



Native Title Respondents Scheme - abolition	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: The proposal would abolish the Native Title Respondents Scheme and return all uncommitted funds to the budget. This proposal has a start date of 1 July 2022.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$7.1 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This entirely reflects a decrease in administered expenses for the Attorney-General's Department.

Consistent with the Attorney-General's Department's 2022-23 Portfolio Budget Statements, there is no departmental appropriation associated with the Native Title Respondents Scheme (the Scheme). Therefore, there would be no departmental savings associated with the Scheme's abolition.

The proposal would be expected to have an impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate public debt interest (PDI) tables) over the period to 2032-33 is provided at Attachment A.

Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total to 2025-26
Fiscal balance	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	7.1
Underlying cash balance	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	7.1

(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.

Key assumptions

The Parliamentary Budget Office has made the following assumption in costing this proposal.

- All current uncommitted funding from 1 July 2022 would be available to be returned to the budget.

Methodology

Estimated uncommitted funding for the Scheme over the 2022-23 forward estimates period was based on information provided by the Attorney-General's Department. The projection over the medium term was calculated by using the appropriate wage indexation factor.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules as outlined on the PBO Costings and budget information webpage.¹

Data sources

The Attorney-General's Department provided committed and uncommitted funding data for the Scheme as at 23 March 2022.

The Treasury provided economic parameters as at the Budget 2022-23.

¹ https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/Costings_and_budget_information

Attachment A – Native Title Respondents Scheme – abolition – financial implications

Table A1: Native Title Respondents Scheme - abolition – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^(a)

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	Total to 2025-26	Total to 2032-33
Expenses													
<i>Native Title Respondents Scheme - abolition</i>	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	7.1	20.6
Total (excluding PDI)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	7.1	20.6

(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.

Table A2: Native Title Respondents Scheme - abolition – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	Total to 2025-26	Total to 2032-33
Fiscal balance	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	2.9
Underlying cash balance	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	2.9

(a) As this table is presented as a memorandum item, these figures are not reflected in the totals in the table 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 glossary².

(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.

² [Online budget glossary – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au)