



Deliver a National Gas Plan – Cease funding to the Environmental Defender’s Office	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would reverse the 2022-23 October Budget measure <i>Restoring Funding to the Environmental Defenders Office and Environmental Justice Australia</i><sup>1</sup> and cease any other payments to the Environmental Defenders Office and Environmental Justice Australia.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2027.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$4.5 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects a decrease in administered 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 – Cease funding to the Environmental Defender’s Office – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-	2.2	2.3	4.5
Underlying cash balance	-	-	2.2	2.3	4.5

(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

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made the following assumptions when costing this proposal.

- Baseline funding from the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) and Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) was sourced from the relevant 2024-25 department’s Portfolio Budget Statements.
  - An assumed growth rate of around 2% was applied to the uncommitted (net) funding over the medium term.

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<sup>1</sup> The October 2022-23 Budget measure *Restoring funding to the Environmental Defenders Office and Environmental Justice Australia* provided \$9.8 million over 4 years from 2022-23 (and \$2.6 million per year ongoing) to restore funding to the Environmental Defenders Office and Environmental Justice Australia. [Budget October 2022-23, page 75](#).

- The committed and reallocated funding amounts were deducted from the 2027-28 financial year. Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>2</sup>

## Data sources

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water provided information on funding for the EDO and EJA as at the 2024-25 Budget.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2025) Portfolio Budget Statements 2025-26 Budget related paper No. 1.3, Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water portfolio, Commonwealth of Australia.

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

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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 – Cease funding to the Environmental Defender’s Office – Financial implications

**Table A1: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Cease funding to the Environmental Defender’s Office – 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>Expenses</b>													
<b>Administered</b>													
<i>End funding for EDO and EJA</i>	-	-	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	4.5	21.8
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	-	-	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	4.5	21.8

- (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.
- (b) This costing includes an unquantifiable aspect.
- Indicates nil.

**Table A2: Deliver a National Gas Plan – Cease funding to the Environmental Defender’s Office – 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>Fiscal balance</b>	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.3	4.9
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	-	-	..	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.1	4.3

- (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 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.
- .. Not zero but rounded to zero.
- Indicates nil.

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