



Establish an independent consulting regulator	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish an independent consulting regulator to enforce ethical standards, maintain a register of professional consultants, and impose penalties for misconduct, strengthening oversight and accountability in the sector.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2026 and be ongoing.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The regulator would regulate consultants in the public sector only and be a similar size to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$708 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.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not assessed whether the funding would be sufficient to meet the objectives of the proposal.

**Table 1: Establish an independent consulting regulator – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-263.0	-221.0	-224.0	<b>-708.0</b>
Underlying cash balance	-	-263.0	-221.0	-224.0	<b>-708.0</b>

(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 and methodology

As specified in the proposal, it is assumed that the new regulator would be similar in size to the ACCC, with a governance body comprising a Chair, Deputy Chair and 4 members, and a total average staffing level (ASL) of 1,082. Departmental expenses were calculated using the PBO's departmental costs calculator, indexed to Wage Cost Index 3 less an efficiency dividend. Provision was made for implementation costs and for the organisation to scale up in the first year.

We assume that no funds allocated to a given year are left unspent.

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.

Remuneration Tribunal (2024) [\*Remuneration Tribunal \(Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Full-time Public Office\) Determination 2024\*](#), Remuneration Tribunal website, accessed 23 May 2025.

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

## Attachment A – Establish an independent consulting regulator – Financial implications

**Table A1: Establish an independent consulting regulator – 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>Total – departmental</i>	-	-263.0	-221.0	-224.0	-227.0	-230.0	-233.0	-236.0	-239.0	-242.0	-245.0	-708.0	-2,360.0
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	-	-263.0	-221.0	-224.0	-227.0	-230.0	-233.0	-236.0	-239.0	-242.0	-245.0	-708.0	-2,360.0

- (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: Establish an independent consulting regulator – 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>	-	-6.0	-17.0	-27.0	-39.0	-51.0	-63.0	-77.0	-91.0	-106.0	-122.0	-50.0	-599.0
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-	-4.0	-14.0	-25.0	-36.0	-48.0	-60.0	-73.0	-87.0	-102.0	-118.0	-43.0	-567.0

- (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/)