



Policy costing

Establish a Parliamentary Commissioner to enforce the Lobbyists Register and Lobbying Code of Conduct

Party: Australian Greens

Summary of proposal:

This proposal would establish an independent Parliamentary Commissioner who would be responsible for maintaining and ensuring compliance with the Register of Lobbyists and the Lobbying Code of Conduct.

This proposal would also expand compliance activities under the Lobbying Code of Conduct to ensure that the Code is complied with.

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 \$4.0 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This impact entirely reflects an increase in departmental expenses.

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

The proposal is sensitive to changes in wage parameters, remuneration decisions for holders of public office by the Remuneration Tribunal, and the extent to which compliance activities relating to the Lobbying Code of Conduct are implemented.

Table1: Financial implications (\$m)^(a)

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-4.0
Underlying cash balance	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-4.0

(a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.

Key assumptions

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

- The Parliamentary Commissioner would receive equivalent remuneration to an Australian Public Service Senior Executive Service Band 3 officer.
- Ongoing existing funding to administer the Register of Lobbyists and Lobbying Code of Conduct would be reallocated from the Attorney-General's Department to the Parliamentary Commissioner.
- The Parliamentary Commissioner would receive a small number of additional staff, reflecting the change in structure and increased enforcement mandate under this proposal.

Methodology

The financial implications of this proposal were determined by calculating estimated departmental costs based on the costs and staffing requirements for Commissioners with a similar scope of responsibility.

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

Data sources

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