



Justice – Protecting the truth tellers – Ensure adequate funding for the FOI Commissioner and provide \$5 million to address FOI backlogs	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would include the following components in relation to the Freedom of Information (FOI) processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• component 1: provide \$5 million in one-off funding to address FOI backlogs, enforce compliance timelines and impose sanctions for non-compliance• component 2: ensure adequate ongoing funding for the FOI Commissioner. <p>The proposal would start from 1 July 2026.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided)</p> <p>Component 2 of the proposal would double the current annual funding level for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$83.8 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.

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: Justice – Protecting the truth tellers – Ensure adequate funding for the FOI Commissioner and provide \$5 million to address FOI backlogs – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-32.1	-25.7	-26.0	-83.8
Underlying cash balance	-	-32.1	-25.7	-26.0	-83.8

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Key assumptions and methodology

For component 1 of the proposal, funding is capped at a fixed amount, distributed in full in 2026-27. The funding is departmental in nature.

For component 2 of the proposal, the additional funding requirement to 2028-29 was based on doubling the departmental appropriation projections from the 2025-26 Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS). The calculations beyond the forward estimates, from 2029-30 to 2035-36, were projected from the 2028-29 estimate using indexation by Wage Cost Index 3 (WCI 3) less an efficiency dividend.

We assume that no funds allocated to a given year are left unspent.

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

Data sources

AGD (Attorney-General's Department) (2025) [Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26](#), AGD website, Australian Government, accessed 20 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 – Justice – Protecting the truth tellers – Ensure adequate funding for the FOI Commissioner and provide \$5 million to address FOI backlogs – Financial implications

Table A1: Justice – Protecting the truth tellers – Ensure adequate funding for the FOI Commissioner and provide \$5 million to address FOI backlogs – 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													
Departmental													
<i>Component 1: Clearing FOI backlog</i>	-	-5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-5.0	-5.0
<i>Component 2: Doubling funding for OAIC</i>	-	-27.1	-25.7	-26.0	-26.3	-26.7	-27.0	-27.4	-27.7	-28.1	-28.4	-78.8	-270.4
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-32.1	-25.7	-26.0	-26.3	-26.7	-27.0	-27.4	-27.7	-28.1	-28.4	-83.8	-275.4

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Justice – Protecting the truth tellers – Ensure adequate funding for the FOI Commissioner and provide \$5 million to address FOI backlogs – 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	-	-0.7	-2.0	-3.3	-4.6	-5.9	-7.4	-9.0	-10.6	-12.4	-14.2	-6.0	-70.1
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.5	-1.7	-2.9	-4.2	-5.6	-7.1	-8.6	-10.2	-11.9	-13.8	-5.1	-66.5

(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.

- Indicates nil.

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