



Climate change and energy – publicly owned fast-charging network	
Party:	Australian Greens
Summary of proposal: The proposal would provide \$2 billion in equity funding over 2 years to the Commonwealth Electricity Corporation to roll out a publicly owned fast charge Electric Vehicle (EV) network complimenting existing commercial and state funded programs. The proposal would be non-going, distribute funding evenly over 2 years and start on 1 July 2025.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal balance by around \$202.8 million, underlying cash balance by around \$180.8 million and headline cash balance by around \$2.2 billion over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period inclusive of public debt interest (PDI) impacts (see Table 1).

The proposal would be expected to have an impact beyond the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications over the period to 2035-36 is provided at Attachment A.

Consistent with Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) Guidance 02/2015, PDI expense impacts have been included in this costing because the provision of equity funding under this proposal involves financial asset transactions¹. The impact on gross debt will be consistent with movements in the headline cash balance.

Table 1: Climate change and energy – publicly owned fast-charging network – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-32.0	-58.6	-55.3	-56.9	-202.8
Underlying cash balance	-27.0	-47.6	-49.3	-56.9	-180.8
Headline cash balance	-1,017.0	-1,037.6	-49.3	-56.9	-2,160.8

(a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.

(b) PDI impacts are included in the totals.

Uncertainties

The financial implications of this proposal are uncertain and highly sensitive to assumptions on the speed at which capital can be deployed and projects completed. The costing includes no allowance for

¹ [Public Debt Interest \(PDI\) payments in PBO costings](#)

the impact of the proposal on business profitability or company tax revenue. The magnitude of such effects would be highly uncertain and could comprise different effects, including:

- reductions in the returns of competing investment projects in the electric vehicle charging sector, especially due to the entry of a large-scale investment as well as the entrance of a market-dominant operator (crowding-out effects)
- increases in profits from marginal projects as a result of a reduction in the cost of capital because of potential flow-on effects of large-scale equities in the market (crowding-in effects).

It is unclear whether the crowding-out or crowding-in-effects would dominate, and this could vary from period to period.

To be treated as equity for Budget accounting purposes, the funding must be provided to an entity outside the general government sector (GGS) and the expected return on the funds invested must be at least equal to the forecast long-term inflation rate.² The PBO has not assessed returns for the invested funds beyond the 2035-36 financial year.

The PBO has not made an assessment of the ability of the specified level of equity financing to achieve the stated objectives of the policy. Additionally, while the PBO has assumed that the market could fully absorb the equity investment in each year, this assumption is sensitive to availability of materials and skilled labour for construction of the infrastructure.

Key assumptions

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

- Snowy Hydro Limited generation division, now renamed the Commonwealth Electricity Corporation, would remain classified as a Public Non-Financial Corporation (PNFC) in accordance with the principles outlined in the *Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (2015)*.³
- A total of \$2 billion funding would be provided evenly over 2 years from 2025-26 and would be fully committed.
- That market demand would be sufficient to fully absorb the additional supply and there will be adequate materials and labour supply to facilitate the infrastructure development.
- Any equity funding provided in a given financial year would be deployed within that financial year and begin producing investment returns in the following financial year.
- Departmental costs would be provided from within the specified funding amount and would be constant over the 2 years.
- Ongoing departmental costs needed to manage the equity investments after the rollout is completed are minimal and absorbed by the administering department.

Methodology

The proposal is to provide \$2 billion in equity, evenly distributed over 2 years from the commencement date.

² [Frequently asked questions - Equity investments](#)

³ [Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(2015 Preliminary\)](#)

Departmental expenses and equity investment profile estimates use information from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) as a guide, as projects under this proposal are of a comparable nature. The equity commitment and deployment profiles were adjusted to reflect the scale of the investment.

Departmental expenses are included within the funding amount. The value of equity injections will be as specified in the proposal, less expected departmental expenses. We assume that no funds allocated to a given year are left unspent.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.⁴

Data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2015) *Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, accessed 21 May 2025.

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

Department of Finance (2023), *Frequently asked questions – Equity investments*, accessed 16 May 2025.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water provided information on the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's funding commitments, equity investments, concessional loans and operational expenses over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period.

⁴ <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

Attachment A – Climate change and energy – publicly owned fast-charging network – Financial implications

Table A1: Climate change and energy – publicly owned fast-charging network – Fiscal balance (\$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
Revenue													
<i>Total – administered non-tax</i>	-	18.4	35.7	36.1	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	90.2	330.3
Expenses													
<i>Total – departmental</i>	-10.0	-10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-20.0	-20.0
<i>Total (excluding PDI)</i>	-10.0	8.4	35.7	36.1	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	70.2	310.3
<i>PDI impacts</i>	-22.0	-67.0	-91.0	-93.0	-96.0	-99.0	-102.0	-105.0	-108.0	-111.0	-115.0	-273.0	-1,009.0
<i>Total (including PDI)</i>	-32.0	-58.6	-55.3	-56.9	-61.7	-64.7	-67.7	-70.7	-73.7	-76.7	-80.7	-202.8	-698.7

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Climate change and energy – publicly owned fast-charging network – Underlying cash balance (\$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
Receipts													
<i>Total - administered non-tax</i>	-	18.4	35.7	36.1	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	90.2	330.3
Payments													
<i>Total – departmental</i>	-10.0	-10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-20.0	-20.0
<i>Total (excluding PDI)</i>	-10.0	8.4	35.7	36.1	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	70.2	310.3
<i>PDI impacts</i>	-17.0	-56.0	-85.0	-93.0	-95.0	-98.0	-101.0	-104.0	-107.0	-110.0	-114.0	-251.0	-980.0
<i>Total (including PDI)</i>	-27.0	-47.6	-49.3	-56.9	-60.7	-63.7	-66.7	-69.7	-72.7	-75.7	-79.7	-180.8	-669.7

(a) 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 A3: Climate change and energy – publicly owned fast-charging network – Headline cash balance (\$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
Receipts													
<i>Total - administered non-tax</i>	-	18.4	35.7	36.1	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	90.2	330.3
Payments													
<i>Total – administered</i>	-990.0	-990.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,980.0	-1,980.0
<i>Total – departmental</i>	-10.0	-10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-20.0	-20.0
<i>Total – payments</i>	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2,000.0	-2,000.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-1,000.0	-981.6	35.7	36.1	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.3	-1,909.8	-1,669.7
<i>PDI impacts</i>	-17.0	-56.0	-85.0	-93.0	-95.0	-98.0	-101.0	-104.0	-107.0	-110.0	-114.0	-251.0	-980.0
Total (including PDI)	-1,017.0	-1,037.6	-49.3	-56.9	-60.7	-63.7	-66.7	-69.7	-72.7	-75.7	-79.7	-2,160.8	-2,649.7

(a) A positive number for the headline cash balance indicates an increase in receipts or a decrease in payments or net capital investment in headline cash terms. A negative number for the headline cash balance indicates a decrease in receipts or an increase in payments or net capital investment in headline cash terms.

- Indicates nil.