



Parliament of Australia
Parliamentary Budget Office

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Parliamentary Budget Officer

Senator Christine Milne
Leader of the Australian Greens
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Milne

Please find attached a response to your costing request on *protecting wild rivers* (letter of 14 August 2013).

The response to this request will be released on the PBO website (<http://aph.gov.au/pbo>).

If you have any queries about this costing, please do not hesitate to contact Colin Brown on (02) 6277 9530.

Yours sincerely

Phil Bowen

15 August 2013

COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

Name of proposal to be costed:	Protecting wild rivers
Summary of proposal:	<p>The proposal would fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heritage assessments for national listing of all wild rivers, and • management of wild river areas. <p>The proposal will have effect from 1 July 2014.</p>
Party requesting costing:	Senator Christine Milne, Australian Greens
Date costing request received:	14 August 2013
Date costing completed:	15 August 2013
Date of public release of policy:	12 July 2013
Agencies from which information was obtained:	Not applicable

Costing overview

This proposal is expected to decrease the underlying cash and fiscal balances by \$30 million over the 2013-14 Budget forward estimates which reflects an increase in departmental expenses over the period. Funding is capped and is ongoing beyond the forward estimates.

This costing is considered to be of medium reliability. It is based on costing of departmental expenses only and does not include any assessment of potential forgone revenue from the cancellation or deferral of projects in the areas proposed for listing following the heritage assessment.

Table 1: Financial implications (outturn prices)^(a)

Impact on	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	0.0	- 10.0	- 10.0	- 10.0
Fiscal balance (\$m)	0.0	- 10.0	- 10.0	- 10.0

(a) A negative number for the fiscal balance indicates an increase in expenses in accrual terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in expenses in cash terms.

POLICY COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

Key assumptions

Heritage assessment of the proposed areas is assumed to be undertaken within a year as specified in the costing request. Funding for ongoing management activities is expected to complement existing resourcing for rangers and conservation activities.

Methodology

The estimates are based on the capped funding amount specified in the request. The estimates provide departmental expenses for a heritage assessment of all wild rivers and ongoing management of listed areas in the following years. No provision has been included for potential forgone revenue as a result of delays or cancelation of developments or potential compensation payable to individuals or companies affected.

Data sources

- *Wild Rivers Act 2005 (Queensland)*