



Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would replicate the previous Strategic Basin Plan programs by funding the programs that were incomplete and cut: the Beetaloo, North Bowen and Galilee, and the Cooper-Adavale Basin Plan.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The program will provide an additional \$36.3 million in both 2027-28 and 2028-29 and \$150 million in 2029-30, to support new investment and improve near term supply to southern states and the broader east coast.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$150 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. No analysis has been undertaken to assess if the outcomes from the programs previously funded have been achieved.

Table 1: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-58.9	-18.6	-36.3	-36.3	-150.1
Underlying cash balance	-58.9	-18.6	-36.3	-36.3	-150.1

(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.

- Where spent funding is within rounding (\$100,000) of the announced funding, the program has been considered completed.
- Outstanding allocated funds were grown in line with the consumer price index (CPI).
- Departmental expenses were grown in line with wage cost indices 3 (WCI 3).
- Capped funds (co-payments to states and private businesses) were held constant.
- Funding from 2027-28 to 2029-30 is capped, not indexed.

Methodology

The impacts for 2025-26 and 2026-27 are based on the following:

- The individual programs related to the three Strategic Basin plans, being the Beetaloo, North Bowen and Galilee, and the Cooper-Adavale Basin Plan identified and assessed to determine if each program was complete, ongoing and funded, reprofiled, or cut.
- Programs that were determined to be complete, or ongoing and funded were excluded from this costing.
- Programs that were determined to be reprofiled were excluded where the profile was still funded to completion.
- Programs that were considered cut were indexed to either CPI or WCI 3 and reprofiled, consistent with the original profile and apportionment.
- Capped funding programs were reprofiled, consistent with the original profile, at the nominal cost of the original program.

The impacts for 2027-28 onwards are capped as specified.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.¹

Data sources

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

Budget Papers

Commonwealth of Australia, (2021). [2021-22 Budget Paper 2](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

Commonwealth of Australia, (2021). [MYEFO 2021-22 Budget Paper 2](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

Commonwealth of Australia, (2022). [2022-23 Budget Paper 2](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

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

Commonwealth of Australia, (2022). [October 2022-23 Budget Paper 2](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

Commonwealth of Australia, (2023). [2023-24 Budget Paper 2](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 6 May 2025.

Commonwealth of Australia, (2024). [2024-25 Budget Paper 2](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 6 May 2025.

Department Budgets

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (2021). [2021-22 Portfolio Additional Estimate Statements](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2023). [2023-24 Portfolio Additional Estimate Statements](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 6 May 2025.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (2021). [2021-22 Portfolio Budget Statement](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

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Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2022). [2022-23 Portfolio Budget Statement](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 6 May 2025.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2023). [2023-24 Portfolio Budget Statement](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 6 May 2025.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2024). [2024-25 Portfolio Budget Statement](#), Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 6 May 2025.

Government Announcements

Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2020). [‘Gas-fired recovery’](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2021). [‘New grants to unlock Beetaloo Basin potential’](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2021). [‘Basin plan to crack the nut in central Queensland’](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2021). [‘Cooper and Adavale Basins plan to provide jobs and economic boost’](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2022). [‘Government getting on with the job of gas exploration’](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2022). [‘\\$7.5m grant to support gas exploration in Beetaloo Sub-Basin’](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

Specific data request to departments

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources provided details on the requested projects that fall under their department (2022, 2023, 2024).

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water provided details on the requested projects that fall under their department (2022, 2024).

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts provided details on the requested projects within their department (2022,2024).

Other

Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2023). '[*The Beetaloo Sub-basin's resource potential is a significant opportunity for the economic recovery of the Northern Territory \(NT\) and Australia*](#)', accessed 6 May 2025.

Liberal (2025). [Our Plan for a Sustainable Budget](#), accessed 6 May 2025.

The Australian Institute (2023). '[*Subsidising fracking in the Beetaloo Basin Submission to Senate Environment and Communications References Committee*](#)', accessed 6 May 2025.

Attachment A – Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Financial implications

Table A1: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – 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
Expenses													
Administered													
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Unlocking five key gas basins</i>	-16.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-16.2	-16.2
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Beetaloo Basin Cooperative Drilling Grants Program</i>	-23.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-23.1	-23.1
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Build the capacity of the Northern Land Council</i>	-0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.6	-0.6
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance</i>	-3.6	-3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-7.0	-7.0
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Optimise and Discover Program</i>	-15.0	-15.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-30.0	-30.0
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – Additional funding</i>	-	-	-36.3	-36.3	-150.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-72.6	-222.6
Total – administered	-58.5	-18.4	-36.3	-36.3	-150.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-149.5	-299.5
Departmental													
<i>Deliver a National Gas Plan – Strategic Basin Plan – DCCEE and CSIRO</i>	-0.4	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.6	-0.6
Total – departmental	-0.4	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.6	-0.6
Total – expenses	-58.9	-18.6	-36.3	-36.3	-150.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-150.1	-300.1
Total (excluding PDI)	-58.9	-18.6	-36.3	-36.3	-150.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-150.1	-300.1

(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 – Strategic Basin Plan – 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
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	-1.3	-3.1	-4.4	-6.2	-10.6	-14.5	-15.1	-15.8	-16.5	-17.3	-18.1	-15.0	-122.9
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-1.0	-2.6	-4.1	-5.8	-9.5	-13.5	-14.9	-15.6	-16.3	-17.1	-17.9	-13.5	-118.3

- (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 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.

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