



**POLICY COSTING REQUEST – DURING THE CARETAKER PERIOD FOR A  
GENERAL ELECTION**

<b>Name of policy:</b>	Protecting Wild Rivers
Person requesting costing:	Senator Milne
Date of request to cost the policy:	14 August 2013
<i>Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.</i>	
Has a costing of this policy been requested under Section 29 of the Charter of Budget Honesty (i.e. from the Treasury or the Department of Finance and Deregulation)?	No
Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release)	12 July 2013, Senator Milne/Senator Waters <a href="http://larissa-waters.greensmps.org.au/content/media-releases/greens-fight-keep-wild-rivers-running-free">http://larissa-waters.greensmps.org.au/content/media-releases/greens-fight-keep-wild-rivers-running-free</a>
<b>Description of policy:</b>	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	This policy proposes to protect Queensland's wild rivers by emergency national heritage listing them under our national environment laws (the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)</i> ). Emergency listing is a regulatory step. Funding, however, is needed to undertake the heritage assessment, and for ongoing management and protection of the rivers.
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To protect Queensland's wild rivers from inappropriate development. Free-flowing wild rivers support a diversity of iconic landscapes - from the lush rainforests and expansive tropical wetlands of Cape York to our rugged Channel Country. For Indigenous communities, many of the rivers have important cultural value.
<b>What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:</b>	
Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.	No
Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?	Capped amount. \$10 million will be allocated in 2014-15 to undertake heritage assessment of the rivers to support their national heritage listing. \$10 million per year will be provided in following years to support ongoing protection and management.
Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in	No

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<p>funding or delivering the policy? If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged?</p>				
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.</p>	No			
<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?</p>	No			
<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?</p>	No change			
<p>Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.</p>	No			
<b>Expected impacts of the proposal</b>				
<p>If applicable, what are the estimated costs each year? If available, please provide details in the table below. Are these provided on an underlying cash balance or fiscal balance basis?</p>				
<b>Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) <sup>(a)</sup></b>				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	0	-10	-10	-10
Fiscal balance (\$m)	0	-10	-10	-10
<p>(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 positive number in the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.</p>				
<p>What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?</p>	Capped amounts have been specified.			
<p>Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?</p>	Yes, by the PBO, 24 June 2013.			
<p>What is the expected community impact of the policy?</p>	Protection of Queensland's last remaining undeveloped rivers from inappropriate development.			

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<p>How many people will be affected by the policy?</p> <p>What is the likely take up?</p> <p>What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?</p>	
<b>Administration of policy:</b>	
<p>Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?</p>	<p>Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities</p>
<p>Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing?</p> <p>If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy?</p> <p>If yes, please specify the key assumptions, including whether departmental costs are expected with respect to program management (by policy agencies) and additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).</p>	<p>The capped amount is to include departmental expenses.</p>
<p>Intended date of implementation.</p>	<p>1 July 2014</p>
<p>Intended duration of policy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).</p>	
<p>Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <p><i>Please note that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.</i></li> <li><i>The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requestor. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requestor in advance of the costing being completed.</i></li> </ul>	