



## Policy costing

### Expand Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA's) responsibilities and strengthen enforcement mechanisms

Party: Australian Greens

#### Summary of proposal:

This proposal would expand the Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA's) regulatory scope to include all Australian free-to-air, subscription and streaming services. The ACMA's enforcement mechanisms would be strengthened to enable them to take action when rules have been breached, with particular regard to hate speech.

The definition of 'community safeguards' would be expanded to include the protection of the public from content that maligns a person or persons based on certain characteristics.

This proposal would have effect from 1 July 2019.

## Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to decrease both the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$22.6 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This entirely reflects an increase in departmental expenses.

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

The financial implications are sensitive to changes in wage growth and changes in the level of activity within the Australian media market.

**Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)</sup>**

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	-6.0	-5.6	-5.5	-5.5	<b>-22.6</b>
Underlying cash balance	-6.0	-5.6	-5.5	-5.5	<b>-22.6</b>

(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 assumed that regulating subscription and streaming services would be proportionally resource intensive to regulating free-to-air television by viewership.

## Methodology

The financial implications of this proposal were calculated by proportionally increasing the departmental appropriation for the ACMA, relative to the increase in scope of responsibility under this proposal. The estimated increase in scope has been determined based on the distribution of viewership between different media.

All estimates have been rounded to the nearest \$100,000.

## Data sources

OzTAM Pty Ltd, 2019. *A2 Consolidated 7 Metropolitan Total TV Share of All Viewing – All Homes*. [Online] Available at: <https://oztam.com.au/LatestAvailableReports.aspx> [Accessed 30.05.2019].

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, 2017. *Media Consumer Survey 2017*. [Online] Available at: [http://landing.deloitte.com.au/rs/761-IBL-328/images/tmt-media-consumer-survey-2017-INB\\_pdf.pdf](http://landing.deloitte.com.au/rs/761-IBL-328/images/tmt-media-consumer-survey-2017-INB_pdf.pdf) [Accessed 30.05.2019].

The Department of Finance provided indexation parameters as at the 2019 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.