



Joint Taskforce to investigate union corruption and links to organised crime in the construction industry	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish an Australian Federal Police (AFP) led taskforce comprising Commonwealth law enforcement agencies and state and territory police forces.</p> <p>The proposal would start 1 July 2025 and be for 3 years.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided)</p> <p>The taskforce would comprise the AFP, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Australian Taxation Office, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and state and territory police agencies.</p> <p>Any resources directed to the existing AFP investigation into the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) corruption allegations would be directed towards the proposed AFP-led taskforce.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$18.3 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase 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.

The financial impact of the proposal is sensitive to the scope and scale of the operations to be undertaken by the proposed joint taskforce, including the number of parties and personnel involved.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not made an assessment as to whether the proposed taskforce would have the legal power and authority to undertake the intended investigations.

Table 1: Joint Taskforce to investigate union corruption and links to organised crime in the construction industry – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-6.0	-6.1	-6.2	-	-18.3
Underlying cash balance	-6.0	-6.1	-6.2	-	-18.3

(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.

- State and territory police forces would fully cooperate with the proposed joint taskforce. Costs incurred by the state and territory police agencies would be met by the relevant agency, and not be covered by the Commonwealth.
- The existing AFP investigation into CFMEU corruption allegations is in the early stages and has minimal financial implications to date. Any resources currently directed at the CFMEU corruption allegations would be subsumed in the proposed AFP-led taskforce.

Methodology

The cost associated with the AFP was estimated based on the costs of other historical AFP-led taskforces and operations provided by the Attorney-General's Department. This was also informed by previous Budget measures.

Small amounts of departmental expenses were allocated to other affected agencies based on similar budget measures.

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 costing models for relevant AFP-led taskforces or operations.

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

Attachment A – Joint Taskforce to investigate union corruption and links to organised crime in the construction industry – Financial implications

Table A1: Joint Taskforce to investigate union corruption and links to organised crime in the construction industry – 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
Expenses													
Departmental													
<i>Australian Federal Police</i>	-5.0	-5.1	-5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-15.3	-15.3
<i>Attorney-General's Department</i>	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.3	-0.3
<i>Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission</i>	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.6	-0.6
<i>Australian Taxation Office</i>	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.5	-1.5
<i>Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre</i>	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.6	-0.6
Total – expenses	-6.0	-6.1	-6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-18.3	-18.3
Total (excluding PDI)	-6.0	-6.1	-6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-18.3	-18.3

(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.

(b) This costing includes an unquantifiable aspect.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Joint Taskforce to investigate union corruption and links to organised crime in the construction industry – 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
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-2.1	-9.4
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-0.1	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.8	-9.0

- (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 glossary².
- (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.

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