



Policy costing

Redirected funding from the Regional Publishers Fund	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: This proposal would abolish the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund. The proposal would have effect from 1 July 2019.	

Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to increase both the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$32.2 million over 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This impact reflects a decrease in administered expenses of \$31.0 million and a decrease in departmental expenses of \$1.2 million.

A breakdown of the financial implications of this proposal over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period is included at [Attachment A](#). The proposal would not be expected to have an impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period as funding for the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund terminates in 2020-21.

The financial implications are relatively certain as they are based on the current amount of uncommitted program funding.

Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	15.7	16.6	-	-	32.2
Underlying cash balance	15.7	16.6	-	-	32.2

(a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.

(b) Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

- Indicates nil.

Methodology

The financial implications represent the current amount of uncommitted program funding being returned to the budget.

Data sources

The Department of Communications and the Arts provided the level of uncommitted program funding as at 24 April 2019.

Attachment A – Redirected funding from the Regional Publishers Fund – financial implications

Table A1: Redirected funding from the Regional Publishers Fund – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Expenses					
<i>Administered</i>	15.1	16.0	-	-	31.0
<i>Departmental</i>	0.6	0.6	-	-	1.2
Total	15.7	16.6	-	-	32.2

(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 negative number for the fiscal balance indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses or net capital investment in accrual terms.

A positive number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in receipts or a decrease in payments or net capital investment in cash terms.

A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates a decrease in receipts or an increase in payments or net capital investment in cash terms.

(b) Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

- Indicates nil.