



Prioritise agricultural programs – Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal: The proposal would cease funding towards the Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (RAAWS) from 2025-26 onwards. The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$2.6 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects a decrease in departmental expenses.

The proposal would not 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: Prioritise agricultural programs – Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy– Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	1.3	1.3	-	-	2.6
Underlying cash balance	1.3	1.3	-	-	2.6

(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.

- For the funding allocated towards the RAAWS as outlined in the relevant 2023-24 Budget measure¹:
 - all funding for 2023-24 and 2024-25 was or will be spent entirely within those years
 - all funding for 2025-26 onwards is currently uncommitted and able to be reversed.

¹ *Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy*: \$5.0 million over 4 years from 2023–24 to develop a renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (the Strategy) to establish national standards to support improved animal welfare outcomes, page 56, [Budget Paper No. 2](#), 2023-24 Budget.

Methodology

The financial implications of the proposal were taken to be a reduction in departmental expenses for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for 2025-26 and 2026-27, equivalent to the value of funding for the RAAWS as outlined in the 2023-24 Budget measure *Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy*.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.²

Data sources

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) (2023) *Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy 2023-24 Budget factsheet*, Australian Government.

Commonwealth of Australia (2023) *2023-24 Budget, Budget Paper No. 2, Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy*, page 56, Commonwealth of Australia.

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

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

Attachment A – Prioritise agricultural programs – Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – Financial implications

Table A1: Prioritise agricultural programs – Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – 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													
Departmental													
<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - RAAWS Funding</i>	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.6	2.6
Total – expenses	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.6	2.6
Total (excluding PDI)	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.6	2.6

(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: Prioritise agricultural programs – Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – 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	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.4
Underlying cash balance	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.4

(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 glossary³.

(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.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

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