



Saving Native Species Fund	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: The proposal would provide \$71.6 million over the forward estimates to fund a saving native species program (the program). The program would: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• boost protection for native species and combat invasive species by investing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– \$24.5 million for koala conservation programs with a larger than normal amount for 2022-23– \$24.8 million to fight yellow crazy ants in Cairns and Townsville.• undertake further saving native species program activities within the funding envelope, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– expanding koala hospitals and services– investing in koala chlamydia vaccines and fertility projects– working with the states and territories on a national koala conservation strategy. The proposal would commence from 1 July 2022.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$75.9 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This is largely due to an increase in administered expenses of \$71.6 million.

The proposal would have an ongoing impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including a separate public debt interest (PDI) table) 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	-27.9	-16.0	-16.0	-16.0	-75.9
Underlying cash balance	-27.9	-16.0	-16.0	-16.0	-75.9

(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 (PBO) has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

- The koala conservation programs would obtain \$14.3 million in 2022-23 and the remainder of the administered funds would be allocated equally over the forward estimates.
- The proposal would be ongoing and indexed by the consumer price index from 2025-26.
- Departmental expenses would be based on the cost of administering similar programs.

Methodology

The administered and departmental costs were obtained as per *Key assumptions*.

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 Department of Finance provided the 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 – Saving Native Species Fund – financial implications

Table A1: Saving Native Species Fund – 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													
Administered													
<i>Koala conservation programs</i>	-14.3	-3.4	-3.4	-3.4	-3.5	-3.6	-3.7	-3.7	-3.8	-3.9	-4.0	-24.5	-50.7
<i>Fighting yellow crazy ants in Cairns and Townsville</i>	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2	-6.3	-6.5	-6.7	-6.8	-7.0	-7.2	-7.4	-24.8	-72.7
<i>Other saving native species program activities</i>	-5.5	-5.6	-5.6	-5.6	-5.7	-5.9	-6.0	-6.2	-6.3	-6.5	-6.6	-22.3	-65.5
Total – administered	-26.0	-15.2	-15.2	-15.2	-15.5	-16.0	-16.4	-16.7	-17.1	-17.6	-18.0	-71.6	-188.9
Departmental													
<i>Departmental expenses</i>	-1.9	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-4.3	-10.2
Total – departmental	-1.9	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-4.3	-10.2
Total (excluding PDI)	-27.9	-16.0	-16.0	-16.0	-16.3	-16.8	-17.2	-17.5	-18.0	-18.5	-18.9	-75.9	-199.1

(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: Saving Native Species Fund – 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
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	-0.3	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.6	-4.3	-5.1	-6.1	-3.9	-30.5
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-0.3	-0.8	-1.2	-1.5	-2.0	-2.4	-3.0	-3.6	-4.2	-5.0	-6.0	-3.8	-30.0

- (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.

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