



Science, industry and innovation – Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish an independent Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), modelled on the United Kingdom’s system.</p> <p>POST would provide Parliamentarians with high-quality, independent scientific evidence by ensuring that POST collaborates with Australia’s five Learned Academies during critical decision-making.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2026.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$7.7 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: Science, industry and innovation – Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-3.3	-2.2	-2.2	-7.7
Underlying cash balance	-	-3.3	-2.2	-2.2	-7.7

(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

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made the following assumption in costing this proposal.

- The office would comprise 10 people including 7 advisors, 2 administrative staff and a head of office. This is based on the staffing profile of the United Kingdom POST as at 20 May 2025.

## Methodology

Departmental costs were calculated using the PBO's departmental cost calculator.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>1</sup>

## Data sources

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

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

UK Parliament, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (2025) [Contact Us](#), accessed 20 May 2025.

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

## Attachment A – Science, industry and innovation – Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology – Financial implications

**Table A1: Science, industry and innovation – Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)</sup>**

	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
<b>Expenses</b>													
<i>Departmental</i>													
<i>Departmental cost to establish POST</i>	-	-3.3	-2.2	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-7.7	-24.0
<b>Total – expenses</b>	-	-3.3	-2.2	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-7.7	-24.0
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	-	-3.3	-2.2	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-7.7	-24.0

(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.

- Indicates nil.

**Table A2: Science, industry and innovation – Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	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
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	-	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.2	-0.6	-6.2
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.2	-0.6	-6.0

(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<sup>2</sup>.

(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.

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