



| Digital Rights Commissioner | |
|---|-------------------|
| Party: | Australian Greens |
| Summary of proposal: The proposal would create a Digital Rights Commissioner. The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2025. | |

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$4.9 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: Digital Rights Commissioner – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | Total to 2028-29 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Fiscal balance | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -4.9 |
| Underlying cash balance | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -4.9 |

(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.

Methodology and assumptions

The proposal would provide for a Commissioner and a team of 4 to support the Commissioner to execute their functions. Costs were calculated using the PBO's departmental costs calculator. It is assumed that staff costs would be indexed annually by Wage Cost Index (WCI) 3, less an efficiency dividend. Provision was made for implementation costs in the first year.

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.

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

Departmental expenses were informed by similar measures in the Commonwealth budgets from 2015-16 to 2021-22.

Attachment A – Digital Rights Commissioner – Financial implications

Table A1: Digital Rights Commissioner – 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 Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Digital Rights Commissioner</i> | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.4 | -4.9 | -14.2 |
| Total – expenses | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.4 | -4.9 | -14.2 |
| Total (excluding PDI) | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.4 | -4.9 | -14.2 |

(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: Digital Rights Commissioner – 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 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -3.9 |
| Underlying cash balance | .. | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -3.6 |

(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.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

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