



Deliver a National Gas Plan – Reinstate annual acreage releases for offshore oil and gas exploration	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would drive the development of Australia’s untapped gas resources by reinstating annual acreage releases for offshore oil and gas.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$12.3 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.

**Table 1: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Reinstate annual acreage releases for offshore oil and gas exploration – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-3.9	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	<b>-12.3</b>
Underlying cash balance	-3.9	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	<b>-12.3</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.

## Methodology and key assumptions

The estimated departmental effort from similar programs has been scaled to account for additional regulation around Native Title requirements.

The additional average staffing level of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) and Geoscience Australia were then grown in line with the Wage Cost Index 3 (WCI 3) using the PBO’s departmental calculator out over the medium term.

The National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) were allocated grant funding equal to current acreage release as informed by their *Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2025*<sup>1</sup>. This grant would be issued as working capital to expand acreage releases in the first year until funds are cost recovered and sustained operations occur.

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<sup>1</sup> [Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2025](#)

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>2</sup>

## Data sources

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources provided departmental effort insights as at 2 May 2025.

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

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2025) [Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2025](#). National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator website, accessed 22 May 2025.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

## Attachment A – Deliver a National Gas Plan – Reinstate annual acreage releases for offshore oil and gas exploration – Financial implications

**Table A1: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Reinstate annual acreage releases for offshore oil and gas exploration – 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>NOPTA – one off grant</i>	-1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.1	-1.1
<b>Total – administered</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Departmental</b>													
<i>DISR</i>	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.9	-1.9	-6.8	-19.5
<i>Geoscience Australia</i>	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-4.4	-12.6
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>-32.1</b>
<b>Total – expenses</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>-33.2</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>-33.2</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.

- Indicates nil.

**Table A2: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Reinstate annual acreage releases for offshore oil and gas exploration – 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><i>Fiscal balance</i></b>	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.3	-1.5	-1.8	-1.2	-9.5
<b><i>Underlying cash balance</i></b>	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-1.5	-1.7	-1.1	-9.0

- (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>3</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>3</sup> [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://pbo.gov.au/online-budget-glossary)