



Advanced Strategic Research Agency	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: This proposal would establish the Advanced Strategic Research Agency (ASRA) within the Defence Portfolio to fund research in technologies for national security. ASRA would be modelled off of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency within the US. Funding for ASRA would be redirected from currently unallocated funding under the Defence Innovation Hubs. This proposal would commence from 1 July 2022.	

Costing overview

This proposal would not be expected to impact the fiscal and underlying cash balances over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This is due to funding for ASRA being offset from the Department of Defence's departmental funding. 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	-	-	-	-	-
Underlying cash balance	-	-	-	-	-

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

- Funding for ASRA would be entirely departmental, consistent with existing funding arrangements for Defence.
- Consistent with the PBO's general election guidance, in the absence of a public statement specifying that this policy is terminating, the PBO has assumed that this policy is ongoing.

Methodology

The financial implications of this proposal were based on the level of uncommitted funding allocated towards the Defence Innovations Hub.

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 Defence provided the level of committed and uncommitted funding under the Defence Innovations Hub.

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

Attachment A – Advanced Strategic Research Agency – financial implications

Table A1: Advanced Strategic Research Agency – 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													
Departmental													
<i>Department of Defence</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total – expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(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: Advanced Strategic Research Agency – 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Underlying cash balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(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)