



Full Implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Party: Australian Greens

Summary of proposal:

The proposal would establish a legislated framework to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into federal law, co-designed with First Nations communities and stakeholders, in line with the findings of the *Inquiry into the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The proposal would also provide the Australian Human Rights Commission with independent oversight powers and ongoing funding to monitor and enforce the implementation of UNDRIP principles.

The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$40.8 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.

Table 1: Full Implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-40.8
Underlying cash balance	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-40.8

(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

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal:

- The only costs resulting from this policy would arise through the monitoring and enforcement of implemented UNDRIP principles.
 - Australian Government departments are resourced to draft legislation in the course of their usual activities.

Methodology

The funding required to monitor and enforce the implementation of UNDRIP principles was estimated using an UNDRIP related measure announced in the Government of Canada's 2022 Budget. The costs of the Canadian measure were scaled for the country's population and indexed by the consumer price index.

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.

Government of Canada (2022) [*Budget 2022: A Plan to Grow Our Economy and Make Life More Affordable*](#), Government of Canada website, accessed 21 May 2025

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

Attachment A – Full Implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Financial implications

Table A1: Full Implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 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
Departmental													
<i>Australian Human Rights Commission</i>	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-40.8	-102.0
Total – expenses	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-40.8	-102.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-8.5	-40.8	-102.0

(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: Full Implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 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	-0.2	-0.7	-1.2	-1.7	-2.2	-2.7	-3.2	-3.8	-4.3	-4.9	-5.5	-3.8	-30.4
Underlying cash balance	-0.2	-0.6	-1.1	-1.6	-2.1	-2.6	-3.1	-3.6	-4.2	-4.8	-5.4	-3.5	-29.3

(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 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/online-budget-glossary)