



Establish a Supermarket Commissioner	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a Supermarket Commissioner, to act as a confidential avenue for farmers and suppliers to make complaints about supermarket conduct. The Supermarket Commissioner would also provide information and provide referrals to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.</p>	
<p>Additional specifications (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The Dairy and Horticulture Codes of Conduct would become schedules to the Grocery Code of Conduct (the Code).</p> <p>The Supermarket Commissioner would take on the role of the Food and Grocery Code Independent Reviewer to produce reports on disputes and on the results of the confidential supplier surveys, to identify systemic issues with the Code.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$4.4 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in departmental expenses.

The estimate is sensitive to the assumptions used, especially the costs of establishing and operating the Supermarket Commissioner.

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

**Table 1: Establish a Supermarket Commissioner – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-1.4	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-4.4
Underlying cash balance	-1.4	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-4.4

(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 and methodology

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

- The Commissioner position would be equivalent to an SES Band 3, as this pay level is similar to the level and salary of the eSafety Commissioner.
- There would be implementation and establishment costs in the first year, assumed to be 50% of staffing costs.
- The staffing costs were estimated based on the request specification of one Commissioner and two Executive Level 1s, and using the PBO's departmental costs calculator.
- The Food and Grocery Code Independent Reviewer is paid a part-time chair's fee of \$1,603 per day. These costs, along with current secretariat support are already funded from the Treasury portfolio. Moving the functions of the Independent Reviewer into the Supermarket Commissioner, these costs would still remain within the Treasury portfolio.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>1</sup>

## Data sources

Australian Communications and Media Authority (2023), [Annual Report 2022-23](#), Australian Government, accessed 13 May 2025.

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

Remuneration Tribunal (2024), [Remuneration Tribunal \(Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office\) Determination \(No. 2\) 2023 Compilation No. 6](#), accessed 13 May 2025.

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

## Attachment A – Establish a Supermarket Commissioner – Financial implications

**Table A1: Establish a Supermarket Commissioner – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)</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>													
<i>Departmental - Implementation and staffing costs</i>	-1.4	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-4.4	-11.6
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>-11.6</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: Establish a Supermarket Commissioner – 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	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-3.2
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	..	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-3.2

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