



Local environmental projects	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: The proposal would provide \$82.9 million over 3 years from 2025-26 to fund local environmental projects around Australia. The proposal would provide funding of \$32.9 million in 2025-26 and 2026-27, and \$17.1 million in 2027-28. The projects that would receive funding under this proposal are listed in Attachment B. The proposal would be non-ongoing and would start from 1 July 2025.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$85.9 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in administered and departmental expenses.

The proposal would not be expected to have an impact beyond the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period, other than for public debt interest (PDI) costs. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate PDI tables) over the period to 2035-36 is provided at Attachment A.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not made any assessment as to whether the specified funding would be sufficient to meet the objectives of the proposal.

A breakdown of project funding is provided in Attachment B.

Table 1: Local environmental projects – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-34.5	-33.7	-17.7	-	-85.9
Underlying cash balance	-34.5	-33.7	-17.7	-	-85.9

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

(b) PDI impacts are not included in the totals.

- Indicates nil.

Key assumptions and methodology

The proposal is capped at a fixed amount, distributed over 3 years from the commencement date as specified. Departmental expenses were estimated based on the cost of administering similar programs and are assumed to be in addition to the capped funding amount. Administered expenses are as specified in the proposal. We assume that no funds allocated to a given year are left unspent.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.¹

¹ <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

Data sources

Commonwealth of Australia (2025) *Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2025*, Commonwealth of Australia.

Departmental expenses were informed by similar measures in the Commonwealth budgets from 2015-16 to 2021-22.

Attachment A – Local environmental projects – Financial implications

Table A1: Local environmental projects – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^(a)

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	Total to 2028-29	Total to 2035-36
Expenses													
<i>Total – administered</i>	-32.9	-32.9	-17.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-82.9	-82.9
<i>Total – departmental</i>	-1.6	-0.8	-0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-3.0	-3.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-34.5	-33.7	-17.7	-	-85.9	-85.9							

- (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.
- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Local environmental projects – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	Total to 2028-29	Total to 2035-36
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	-0.8	-2.3	-3.6	-4.1	-4.3	-4.5	-4.7	-4.9	-5.1	-5.3	-5.6	-10.8	-45.2
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-0.6	-1.9	-3.2	-4.0	-4.2	-4.4	-4.6	-4.8	-5.1	-5.3	-5.5	-9.7	-43.6

- (a) As this table is presented as a memorandum item, these figures are not reflected in the totals above. This is consistent with the approach taken in the budget where the budget impact of most measures is presented excluding the impact on PDI. If the reader would like a complete picture of the total aggregate, then these figures would need to be added to the figures above. For further information on government borrowing and financing please refer to the PBO's online budget glossary².
- (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 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.

² [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://www.pbo.gov.au)

Attachment B – Local environmental projects – Project funding breakdown

Table B1: Local environmental projects – Project funding breakdown

Project Description	Project funding (\$m)
<i>Cockatoo Island/Wareamah Swimming Pool</i>	10.20
<i>Derwent Catchment Project</i>	10.00
<i>Ironbark Creek at Wallsend: Integrating Ecology and Flood Mitigation</i>	10.00
<i>Port Arthur Heritage Site - Penitentiary Urgent Works</i>	8.91
<i>National Circularity Centre</i>	8.50
<i>Reimagining Bendigo Creek</i>	7.00
<i>Blue Mountains Koala Stronghold</i>	3.50
<i>Port Stephens Koala Hospital</i>	3.00
<i>Byron Wildlife Hospital</i>	2.00
<i>Urban Forest Strategy</i>	1.84
<i>Samson Park Wetlands Project</i>	1.73
<i>Humphreys Rivulet Rehabilitation Project</i>	1.69
<i>Moreton Bay Reef Restoration project</i>	1.50
<i>Shellfish, mangrove and seagrass restoration</i>	1.50
<i>Chuwat Koala and Native Fauna Conservation Park</i>	1.20
<i>Environment, Habitat and Recreation Corridor</i>	1.20
<i>Point Waylen Restoration and Culture Project</i>	0.85
<i>Woolmers and Brickendon Estates</i>	0.80
<i>City of Bayswater Urban Forest Stage 2</i>	0.80
<i>Sturt River Restoration</i>	0.75
<i>Merri Creek Restoration and Repair</i>	0.70
<i>Darebin Creek Habitat Project</i>	0.70
<i>Saltmarsh Restoration</i>	0.60
<i>Pollution Reduction Project</i>	0.56
<i>Rivulet Regeneration Project</i>	0.50
<i>Restoring Waterways and Protecting Platypus Populations</i>	0.50
<i>Hyde Park Revegetation / Wildlife Protection</i>	0.50
<i>Jirdarup Bushland</i>	0.50
<i>Restoration of biodiversity for four rivers</i>	0.32
<i>Protecting koalas in South West Sydney</i>	0.30
<i>Litter Trap & Bird Hide/Blind + Natural Perching for Waterfowl</i>	0.22
<i>Urban Forest Plan - City of Swan</i>	0.19
<i>Black Cockatoo Project</i>	0.10
<i>Saving Black Cockatoos: Cockburn</i>	0.09
<i>Rewilding of areas of Clifton Hill and Alphington - Birrarung (Yarra River)</i>	0.05
<i>Saving Black Cockatoos: Fremantle</i>	0.04
<i>Protecting the Grey-Headed Flying Fox Colony at Yarra Bend Park</i>	0.03
<i>Emu Swamp Improvements</i>	0.02
Total	82.87