



Amend section 44 of the Constitution	
Party:	Australian Greens
Summary of proposal: The proposal would provide funding for a referendum to amend section 44 of the Constitution to allow Australians to run for Federal Parliament and keep their dual citizenship. The referendum would be held at the same time as the next general election.	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balance by around \$83.1 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This amount entirely reflects an increase in expenses.

The proposal would not 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)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total to 2025-26
Fiscal balance	-	-	-83.1	-	<b>-83.1</b>
Underlying cash balance	-	-	-83.1	-	<b>-83.1</b>

(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 assumption in costing this proposal.

- There is a 60% costs overlap for holding the referendum at the same time as the next general election.

## Methodology

The estimated cost of the proposal was based on historical costs of a holding a referendum, indexed by the consumer price index. An adjustment was made to account for overlaps in costs for holding the referendum at the same time as the next general election.

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

## Data sources

Australian Electoral Commission (2019), [Cost of elections and referendums](#), Australian Electoral Commission

Australian Government (2022), [2022-23 Budget](#), Australian Government.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Budget\\_Office/Costings\\_and\\_budget\\_information](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/Costings_and_budget_information)

## Attachment A – Amend section 44 of the Constitution – financial implications

**Table A1: Amend section 44 of the Constitution – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)</sup>**

	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
<b>Expenses</b>													
<i>Amend section 44 of the Constitution</i>	-	-	-83.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-83.1	-83.1
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	-	-	-83.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-83.1	-83.1

(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.

- Indicates nil.

**Table A2: Amend section 44 of the Constitution – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	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
<b>Fiscal balance</b>	-	-	-0.9	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.8	-17.9
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	-	-	-0.8	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.6	-17.5

(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 glossary<sup>2</sup>.

(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.

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