Parliamentary Budget Office

# Policy costing

| **National vote on the Republic** | |
|---|---|
| Party: | Australian Labor Party |
| Summary of proposal: This proposal is to undertake a plebiscite to decide whether Australia should be a Republic alongside an anticipated 2022 general election. | |

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease both the fiscal and underlying cash balances by $55 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period.  This impact entirely reflects an increase in departmental expenditure.

The proposal would not be expected to have an impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period.

The estimates are sensitive to the actual structure adopted, and process undertaken, to conduct the plebiscite alongside an anticipated general election.

**Table 1: Financial implications ($m)**[(a)(b)]

|  | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 | 2022–23 | **Total to 2022–23** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fiscal balance | - | - | -55 | - | **-55** |
| Underlying cash balance | - | - | -55 | - | **-55** |

(a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.
(b) Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
-   Indicates nil.

## Methodology

The cost of undertaking a plebiscite as part of an anticipated 2022 general election are based on the Australian Electoral Commission's estimated costs of conducting the Marriage Equality Plebiscite. Cost estimates were indexed by the consumer price index and the projected growth in Australia's population to the specified year.

All estimates were rounded to the nearest $1 million.

## Data sources

Australian Electoral Commission, 2015. *Submission to the inquiry into the matter of a popular vote, in the form of a plebiscite or referendum, on the matter of marriage in Australia.* [Online]
Available at:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Marriage_Plebiscite/Submissions [Accessed 18.04.2019].

The Treasury provided indexation parameters and population projections as at the 2019 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.