



Deliver a National Gas Plan – strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• empowering the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in ensuring gas retailers are passing on lower prices to consumers and ensuring the obligations of retailers are included in Gas Market Code• binding gas producers to sell into the domestic market, at prices lower than the export market• ensuring policy flexibility that allows the Minister for Resources to consider industry-led options to guarantee lower prices and avoid domestic gas shortages• preserve the principle that the ‘gas trigger’, a call to action by the government in forcing local gas exporters to reserve supplies for Australia, is a last resort option. <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$1.6 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in departmental 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.

Given the lack of mechanism detail, and the potential constitutional and policy complexities, 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: Deliver a National Gas Plan – strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.6
Underlying cash balance	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.6

(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 ACCC would require an additional 2 FTE staff to take an active monitoring stance for the Australian gas market and ensuring obligations are met under the Gas Market Code.

The additional average staffing level of the ACCC were grown in line with the Wage Cost Index 3 (WCI 3) using the PBO's departmental calculator over the medium term.

Additional work on policy and legal aspects of the proposal is assumed to be absorbed by the relevant department.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.¹

Data sources

The Department of Infrastructure, Science and Resources provided departmental effort insights as at 2 May 2025.

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

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

Attachment A – Deliver a National Gas Plan – strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism – Financial implications

Table A1: Deliver a National Gas Plan – strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism – 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													
Total – departmental	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.6	-4.4
Total (excluding PDI)	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.6	-4.4

(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.

Table A2: Deliver a National Gas Plan – strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism – 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	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-1.1
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-1.1

(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.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/online-budget-glossary)