



Policy costing

Abolishing the Native Title Respondents Scheme	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: This proposal would abolish the Native Title Respondents Scheme (the Scheme) and return all uncommitted funds to the budget. This proposal would commence on 1 July 2019.	

Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to increase both the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$6.9 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This entirely reflects a decrease in administered expenses. Consistent with the Attorney-General's Department's 2019-20 Portfolio Budget Statements, there is no departmental appropriation associated with the Scheme and, therefore, there would be no departmental saving associated with its abolition.

The proposal would be expected to have an ongoing impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period.

The financial implications are sensitive to the estimated timing and value of contractual commitments made under the Scheme.

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

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	6.9
Underlying cash balance	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	6.9

(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.

Key assumptions

In costing this proposal the Parliamentary Budget Office has estimated the uncommitted funds for 2019-20 that would be available at the proposal's start date of 1 July 2019 by assuming that no further contractual commitments occur between the 2019-20 Budget and the proposal start date.

Methodology

Estimated uncommitted funding for the Scheme over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period was calculated as described above and projected over the period to 2029-30 using the appropriate indexation factor.

Data sources

The Attorney-General's Department provided committed and uncommitted funding data for the Scheme as at the 2019-20 Budget.

The Department of Finance provided the wage cost index as at the 2019-20 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.