



Cease duplicative research activities of the Climate Change Authority	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal: The proposal would cease duplicative research activities of the Climate Change Authority (CCA). The proposal would start on 1 July 2025 and be ongoing.	
Additional information (based on further advice provided): The proposal would reduce funding for Program 1.1 of the CCA by 20%, while directing that ‘Self-initiated research and analysis’ is to be discontinued as one of the CCA’s key activities. The reduction would be distinct from, and additional to, any impact on the CCA from any public-service-wide efficiency or headcount reduction measures.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$11.2 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects a decrease in departmental expenses.

The proposal would be expected to have an impact beyond the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate public debt interest (PDI) tables) over the period to 2035-36 is provided at Attachment A.

The financial implications of this proposal are sensitive to assumptions around baseline growth in departmental expenditure for Program 1.1 for the CCA across the forward estimates and medium term, and the amount of departmental appropriation that is required for the key activity ‘*Self-initiated research and analysis*’. The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not made any assessment of the potential reduced level of output from the CCA as a result of the proposed funding reduction.

Table 1: Cease duplicative research activities of the Climate Change Authority – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	11.2
Underlying cash balance	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	11.2

(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.

Key assumptions

The PBO has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

- The reduction in staff that would result from the reduction in funding would occur through natural attrition, with no legal barriers or additional costs required to be incurred for redundancies.
 - We note the potential interactions with ECR-2025-2147 - Reducing the APS to a sustainable level over time through natural attrition.
- The discontinuation of the 'Self-initiated research and analysis' activity would occur as part of the 20% reduction in funding. That is, there would be no additional savings realised from discontinuing this activity once the 20% reduction for Program 1.1 is taken into account.
 - The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water advised that due to the interconnected nature of the 5 Key activities in the current Corporate Plan, it is not possible to break down the [Program 1.1] expenditure profile into the 5 Key activities.
- From 2029-30 onwards, departmental funding for Program 1.1 of the CCA would grow at a similar rate as projected growth across 2024-25 to 2028-29.

Methodology

The financial implications of this proposal were estimated by projecting the departmental expenditure of the CCA over the medium term, using the growth rate over the forward estimates per *Key assumptions*.

The profile was then reduced by 20% in each year from 2025-26 onwards to determine the savings.

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.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2025) [2025-26 Portfolio Budget Statements](#), accessed 9 May 2025.

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

Attachment A – Cease duplicative research activities of the Climate Change Authority – Financial implications

Table A1: Cease duplicative research activities of the Climate Change Authority – 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													
Departmental													
<i>Climate Change Authority</i>	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	11.2	31.4
Total (excluding PDI)	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	11.2	31.4

(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.

Table A2: Cease duplicative research activities of the Climate Change Authority – 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	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.1	9.0
Underlying cash balance	..	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	0.9	8.3

(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 glossary.²

(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.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

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