

PRO-FORMA REQUEST FOR COSTING AN ELECTION COMMITMENT¹

Name of policy	Public Interest News Gathering program - additional round
Person requesting costing (Prime Minister/Leader of the Opposition/Leader of a minority party):	Prime Minister
Date of public release of policy:	9 May 2022.
Link to the publicly released policy:	https://www.paulfletcher.com.au/media-releases/supporting-local-news-and-jobs-in-regional-australia
Date of request to cost the policy:	9 May 2022.
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	The Coalition will provide \$10 million for an additional round of the Public Interest News Gathering (PING) program to support regional newspapers.
Intention of policy:	To provide targeted support for regional newspapers to assist them with rising costs of print production driven by global pressures.
Certification that this, or a substantially similar costing request, has not been submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office:	No this or a substantially similar costing request has not been submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office.
Description of policy (note: where the request to cost a proposal differs from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request)	
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including:	
Is the policy part of a package? <i>If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.</i>	No.

¹ An electronic version of this pro-forma can be found at www.electioncostings.gov.au/templates.

Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?	Capped.
Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in funding or delivering the policy? <i>If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged?</i>	Not applicable.
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? <i>If yes, please provide details.</i>	No.
<p>Description of policy (note: where the request to cost a proposal differs from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request)</p> <p>What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including: (continued)</p>	
Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? <i>If yes, which measure?</i>	This proposal builds on the July 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update measure which provided \$55.0m to establish the Public Interest New Gathering program.
If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program? Will funding/cost require indexation? <i>If yes, list factors used.</i>	No.
What are the estimated costs each year? Are these provided on a cash or fiscal basis?	2022-23 \$10.0 million. Cash basis.
Are the revenue and/or expense costs likely to be significantly different beyond the forward estimates period? <i>If yes, why?</i>	No.
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)?	Not applicable.

Has the policy been costed by a third party? <i>If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?</i>	No.
What is the expected community impact of the policy? How many people or businesses will be affected by the policy? What is the likely take up? What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?	To ensure no regional newspaper closures or job losses due to increased newsprint prices.
<i>Note: it will be up to the professional judgment of the relevant Secretary as to whether these assumptions are adopted in a Treasury or Finance costing of the policy.</i>	
Administration of policy	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.
Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing? <i>If no, will the Australian Government Entity be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy?</i> <i>If yes, please specify the key assumptions, including whether departmental costs are expected with respect to program management (by policy agencies) and additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).</i>	No.
Intended date of implementation.	1 July 2022.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No.
Will the policy be ongoing or terminating*?	Terminating.
If terminating: What is the intended date of termination? Are there any transitional arrangements associated with the conclusion of the policy?	30 June 2023.
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	Not applicable.

Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	Not applicable.
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* 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.