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

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| **Name of policy:** | **Antarctic and Southern Ocean Policy** |
| Person requesting costing: | Senator Di Natale |
| Parliamentary party:  | Australian Greens |
| Date of request to cost the policy: | 28 June 2016 |
| *Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.* |
| 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): | 26 June 2016<http://greens.org.au/news/tas/greens-invest-antarctic-science-its-time-remove-world%E2%80%99s-blindfold-we-face-climate-change> |
| **Description of policy** |
| Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents): | * Invest $4.4 million per year to establish a designated ice-sheet unit within the Australian Antarctic Division.
* Re-fund the continuation of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC and the UTAS Antarctic Gateway at current funding levels.
* Require the Productivity Commission to provide a full economic valuation of the output of Australia’s Antarctic Science Program and knowledge base.
* Establish the role of Antarctic Envoy in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
* Ensure that a full response is provided to all 35 recommendations contained in the Press Review within the first three months of the term of the new Government.

http://peter-whish-wilson.greensmps.org.au/ sites/default/files/greens\_antarctic\_and\_southern\_ocean\_policy.pdf |
| What is the purpose or intention of the policy? | Boost Australia’s presence and science capacity in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean |
| **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. | The above measures are a package |
| 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? | * AAD Science: No.
* ANTARCTIC GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP: Partnership with AAD, UTAS and CSIRO.
* ACECRC: some industry partners.
* RV INVESTIGATOR: researchers provided by other agencies and universities.
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| Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses?If yes, please provide details. | * ANTARCTIC GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP: Reprioritisation of existing forward funding of ARC program.
* ACECRC: Reprioritisation of existing forward funding of CRC program.
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| Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure? | * AAD Science: Budget Outcome 3 Environment Department.
* ANTARCTIC GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP: 2014-15 Budget Paper No. 2 Part 2: Expense Measures (continued) PART 2: EXPENSE MEASURES (continued) Investing in research excellence — Antarctic Gateway Partnership.
* ACECRC: Current CRC allocations.
* RV INVESTIGATOR: 2014-15 Budget Paper No. 2 Part 2: Expense Measures Industry Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation — Marine National Facility research vessel — continuation.
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| If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program? | N/A |
| Will the funding/program cost require indexation?If yes, list factors to be used. | Yes |
| **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 ($m) | -21.8 | -29.6 | -29.7 | -34.8 |
| Fiscal balance ($m) | -21.8 | -29.6 | -29.7 | -34.8 |
| 1. 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.
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| 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? | No. |
| 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? | N/A |
| **Administration of policy:** |
| Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non‑government organisation, etc)? | * AAD SCIENCE: Australian Antarctic Division
* ANTARCTIC GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP: UTAS
* ACECRC: Dep of Industry
* RV INVESTIGATOR: CSIRO
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| 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). | N/A |
| Intended date of implementation: | * AAD SCIENCE: from July 1 2016
* ANTARCTIC GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP: at end of current funding allocation
* ACECRC: at end of current funding allocation
* RV INVESTIGATOR: from July 1 2016
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| Intended duration of policy: | * AAD SCIENCE: ongoing
* ANTARCTIC GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP: an additional 5 years
* ACECRC: an additional 4 years
* RV INVESTIGATOR: ongoing
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| Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation? | N/A |
| List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0). | N/A |
| Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered? | N/A |
| **NOTE:***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.* |