



Parliament of Australia
Parliamentary Budget Office

Phil Bowen PSM FCPA
Parliamentary Budget Officer

Senator Christine Milne
Leader of the Australian Greens
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Milne

Please find attached a response to your costing request, *Avoiding food waste* (letter of 3 September 2013).

The response to this request will be released on the PBO website (<http://aph.gov.au/pbo>).

If you have any queries about this costing, please do not hesitate to contact Colin Brown on (02) 6277 9530.

Yours sincerely

Phil Bowen

4 September 2013

COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

Name of proposal to be costed:	Avoiding food waste
Summary of proposal:	The proposal would reduce food waste through a \$20 million investment over the 2013-14 Budget forward estimates (\$26 million over the four year life of the program) to undertake the following activities: • identify avoidable food waste • educate the community through a national campaign • simplify food date labelling • relax cosmetic standards for fruit and vegetables, and • increase funding for food emergency relief organisations. The proposal would have effect from 1 July 2014.
Person/party requesting costing:	Senator Christine Milne, Australian Greens
Date costing request received:	3 September 2013
Date costing completed:	4 September 2013
Date of public release of policy:	8 August 2013
Additional information requested (including date):	On 4 September 2013, the PBO asked Senator Milne's Office to confirm whether departmental expenses would be met from within the capped funding amount, the duration of the policy, and the funding profile over the policy's duration.
Additional information received (including date):	On 4 September 2013, Senator Milne's Office responded to the PBO confirming that departmental expenses would be met within the capped amounts, the policy duration is four years, and the capped amount provided in the costing request is for the forward estimates period with the funding for 2017-18 being the same as for 2016-17.
Agencies from which information was obtained:	Not applicable

POLICY COSTING – ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD

Costing overview

This proposal is expected to decrease both the underlying cash and fiscal balances by \$20 million over the 2013-14 Budget forward estimates period. This is entirely due to an increase in expenses.

The financial implications of this proposal extend beyond the forward estimates period with a financial impact of \$6 million in 2017-18, bringing the total cost of the proposal to \$26 million over four years.

As per the response from Senator Milne's Office, any departmental expenses associated with this proposal are to be met from within the capped amount.

This costing is considered to be of high reliability as it is based on the capped amount and profile as specified in the costing request and subsequently through the additional information requested.

Table 1: Financial implications (outturn prices)^(a)

Impact on	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-	-7	-7	-6
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-	-7	-7	-6

(a) A negative number for the fiscal balance indicates an increase in expenses in accrual terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in expenses in cash terms.