



Establish a Public Interest News Gathering fund	
Party:	Australian Greens
Summary of proposal: The proposal would establish a permanent Public Interest News Gathering fund to support public interest journalism through grants. The proposal would commence on 1 July 2023.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balance by about \$112 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This impact reflects a net increase in administered expenses of around \$108 million and an increase in departmental expenses of around \$4 million.

The proposal would have an impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate 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	-	-36.8	-36.9	-38.0	-111.7
Underlying cash balance	-	-36.8	-36.9	-38.0	-111.7

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Key assumptions

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

- The baseline administered funding for the Public Interest News Gathering fund in 2023-24, is based on the average annual administered funding the previous Public Interest News Gathering program received during the period 2020-21 to 2021-22.
- The 2022-23 baseline administered funding is then grown by the consumer price index over the period to 2032-33.

Methodology

- Departmental expenses were estimated based on previous Budget measures.

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

Data sources

Australian Government (2022) *Budget 2022-23*, Australian Government, Canberra.

The Department of Finance and Treasury provided economic parameters as at the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2022.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, provided the administered funding amounts for the previous Public Interest News Gathering program.

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

Attachment A – Establish a Public Interest News Gathering fund – financial implications

Table A1: Establish a Public Interest News Gathering 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													
<i>Administered</i>	-	-35.0	-36.0	-37.1	-38.0	-39.0	-39.9	-40.8	-41.9	-42.9	-44.0	-108.1	-394.6
<i>Departmental</i>	-	-1.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-3.6	-10.8
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-36.8	-36.9	-38.0	-39.0	-40.0	-40.9	-41.8	-42.9	-44.0	-45.1	-111.7	-405.4

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Establish a Public Interest News Gathering 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
Fiscal balance	-	-0.4	-1.3	-2.1	-3.1	-4.2	-5.4	-6.8	-8.4	-10.1	-12.1	-3.8	-53.9
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.4	-1.2	-2.0	-3.0	-4.1	-5.3	-6.7	-8.2	-9.9	-11.8	-3.6	-52.6

(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.

- Indicates nil.

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