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

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| **Name of policy:** | Tackling Obesity: Sugar Sweetened Beverages |
| Person requesting costing: | Senator Di Natale |
| Parliamentary party:  | Australian Greens |
| Date of request to cost the policy: | 1 July 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): | 22 June 2016; Richard Di Natale<http://greens.org.au/sugar-tax>  |
| **Description of policy** |
| Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents): | Excise of 20% of retail value on sugar-sweetened beverages (water-based, ready-to-drink soft drinks, sports drinks, iced tea, mineral water) with greater than 5g sugar per 100ml, Paid by manufacturers/producers and importers (with an excise-equivalent import duty) |
| What is the purpose or intention of the policy? | To change consumer behaviour and reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and therefore calories consumed – an anti-obesity policy |
| **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. | N/A |
| 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? | N/A |
| 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? | No, federal responsibility for excise duties. |
| Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses?If yes, please provide details. | An incremental long-term benefit to the health system. |
| Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure? | No |
| If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program? | N/A |
| Will the funding/program cost require indexation?If yes, list factors to be used. | N/A |
| **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 ($m) | 386 | 553 | 563 | 583 |
| Fiscal balance ($m) | 386 | 543 | 563 | 583 |
| 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)? | That the producers of sugar sweetened beverages pass costs on to customers. |
| Has the policy been costed by a third party?If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions? | No |
| 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? | International examples suggest a reduction in the consumption of SSBs of order a few percent. |
| **Administration of policy:** |
| Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non‑government organisation, etc)? | Treasury |
| 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). | Excise paid by manufacturers/producers or importers, not by retailers. |
| Intended date of implementation: | 1 September 2017 |
| Intended duration of policy: | Ongoing |
| Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation? | N/A |
| List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0). | See, for example: *Nutrients* 2015, *7*, 8189-8198; doi:10.3390/nu7095390 <http://foodresearch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Food-and-beverages-taxes-final-amended.pdf>Beverage purchases from stores in Mexico under the excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages: observational study. BMJ. 2016 Jan 6;352:h6704. doi: 10.1136/bmj.h6704.  |
| Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered? | We assume the elasticity in demand for SSBs is similar to other OECD countries. |
| **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.* |