



Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would provide \$1 billion over 3 years to empower local councils across Australia, giving them the flexibility to prioritise and deliver critical community infrastructure and road projects tailored to their communities' needs.</p> <p>There would be 2 funding streams, each worth \$500 million:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resilience and community infrastructure stream: open to all councils, this stream will help strengthen communities against natural disasters and fund essential infrastructure to support local growth.• Roads stream: targeted to regional councils to fix potholes, maintain and improve local roads. <p>Funding would be distributed as \$400 million in 2025-26 and 2026-27, and \$200 million in 2027-28.</p> <p>The proposal would be non-ongoing and start from 1 July 2025.</p>	

Costing overview

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

Table 1: Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-400.0	-400.0	-200.0	-	-1,000.0
Underlying cash balance	-400.0	-400.0	-200.0	-	-1,000.0

(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. As funding would be provided to local councils directly, departmental costs would not be significant and would be absorbed by the relevant department. Administered expenses are as specified. 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

Data sources

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

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

Attachment A – Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program – Financial implications

Table A1: Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program – 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													
Total – administered	-400.0	-400.0	-200.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,000.0	-1,000.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-400.0	-400.0	-200.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,000.0	-1,000.0

- (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 Roads and Community Infrastructure program – 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
Fiscal balance	-8.9	-27.0	-41.4	-47.7	-49.8	-52.0	-54.4	-56.8	-59.4	-62.1	-65.2	-125.0	-524.7
Underlying cash balance	-6.7	-22.4	-37.8	-46.1	-49.3	-51.5	-53.8	-56.2	-58.8	-61.4	-64.5	-113.0	-508.5

- (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://pbo.gov.au/online-budget-glossary)