



Australian Stories Fund	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would strengthen Australian storytelling on screens by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>component 1:</b> legislating local content quotas that require streaming services to invest 20% of their Australian subscriber revenue into locally made and owned content, and ensure they are regulated like Australian broadcasters.</li><li>• <b>component 2:</b> providing \$50 million annually to Screen Australia to establish an Australian Stories Fund to support the creation and distribution of local content.</li></ul> <p>The proposal would be ongoing, not be indexed, include departmental funding from within the capped amount for component 2, and start from 1 July 2025.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$201.7 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in administered and 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: Australian Stories Fund – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-50.6	-50.5	-50.3	-50.3	-201.7
Underlying cash balance	-50.6	-50.5	-50.3	-50.3	-201.7

(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.

## Key assumptions

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

### Component 1

- Three additional staff (one each of an EL2, EL1 and APS6) would be required within the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to design, consult and implement a reporting

system to ensure 20% of revenue is spent on locally owned and made content. This would reduce to a baseline amount once operational.

## Component 2

- Screen Australia would require departmental funding to set up and administer the Australian Stories Fund.
- All funds allocated for a specific year will be fully spent.

## Methodology

### Component 1

The financial implications for the number of staff were calculated using the PBO's departmental cost calculator.

### Component 2

Component 2 is capped at a fixed annual amount, starting from 2025-26. Departmental expenses were estimated based on the cost of administering similar programs and are included within the capped funding amount. Administered expenses are as specified in the proposal, less expected departmental expenses.

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.

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

## Attachment A – Australian Stories Fund – Financial implications

**Table A1: Australian Stories Fund – 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>													
<b>Administered</b>													
<i>Component 2: Australian Stories Fund</i>	-47.5	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-48.8	-193.9	-535.5
<b>Total – administered</b>	<b>-47.5</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-48.8</b>	<b>-193.9</b>	<b>-535.5</b>
<b>Departmental</b>													
<i>Component 1: Legislating local content quotas and regulating streaming services</i>	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-1.4	-2.8
<i>Component 2: Australian Stories Fund</i>	-2.5	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-6.4	-15.5
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-7.8</b>	<b>-18.3</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-50.6</b>	<b>-50.5</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-50.3</b>	<b>-201.7</b>	<b>-553.8</b>

(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: Australian Stories Fund – 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
<b>Fiscal balance</b>	-1.1	-3.4	-5.8	-8.3	-10.9	-13.6	-16.4	-19.4	-22.6	-25.9	-29.4	-18.6	-156.8
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	-0.8	-2.8	-5.2	-7.6	-10.2	-12.9	-15.7	-18.7	-21.8	-25.1	-28.5	-16.4	-149.3

(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 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.

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