



Parliament of Australia
Parliamentary Budget Office

Phil Bowen PSM FCPA
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, *Office of Animal Welfare* (letter of 30 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

} September 2013



COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

Name of proposal to be costed:	Office of Animal Welfare
Summary of proposal:	<p>The proposal would establish an independent Office of Animal Welfare.</p> <p>The intention of the proposal is to promote and oversee the ethical treatment of animals, to handle complaints and to advise government.</p> <p>The proposal would have effect from 1 July 2014 and would be ongoing.</p>
Person/party requesting costing:	Senator Christine Milne, Australian Greens
Date costing request received:	30 August 2013
Date costing completed:	3 September 2013
Date of public release of policy:	29 August 2013
Agencies from which information was obtained:	Not applicable

Costing overview

The proposal is expected to decrease both the underlying cash and fiscal balances by \$0.5 million over the 2013-14 Budget forward estimates period. This is entirely due to a net increase in expenses associated with establishing an independent Office of Animal Welfare.

The costing is considered to be of high reliability as the establishment costs are based on the capped amount as specified in the costing request and the operating costs of the Office of Animal Welfare would be entirely funded by the transfer of the Animal Welfare Branch's current resources.

The profile differs from the costing request to reflect establishment costs that are likely to be required in 2013-14 and 2014-15 for a 1 July 2014 effective date.

POLICY COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

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

Impact on	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-0.3	-0.2	-	-
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-0.3	-0.2	-	-

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

Key assumptions

As specified in the costing request, this costing would transfer current resourcing for the Animal Welfare Branch within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to the independent Office of Animal Welfare.