



Policy costing request—during the caretaker period for a general election







Name of policy:	A National Biosecurity Authority
Person requesting costing:	Senator Richard di Natale
Parliamentary party:	Australian Greens
Date of request to cost the policy:	29 June 2016
<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 (ie from the Treasury or the Department of Finance)?	No
Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release):	Released by the Australian Greens 29 June 2016: http://greens.org.au/innovative-ag ; http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/20160622%20Biosecurity%20initiative.pdf .

Description of policy	
<p>Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):</p>	<p>Changes to the current biosecurity system to adopt an approach involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national biosecurity commission, an independent expert panel as per the recommendation of the 2008 Beale review (recommendations 12-15). • A national biosecurity authority, a regulatory agency, as per the recommendations in the 2008 Beale review (recommendations 16-22). • Appropriate resourcing for the Commonwealth to fully implement the recommendations of the Senate inquiry into Environmental Biosecurity. This is expected to involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimal additional public service resourcing for recommendations 2-5, 14,18, 24, and 26 which involve the Commonwealth working with states and territories to adjust the biosecurity regulatory framework. ○ Additional resourcing for Commonwealth agencies to implement recommendations 1, 6, 8-13, 15-17, 19-22, which largely involve reviewing specific aspects of existing systems. ○ The Department of Agriculture to undertake more regulator ship inspections targeted at biofouling, and improve surveillance of freshwater fish imports (23). • Funding the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions as recommended by the current Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (from 1 July 2017 to 2021). The funding level is expected to be similar to the Invasive Animals CRC 5 year extension program, which appears to have involved \$72 million over 5 years. • Funding the establishment and ongoing functioning of a new Environmental Health Australia, in line with proposals by the Invasive Species Council (see attached documents). • \$8m over four years (2016-17 to 2019-20) to develop an invasive species target and plan, and a separate plan to reduce the risks from exotic pets. • Work through the Council of Australian Governments to limit the movement of potentially damaging exotic species (this is expected to have minimal impacts). • \$5m a year in funding (ongoing) for a national strategy to protect islands from biosecurity risks.
<p>What is the purpose or intention of the policy?</p>	<p>To reduce environmental, health, community and economic risks posed by invasive species.</p>
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:	
<p>Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list the components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.</p>	<p>-</p>

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<p>Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount? If a capped amount, are the costs of administering the policy to be included within the capped amount or additional to the capped amount?</p>	<p>Demand driven or as needed, except for funding for the invasive species target and plan, and the separate plan to reduce risks from exotic pets, and the funding for islands to protect from biodiversity risks – these are capped amounts.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Significant engagement through COAG – however delivery primarily through Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.</p>	<p>Existing resources dedicated to biosecurity in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment are expected to be redirected to operations through the National Biosecurity Authority.</p>
<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.</p>	<p>-</p>

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)				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-	62.4	61.4	61.4
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-	62.4	61.4	61.4
(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 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 in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?	Secretariat support for the National Biosecurity Commission would be provided by the new National Biosecurity Authority. Costs for the new National Biosecurity Authority would be partially offset by funding for existing activities to be transferred to the authority from DAWR. Development of plans and strategies would take two years to complete.			
Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?	-			
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?	Improved biosecurity.			

Administration of policy:	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc)?	Australian Government
Please specify whether any special administrative arrangements are proposed for the policy and whether these are expected to involve additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).	-
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2017
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing unless otherwise specified
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	-
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0).	<p>The following documents have been drawn on in developing the policy, as well as inquiries listed above:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Briefing note EHA - Jun 2013.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  EHA - FAQs April 2012.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  EHA outcomes May 2012.pdf </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Keeping Nature Safe - Environmental Healt </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  ISC Budget Submission 2012-13.p </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  ACOX.pdf </div> </div>

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Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	-
<p>NOTE:</p> <p><i>Please note that:</i></p> <p><i>The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.</i></p> <p><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></p>	