

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022

First Print

Proposed amendments

✓ No. 1

Election policy costings for cross-bench members of Parliament

Page 2. Insert after line 9—

**Schedule 1 Amendment of Parliamentary Budget Officer
Act 2010 No 83**

[1] The Whole Act, other than sections 3, 18, 19(1), 23 and 27

Omit “parliamentary leader” wherever occurring.

Insert instead “member of Parliament”.

[2] Section 3 Definitions

Insert in alphabetical order in section 3(1)—

member of Parliament—see subsections (4) and (4A).

[3] Section 3(4A)

Insert after subsection (4)—

(4A) In this Act, except in subsection (4) and section 18(6), a reference to a member of parliament means—

(a) a parliamentary leader, and

(b) a member of Parliament who is not a member of the party or parties that form the Government or the Opposition.

[4] Sections 17(2)(a) and 22(1)

Omit “that leader” wherever occurring.

Insert instead “the member”

[5] Section 18A

Insert after section 18—

18A Request for election policy costings by cross-bench MPs

- (1) A member of Parliament, other than a parliamentary leader, may, in accordance with this Part, request the Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings of publicly announced or proposed policies.
- (2) An election costing request may only be made in relation to 3 policies that are announced or proposed for implementation after the next State general election.
- (3) A member of Parliament may only make an election costing request in relation to a policy publicly announced or proposed by the member.
- (4) An election costing request may relate to proposed changes in expenditure or revenue.
- (5) An election costing request must—
 - (a) be in writing, and
 - (b) outline fully each policy to be costed, giving all relevant details for the purpose of costing the policy, and
 - (c) state the purpose or intention of the policy.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, a policy is taken to be announced or proposed by a member of Parliament if it is announced or proposed by another member of Parliament on behalf of the member or on behalf of the member's party.

[6] Section 19 When election policy costings to be requested

Omit section 19(1). Insert instead—

- (1) Election costing requests are to be made by a member of Parliament after the operational plan prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Officer under section 14 has been approved by the Presiding Officers and tabled in each House of Parliament.
- (1A) A request by a parliamentary leader must be made in sufficient time before the State general election to enable the leader to comply with section 18(1A).
- (1B) A request by a member of Parliament, other than a parliamentary leader, must be made before 31 October.

[7] Section 21 Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings of election policies

Omit “by that leader” from section 21(4).

Insert instead “by or on behalf of the member”.

[8] Section 27

Omit the section. Insert instead—

27 Nominee may act for members of Parliament

A function of a member of Parliament under this Part may be exercised on the member's behalf by a nominee of the member, being a person nominated by the member from time to time by written notice to the Parliamentary Budget Officer.



No. 2

Long title

Insert “and the costing of election promises of cross-bench members of Parliament” after “Officer”.

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Proposed amendments

No. 1 Election policies costing
Page 2. Insert after line 9—

Schedule 1A Amendment of Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010 No 83

[1] Section 18 Request for election policy costings by parliamentary leaders

Insert after section 18(3)—

- (3A) A parliamentary leader must not make an election costing request in relation to a policy that—
- (a) has previously been costed by the Parliamentary Budget Officer, or
 - (b) the Parliamentary Budget Officer considers to be substantially similar to a policy that has previously been costed by the Officer.

[2] Section 21 Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings of election policies

Omit section 21(1). Insert instead—

- (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving an election costing request, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must prepare a costing of the policy.

✓ **[3] Section 22 Public release of election policy costings**

Omit section 22(1). Insert instead—

- (1) The Parliamentary Budget Officer must, in response to an election costing request from a parliamentary leader, publish the following on a publicly available website maintained for the purposes of this section—
- (a) the election costing request and
 - (b) the election policy costing.
- (1A) The publication must occur on the earlier of the following—
- (a) within 7 days after completing the costing,

(b) the fifth last day before the State general election is due to be held.

✓ [4] **Section 22(3)**

Omit "provided". Insert instead "published".

✓ No. 2

Long title

Insert "and the costing of election policies" after "Officer".

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Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022

First print

Proposed amendment to Government amendments c2022-114K

✓ No. 1

Public release of election policy costings

In Government Amendment No. 1 insert after proposed section 22(1A) in proposed item [3]—

- (1B) To avoid doubt, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to member of parliament that is not a parliamentary leader.

DRAFT