



Australian Government
Department of Finance
The Treasury

PUBLIC RELEASE OF 2022 ELECTION COMMITMENT COSTING

| Name of proposal costed: Public Interest News Gathering Program – Additional Round | |
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| Costing Identifier: | COA 021 |
| Summary of costing: | The proposal is to provide \$10.0 million in 2022-23 to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for an additional round of the Public Interest News Gathering program to provide targeted support for regional newspapers to assist them with the rising costs of print production, driven by global pressures. |
| Ongoing or Terminating (including date)^(a) | Terminating on 30 June 2023. |
| Person making the request: | Prime Minister. |
| Date costing request received: | 10 May 2022. |
| Date of public release of policy: | 9 May 2022. |
| Date costing completed: | 16 May 2022. |
| Additional information requested (including date): | Not applicable. |
| Additional information received (including date): | Not applicable. |

(a) Ongoing policies continue indefinitely (until a decision is made to cease or alter the program). Terminating measures end on a date set out in the initial policy and a further decision is required to continue the program beyond this date.

Financial implications (outturn prices)^(b)

| Impact on | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Underlying Cash Balance (UCB) (\$m) | 0.0 | -10.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Fiscal Balance (\$m) | 0.0 | -10.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

(b) 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 for the UCB indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.

Where relevant, state that the proposal has been costed as a defined or specified amount.

The proposal has been costed as a specified amount.

Where relevant, include separate identification of revenue and expense components.

Not applicable.

Where appropriate, include a range for the costing or sensitivity analysis.

Not applicable.

Qualifications to the costing (including reasons for the costing not being comprehensive).

Not applicable.

Where relevant, explain effects of departmental expenses.

As specified in the costing request, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications would absorb the associated departmental costs.

Where relevant, explain the reason for any significant differences between the assumptions specified in a party costing request and those used in a Treasury or Finance costing.

Not applicable.

Other comments (including reasons for significant differences between the estimated impact on the fiscal and underlying cash balances).

Where relevant, include an explanation of the medium-term implications of the proposal.^(c)

Not applicable.

(c) Information on the medium term implications will be provided if the cost of the policy is expected to be significantly different beyond the forward estimates period. The medium term is considered to be the 7 years after the current forward estimates.

Background information

Costing methodology used:

The costing assumes a specified amount of \$10.0 million is paid in 2022-23, as per the funding profile provided in the request.

Behavioural assumptions used (as appropriate):

Not applicable.