



National Food Security Strategy	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal:  The proposal would unwind additional funding for the development of a National Food Security Strategy. The development of the strategy would instead be funded using existing departmental resources.  The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2025.	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$3.5 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects a decrease in 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.

**Table 1: National Food Security Strategy – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	1.8	1.7	-	-	3.5
Underlying cash balance	1.8	1.7	-	-	3.5

(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

This costing assumes:

- The 2025-26 Budget measure *Agricultural Priorities*,<sup>1</sup> that provided \$3.5 million over 2 years from 2025-26 to develop a National Food Security Strategy would be reversed.
- The saving from this reversal would be realised evenly over 2 years and would be returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

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<sup>1</sup> 2025-26 Budget measure *Agricultural Priorities*: The Government will provide \$45.2 million over 3 years from 2025-26 to support priorities in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio. Funding includes...\$3.5 million over 2 years from 2025-26 to develop a National Food Security Strategy. [Budget Paper No. 2](#) page 20.

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry would be able to absorb the costs to progress the Strategy from within its existing resources.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>2</sup>

## Data sources

Commonwealth of Australia (2025) *Budget 2025-26*, Commonwealth of Australia.

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

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

## Attachment A – National Food Security Strategy – Financial implications

**Table A1: National Food Security Strategy – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	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
<b>Expenses</b>													
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>

(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: National Food Security Strategy – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	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
<b>Fiscal balance</b>	..	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	..	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>

(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<sup>3</sup>.

(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.

<sup>3</sup> [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://pbo.gov.au/)