amphitheatres, interpretive centres, walking trails and so on</li><li>• <b>\$1m Household grants</b> to subsidise local area biodiversity plantings in front verges and backyards, to enable households to directly link in to the local greenway; made available via local Landcare groups, local councils and native nurseries</li><li>• <b>\$1m to assist states and local councils develop local Urban Forest Plans</b> including mapping and planning linkages</li><li>• <b>\$2m to establish an Aboriginal Stewardship Committee in each state</b> to steer planning and mapping of the greenways networks, and to engage Aboriginal businesses to develop cultural trails and deliver cultural, education and eco-tourism programs</li><li>• <b>\$1m for ongoing maintenance</b> including tree audits every 3 years to measure tree canopy cover and health, and an interactive website with mapping tools and education resources</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduce a federal moratorium on clearing of urban bushland</b> until each city has completed Strategic Environmental Assessment and an assessment of by the Threatened Species Commissioner</li> <li>• <b>Establish an Urban Biodiversity Taskforce</b> within the re-established Major Cities Unit, responsible for coordinating the Greenways initiative from a planning and infrastructure perspective</li> <li>• <b>Create a new category of National Park called ‘Urban National Parks’ by 2020 - consisting of a series of interlinked urban forests and greenways.</b> This will be added to Australia’s National Reserve System, affording it maximum protection and status possible in Australian law. Australia’s National Reserve System currently includes and manages about 70% of Australia’s protected habitats, including National Parks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Copy attached.</b></p>
<p>What is the purpose or intention of the policy?</p>	<p>The Green Cities Fund will transform our cities to cooler, more liveable, greener places to live, as well as reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>It is a national plan to cool our cities, protect remaining habitat and increase the tree canopy and biodiversity at the metropolitan scale in a series of greenways that over the long term will become a protected “urban national park”:</p>
<p><b>What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:</b></p>	
<p>Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list the components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Capped at \$25m per year over ten years</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?</p>	<p>No</p>

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<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?</p>	<p>No</p>			
<p>Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.</p>	<p>No</p>			
<p><b>Expected impacts of the proposal</b></p>				
<p>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?</p>				
<p><b>Estimated financial implications (outturn prices)<sup>(a)</sup></b></p>				
	<p>2016–17</p>	<p>2017–18</p>	<p>2018–19</p>	<p>2019–20</p>
<p>Underlying cash balance (\$m)</p>	<p>-25</p>	<p>-25</p>	<p>-25</p>	<p>-25</p>
<p>Fiscal balance (\$m)</p>	<p>-25</p>	<p>-25</p>	<p>-25</p>	<p>-25</p>
<p>(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.</p>				
<p>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)?</p>	<p>N/A</p>			
<p>Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?</p>	<p>No</p>			
<p>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?</p>	<p>80% of Australia’s population lives in our major cities, this will have a positive impact on their communities.</p>			

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<b>Administration of policy:</b>	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc)?	The Australian Government.
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:	1 September 2016
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0).	
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	
<p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <p><i>Please note that:</i></p> <p><i>The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.</i></p> <p><i>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>	