



Truth and Justice Commission	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a Treaty Council (the Council) which replicates the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation established by the <i>Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991</i> and was abolished in 2001. The Council would recommend the structure and form of a National Truth and Justice Commission (the Commission) to formally recognise historical wrongs and ongoing injustices towards First Nations peoples.</p> <p>The proposal has 4 parts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From 2022-23 to 2024-25, establish the Council. The Council would lead the development of a Treaty model through consultation, and the development of a model for the Commission.2. In 2025-26, establish the Commission outside the general government sector. The Commission would be provided \$250 million in funding to begin proceedings in parallel with the Council until its expiration.3. From 2025-26 to 2027-28, the Council would undertake community engagement on the proposed Treaty model and undertake the development of a Treaty/treaties.4. From 2028-29 to 2031-32, the Council would aim to secure the commitment and action of government, key organisations, and individuals, with a Treaty being established by 2032. <p>Funding for the Council would be indexed in accordance with growth in the consumer price index.</p> <p>This Council would commence on 1 July 2022 and run for 10 years.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balance by around \$66.1 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This impact entirely reflects an increase in administered expenses.

The proposal would be expected to have an ongoing impact that extends beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications over the period to 2032-33 (including separate public debt interest (PDI) tables) 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	-8.3	-8.6	-8.8	-40.4	-66.1
Underlying cash balance	-8.3	-8.6	-8.8	-40.4	-66.1

(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.

Key assumptions

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

- In real terms, the funding for the Council would be comparable to the administration costs of the former Council of Aboriginal Reconciliation in the 1999-00 financial year.
- Funding for the Council would be treated as administered, based on the PBO's understanding of the arrangements of the former Council of Aboriginal Reconciliation.
- As with the Council of Aboriginal Reconciliation, secretariat duties for the Council would be performed by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and absorbed under existing departmental funding for the agency.
- The \$250 million in funding towards operating expenses for the Commission would be spread evenly over the period from 2025-26 to 2032-33.

Methodology

As per the specification of this request, the Commission would be established outside the general government sector and funding would be treated as administered.

The Council's costs would be treated as administered.

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 Treasury provided economic and policy parameters as at the 2022-23 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

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

Attachment A – Truth and Justice Commission – financial implications

Table A1: Truth and Justice Commission – 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													
Administered													
<i>Treaty Council</i>	-8.3	-8.6	-8.8	-9.1	-9.3	-9.5	-9.7	-10.0	-10.2	-10.5	-	-34.8	-94.0
<i>Truth and Justice Commission</i>	-	-	-	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3	-250.4
Total (excluding PDI)	-8.3	-8.6	-8.8	-40.4	-40.6	-40.8	-41.0	-41.3	-41.5	-41.8	-31.3	-66.1	-344.4

(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: Truth and Justice Commission – 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	-0.10	-0.3	-0.5	-1.1	-2.0	-3.1	-4.4	-5.7	-7.2	-8.8	-10.5	-2.0	-43.7
Underlying cash balance	-0.10	-0.3	-0.5	-1.0	-1.9	-3.0	-4.2	-5.5	-7.0	-8.6	-10.3	-1.9	-42.4

(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.

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