



Australian Government

Department of Finance

The Treasury

## PUBLIC RELEASE OF 2019 ELECTION COMMITMENT COSTING

<b>Name of proposal costed: Rural Financial Counselling for Drought-affected Small Businesses</b>	
<b>Costing Identifier:</b>	COA013
<b>Summary of costing:</b>	The proposal is to provide an additional \$7.0 million to the Rural Financial Counselling Service to support rural small businesses experiencing unpredictable and uncertain trading conditions as farmers stop spending in times of drought and other hardship.
<b>Ongoing or Terminating (including date) (a)</b>	Terminating 30 June 2020.
<b>Person making the request:</b>	Prime Minister.
<b>Date costing request received:</b>	9 May 2019.
<b>Date of public release of policy:</b>	17 April 2019.
<b>Date costing completed:</b>	14 May 2019.
<b>Additional information requested (including date):</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Additional information received (including date):</b>	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)<sup>(b)</sup>

Impact on	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Underlying Cash Balance (\$m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fiscal Balance (\$m)	0.0	0.0	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 underlying cash balance 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 costing assumes that any departmental costs to deliver the proposal would be met from within the existing resources of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

**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<sup>(c)</sup>.**

Not applicable.

<sup>(c)</sup> 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.

## **Background information**

### **Costing methodology used:**

The total commitment is assumed to be \$7.0 million in 2019-20 and would be fully offset by a reduction of funding for the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

### **Behavioural assumptions used (as appropriate)**

Not applicable