



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

Name of policy:	Community Media
Person requesting costing:	Senator Milne
Date of request to cost the policy:	29 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)	19 August 2013, Senator Milne / Senator Ludlam http://scott-ludlam.greensmps.org.au/content/news-stories/supporting-community-media
Description of policy:	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	A package of measures to support community media, comprising: • \$1.4 million each year to continue and further extend community radios transition across to the digital stream; • \$0.6 million each year for the Australian Music Radio Airplay Project to enable it to distribute new Australian music to 1500 broadcasters and 300 community radio stations; • a \$7 million per year Content Creation Fund to support further innovative programming; • \$2 million per year for a community broadcasting training fund to skill up the next generations of broadcasters; • a \$4 million per year Digital Hub Infrastructure Fund to enable the community broadcasting sector to leverage the NBN and safeguard and support free-to-air digital services in a multi-platform environment; and • \$12 million per year additional operational funds to help the Community Broadcasting Foundation support critical areas for development in rural and regional areas.
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To preserve and expand the role of community broadcasters in providing alternative voices to the highly concentrated mainstream media, particularly in the provision of local content to regional Australia

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What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:				
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 at total of \$27 million per year			
Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in 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?	No			
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	No			
Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?	Yes, the Australian Music Radio Airplay Project is an existing programme.			
If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?	No			
Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.	No			
Expected impacts of the proposal				
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?				
Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) ^(a)				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	0	-27	-27	-27
Fiscal balance (\$m)	0	-27	-27	-27
(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.				
What assumptions have been made	Capped amounts have been specified.			

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in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?	
Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?	Yes – PBO costing 25 January 2013
What is the expected community impact of the policy? How many people will be affected by the policy? What is the likely take up? What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?	The community benefits from alternative voices to the highly concentrated mainstream media, particularly in the provision of local content to regional Australia. Community TV reaches 3.7 million and community radio reaches over 10 million Australians each month. The community media sector overall engages 23,000 volunteers.
Administration of policy:	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy
Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing? If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy? 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).	The capped amount is to include departmental expenses.
Intended date of implementation.	1 July 2014
Intended duration of policy.	Ongoing
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	
Are there any other assumptions that	No

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need to be considered?	
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NOTE:

Please note that:

- *The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.*
- *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.*