



Require timely disclosure of political donations	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would increase transparency by requiring timely disclosure of political donations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• requiring all monetary or in-kind contributions over \$1,000 to be disclosed to ensure all financial influences on parties and candidates are publicly reported• capture all forms of financial and in-kind contributions to parties and candidates, by tightening the definition of 'gift'• cap political donations and ensure all cumulative donations are disclosed. This would apply to all registered political parties, branches candidates, and associated entities. <p>The proposal would start from 1 July 2026.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$25.3 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 financial implications of the proposal are highly uncertain and are very sensitive to information and communication technology (ICT) costs and the number of staff required for compliance activities.

There may be revenue that arises from financial penalties from non-compliance with the requirements. However, there is significant uncertainty around what the level of non-compliance would be and how often the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) would pursue these matters through legal action. As such, this impact has not been costed.

Table 1: Require timely disclosure of political donations – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-16.6	-4.6	-4.1	-25.3
Underlying cash balance	-	-16.6	-4.6	-4.1	-25.3

(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.

- Legislation would be passed to give effect to the proposal before the proposed commencement date.
- The AEC would need to update the ICT system it currently uses for financial disclosures to manage an increased volume and broader definition of contributions to be disclosed and there would be ongoing ICT costs, indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The proposal would require an initial 6-person team in one year to develop the policy, progress legislative change, communicate the changes (education and outreach) and commission the appropriate ICT solution.
- An ongoing team of 3 would be required from the second year to manage enforcement and compliance activity, noting that the AEC already undertakes this activity for the existing regulatory regime. Staff costs would grow in line with the wage cost index 3 (WCI3) less an efficiency dividend.
- Education and outreach costs would be ongoing and indexed to CPI. The AEC would receive supplementary funding for education and outreach costs in election years.

Methodology

- ICT costs have been estimated taking into account previous similar ICT budget measures but are highly uncertain, and dependent on the detailed solution requirements.
- The PBO has not factored in an ICT Investment Approval Process (IIAP) to this costing¹.
 - If an IIAP was required for this proposal, it would be likely to take longer to implement, and would include additional costs for the first and second pass approvals.
- Education, outreach, compliance and audit costs have been estimated taking into account previous budget measures. Staff costs have been calculated using the PBO's departmental calculator.
- Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.²

Data sources

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

¹ [ICT Investment Approval Process | Digital Transformation Agency \(dta.gov.au\)](https://www.dta.gov.au/ict-investment-approval-process)

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

Attachment A – Require timely disclosure of political donations – Financial implications

Table A1: Require timely disclosure of political donations – 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													
Total – departmental	-	-16.6	-4.6	-4.1	-4.2	-4.7	-4.2	-4.2	-4.8	-4.3	-4.3	-25.3	-56.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-16.6	-4.6	-4.1	-4.2	-4.7	-4.2	-4.2	-4.8	-4.3	-4.3	-25.3	-56.0

- (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: Require timely disclosure of political donations – 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	-	-0.4	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-1.6	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.1	-2.4	-17.4
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.3	-0.7	-1.0	-1.3	-1.5	-1.8	-2.0	-2.3	-2.7	-3.0	-2.0	-16.6

- (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.
- Indicates nil.

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