



Reinstate the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer Schemes	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal: The proposal would reinstate the Native Title Respondent Scheme and the Native Title Officer Scheme. The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2025.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period by \$8.3 million. This impact is driven by an increase in administered 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 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: Reinstate the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer Schemes Reinstate the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer Schemes – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-8.3
Underlying cash balance	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-8.3

(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

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

- The costs associated with the re-introduction of these programs would be consistent with previous iterations of the programs.
- Departmental costs associated with these programs would be included within the administered costs, as the total budgeted amounts were administered directly to the department.
- Relevant legislation would be passed to re-establish the scheme prior to the policy start date.

Methodology

The PBO used historical budget estimates to inform former costs associated with this program.

Consistent with the previous policies, the Native Title Respondent Scheme is indexed to relevant economic parameters, whereas the Native Title Officer Scheme is not indexed due to the nature of the program.

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.

The Attorney General's Department provided information on historical budgeted amounts of the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer programs.

The Attorney General's Department (2023) [Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23](#), Commonwealth of Australia.

The Attorney General's Department (2019) [Native Title Officer Funding Scheme – Fact sheet](#), accessed 12 May 2025.

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

Attachment A – Reinstate the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer Schemes – Financial implications

Table A1: Reinstate the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer Schemes – 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													
Administered													
<i>Native Title Respondent Scheme</i>	-1.8	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-7.5	-22.4
<i>Native Title Officer Scheme</i>	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-2.2
Total (excluding PDI)	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-2.5	-8.3	-24.6

(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: Reinstate the Native Title Respondent and Native Title Officer Schemes – 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	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3	-0.6	-6.6
Underlying cash balance	..	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-0.6	-6.3

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/)