



Australian Government
The Treasury

Secretary
Dr Steven Kennedy PSM

The Hon Angus Taylor MP
Shadow Treasurer
Member for Hume
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Taylor

I refer to your letter of 4 February 2025 regarding Treasury's costing referred to in a media release issued today by the Treasurer, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP.

It is essential that Commonwealth resources are used in a proper manner and for a proper purpose. I have spoken publicly about the importance of trust in the policy making process and a crucial part of that is the Australian Public Service being an apolitical institution that serves the government of the day. Having investigated the circumstances surrounding this costing request, I can assure you that Treasury has acted professionally and consistent with longstanding practice and our duties as public servants.

In relation to the matter to which you refer, a costing request was received by email from the Treasurer's office on Wednesday 29 January 2025. The request specified policy parameters. Neither the request received from the Treasurer's office nor our response made reference to any Opposition policy.

The policy was costed in accordance with the request. A costing of this type is necessarily underpinned by a range of assumptions. Treasury used its usual costing methods, consistent with how policies have been costed over many years.

Outside the caretaker period, Treasury's role is to provide costings of possible policy proposals when requested by the government of the day. We will not cost a policy that is specified as a policy of another political party. This has been a longstanding practice of Treasury, consistent with statements made by my predecessors in similar circumstances to the Hon Chris Bowen MP in 2019 and the Hon Joe Hockey MP in 2012.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'SKennedy', written over a diagonal line.

Steven Kennedy

4 February 2025