# Policy costing request—during the caretaker period for a general election

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| Name of policy: | Securing the Future of Farming |
| Person requesting costing: | Senator Richard Di Natale |
| Parliamentary party:  | Australian Greens |
| Date of request to cost the policy: | 27 June 2016 |
| *Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.* |
| Has a costing of this policy been requested under Section 29 of the Charter of Budget Honesty (ie from the Treasury or the Department of Finance)? | No |
| Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release): | Announced by Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert, 20 June 2016: <http://greens.org.au/news/wa/greens-announce-package-help-farmers-sell-direct>; <http://greens.org.au/local-food>; <http://greens.org.au/soil-health>; <http://greens.org.au/food-system>.  |
| **Description of policy** |
| Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents): | **Helping our soils survive**A capped amount of $25m per year (including administration costs) from 2017-18 to 2020-21 provided to improve research and investment in soils quality through the funding of the National Soil Health Strategy.**Helping farmers sell direct**$80m in grants over four years, from 2017-18 to 2020-21 for grants to connect farmers and local communities. Amounts are to be capped, $20m annually, including administration costs. **Saying no to corporate control**Funding of:* $2m for the establishment of an independent Research and Development group tasked with scoping the establishment of a GM contamination cleanup fund.
* $2m for an inquiry into the assessment procedures for GM crops and products.

Comprehensive, mandatory labelling for foods containing any ingredient, additive or processing aid or other constituent produced using GM. |
| What is the purpose or intention of the policy? | To support sustainable agriculture.  |
| **What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:** |
| Is the policy part of a package?If yes, list the components and interactions with proposed or existing policies. | - |
| Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount? If a capped amount, are the costs of administering the policy to be included within the capped amount or additional to the capped amount? | Capped. |
| Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in funding or delivering the policy?If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged? | - |
| Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses?If yes, please provide details. | - |
| Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure? | - |
| If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program? | - |
| Will the funding/program cost require indexation?If yes, list factors to be used. | - |
| **Expected impacts of the proposal** |
| If applicable, what are the estimated costs each year? If available, please provide details in the table below. Are these provided on an underlying cash balance or fiscal balance basis? |
| **Estimated financial implications (outturn prices)(a)** |
|  | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 |
| Underlying cash balance ($m) | - | 51.6 | 50 | 46.7 |
| Fiscal balance ($m) | - | 51.6 | 50 | 46.7 |
| 1. 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 positive number in the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.
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| What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)? | - |
| Has the policy been costed by a third party?If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions? | - |
| What is the expected community impact of the policy?How many people will be affected by the policy?What is the likely take up?What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions? | - |
| **Administration of policy:** |
| Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non‑government organisation, etc)? | **Helping our soils survive** – Department of Agriculture**Helping farmers sell direct –** Department of Agriculture and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Australia**Saying no to corporate control** – Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Department of Industry as appropriate |
| Please specify whether any special administrative arrangements are proposed for the policy and whether these are expected to involve additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies). | - |
| Intended date of implementation: | Initiatives are intended to start in the 2017-18 financial year.  |
| Intended duration of policy: | **Helping our soils survive –** 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021. **Helping farmers sell direct** – 2017-18 to 2020-21**Saying no to corporate control –** funding from 1 July 2017, regulatory changes ongoing.  |
| Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation? | - |
| List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0). | - |
| Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered? | - |
| **NOTE:***Please note that:**The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.**The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requestor. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requestor in advance of the costing being completed.* |