



Re-phase additional Australian Antarctic Program funding	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal:  The proposal would spread out additional funding provided to the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) Antarctic program provided in the 2024-25 Budget, over a longer period.  The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.	
Additional information (based on further advice provided)  Additional funding provided in the 2024-25 Budget measure <i>Australian Antarctic Program - additional funding</i> , <sup>1</sup> and delivery of year-round monitoring and scientific programs would have funding for the period 2025-26 to 2032-33 modified to occur over 2025-26 to 2034-35 instead.	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$42.9 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an initial decrease in departmental expenses for AAD over the forward estimates and results in nil impact by the end of the medium term, because the same amount of funding (\$357.7m) is distributed over a longer period within the medium term.

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.

**Table 1: Re-phase additional Australian Antarctic Program funding – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	3.6	14.2	12.2	12.9	<b>42.9</b>
Underlying cash balance	3.6	14.2	12.2	12.9	<b>42.9</b>

(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.

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<sup>1</sup> [2024-25 Budget Paper No. 2](#), page 52. “*Australian Antarctic Program – additional funding*: The Government will provide \$290.5 million over five years from 2023–24 (and an additional \$207.8 million from 2028–29 to 2032–33) to continue delivery of the Australian Antarctic Program and expand Australia’s international scientific activities.”

## Key assumptions

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

- Baseline funding from 2025-26 would be reversed and re-allocated, with the years overlapping the proposal reduced on a proportional basis (around 20% reduction per year). The remainder of funding would be applied evenly as new funding over the additional two years in 2033-34 and 2034-35.
- Reductions in planned funding for the period 2025-26 to 2032-33 would be absorbed by the AAD and returned to the budget. Proposed funding for 2033-34 and 2034-35 would be fully spent by the AAD in the years it is allocated.

## Methodology

The funding profile for the additional funding for the budget measure component *Macquarie Island Research Station Modernisation Project* was provided by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The funding profile was then adjusted as detailed in the Key Assumptions

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

## Data sources

DCCEEW provided information on Australian Antarctic Program funding as of 3 December 2024, and confirmed 9 May 2025.

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 – Re-phase additional Australian Antarctic Program funding– Financial implications

**Table A1: Re-phase additional Australian Antarctic Program funding – 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>Departmental</b>													
<i>AAD Additional funding - Baseline</i>	17.9	71.0	61.1	64.5	40.2	35.5	37.1	30.4	-	-	-	214.5	357.7
<i>AAD Additional funding - Proposal</i>	-14.3	-56.8	-48.9	-51.6	-32.2	-28.4	-29.7	-24.3	-35.7	-35.8	-	-171.6	-357.7
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-35.7</b>	<b>-35.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-35.7</b>	<b>-35.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>-</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: Re-phase additional Australian Antarctic Program funding – 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	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.0	1.6	0.8	3.4	20.4
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.5	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2	1.9	1.0	2.9	20.1

(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.

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