



Parliament of Australia
Parliamentary Budget Office

Phil Bowen PSM FCPA
Parliamentary Budget Officer

Senator Christine Milne
Leader of the Australian Greens
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Milne

Please find attached a response to your costing request, *Soil research* (letter of 3 September 2013).

The response to this request will be released on the PBO website (<http://aph.gov.au/pbo>).

If you have any queries about this costing, please do not hesitate to contact Colin Brown on (02) 6277 9530.

Yours sincerely

Phil Bowen

4 September 2013

COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

Name of proposal to be costed:	Soil research
Summary of proposal:	<p>The proposal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invest \$75 million over the forward estimates to fund a national soil health strategy encourage state and territory governments to match this investment, and support consistent, ongoing research and monitoring over the long term. <p>The aim of the proposal is to drive innovation in farming techniques to give Australian farmers a lasting competitive advantage.</p> <p>The proposal would have effect from 1 July 2014.</p>
Person/party requesting costing:	Senator Christine Milne, Australian Greens
Date costing request received:	30 August 2013
Date costing completed:	4 September 2013
Date of public release of policy	30 August 2013

Costing overview

This proposal is expected to decrease both the underlying cash balance and fiscal balance by \$75.0 million over the 2013-14 Budget forward estimates period. This is entirely due to an increase to expenses.

This proposal is capped for three years and would terminate on 30 June 2017.

This costing is considered to be of high reliability as it is based on a capped funding amount specified in the costing request.

Table 1: Financial implications (outturn prices)^(a)

Impact on	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0

(a) A negative number for the fiscal balance indicates an increase in expenses in accrual terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in expenses in cash terms.