



Amend Section 44 of the Constitution	
Party:	Australian Greens
Summary of proposal: The proposal would provide funding for a referendum to amend Section 44 of the Constitution, allowing dual citizens and other disqualified groups to run for office. The referendum would be held at the same time as the next general election (2027-28), minimising costs to the taxpayer.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$182 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in departmental expenses.

The proposal would not be expected to have an impact beyond the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period, other than for public debt interest (PDI) costs. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate PDI tables) over the period to 2035-36 is provided at Attachment A.

Table 1: Amend Section 44 of the Constitution – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-45.0	-137.0	-	-182.0
Underlying cash balance	-	-45.0	-137.0	-	-182.0

(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 assumptions in costing this proposal.

- There would be a 60% cost overlap by holding the referendum at the same time as the next general election.
- The next general election would be in 2027-28.
- Preparations for the referendum would be over 2 years, with around 25% of the cost in the first year and 75% in the year of the expected general election and referendum (to be held jointly).

Methodology

The estimated cost of the proposal was based on the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) reported cost for the 2023 Referendum. The cost was indexed by the consumer price index. An adjustment was made to account for overlaps in costs for holding the referendum at the same time as the next general election.

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

Australian Electoral Commission (2024), [Cost of elections and referendums - Australian Electoral Commission](#), accessed 23 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 – Amend Section 44 of the Constitution – Financial implications

Table A1: Amend Section 44 of the Constitution – 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
Total – departmental	-	-45.0	-137.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-182.0	-182.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-45.0	-137.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-182.0	-182.0

(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: Amend Section 44 of the Constitution – 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	-	-1.0	-5.1	-8.3	-8.7	-9.1	-9.5	-9.9	-10.4	-10.8	-11.3	-14.4	-84.1
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.7	-4.0	-7.5	-8.6	-9.0	-9.4	-9.8	-10.3	-10.7	-11.2	-12.2	-81.2

(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/)