



PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Liberals and Nationals
Name of Policy:	Enhance and Expand our National Parks
Date of request:	8 March 2015

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Attachment A
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	<p>Expand the Goulburn River National Park to include 'the Drip' – providing permanent protection for this spectacular sandstone gorge along the upper Goulburn River.</p> <p>Expand the Dharawal National Park we established in 2011 to include Maddens Plains on the Illawarra Escarpment.</p> <p>Protect Western Sydney's resident emu population by adding over 200 hectares to the Wianamatta Regional Park.</p>
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	

Your estimated costing of the policy ¹						
	2014/15 \$'000	2015/16 \$'000	2016/17 \$'000	2017/18 \$'000	4 Yr Total \$'000	Other years ² \$'000
Impact on General Government Sector (GGS) net operating result ³		540	545	565	1,650	
Impact on GGS capital expenditure ⁴		3,000				
If different from above, impact on total State Sector net financial liabilities ⁵						

Note: Has the policy been costed by a third party? NSW Treasury
If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?

Key assumptions made in the policy	
Does the policy relate to a previous announcement? If yes, which announcement?	N/A
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? (See checklist)	See Attachments A & B
Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	N/A
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	See Attachments A & B

Administration of policy	
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2015
Intended duration of policy:	Over the forward estimates
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Office of Environment & Heritage
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account?	N/A

¹ Amounts should be expressed in nominal dollars. GGS - General Government Sector.

² Please provide information on other years if spending occurs outside the forward estimate years and will be required to cost the policy.

³ Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

⁴ Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

⁵ Only required if proposal is outside GGS. Negative for a reduction in net financial liabilities.

Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	N/A
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If the policy is mainly an expenditure ⁶ commitment	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	See Attachments A & B
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	See Attachments A & B

If the policy is mainly a revenue commitment	
Transaction based or capped:	
Thresholds and/or exemptions:	
Collection method:	
Additional expenditure associated with collection:	

If the policy is mainly a capital costs ⁷ commitment	
Type of work, size and capacity:	See attachments A&B
Proposed start and completion date of work:	See attachments A&B
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	See attachments A&B
Offsetting expenditure savings:	See attachments A&B
Associated asset sell off (if any):	
On-going maintenance, depreciation and operational expenses:	
Third party funding involvement:	

Checklist for key assumptions (please be comprehensive and include all relevant assumptions). Assumptions could include, but are not limited to, questions such as:

- What is the expected community impact?
- How many people will be affected by the policy?
- What is the likely take up or other behavioural response you expect?
- Is there a cap on total spending proposed, a funding formula, resource agreement or other mechanism of this nature associated with the policy?
- Will third parties have a role in funding or delivering the policy (e.g. Commonwealth Government)?
- Will funding/program cost require indexation?
 - If yes, do you have any assumptions about the index that should be applied?

⁶ Expenditure is operating expenses, e.g. salaries, interest cost and grants. Expenditures are fully included in the impact on operating balance.

⁷ Capital costs differ from expenditure in that only depreciation will be included in the impact on operating balance. The capital cost of the asset to be acquired will however be included in net financial liabilities.

- What assumptions have you made about costs of administering the policy?
 - For example, will additional staff be needed in the agency responsible for the policy?
 - If you have assumptions on this, how many and at what approximate levels?
 - Are there other administrative resources required?
 - Alternatively, are you assuming administrative costs will be absorbed within the agency?

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 requester. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requester in advance of the costing being completed.
- Where the details of the policy costing request differ from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of the information provided in the costing request.
- These guidelines are intended to facilitate requests for costing election policies. Persons preparing such requests who wish further assistance are invited to contact the staff of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

A re-elected Baird Government will expand and enhance our National Parks Estate



The Baird Government is committed to expanding and improving our National Parks and reserves.

Since coming to Office, we have created 11 new national parks & reserves, made 64 additions to existing parks, and invested record amounts in urban parks such as Western Sydney and Parramatta Parks. The Baird Government wants to build on that impressive legacy.

Since 2011, over 35,800 hectares has been reserved for the first time in the parks system and almost 47,000 hectares of high value biodiversity have had protections increased to national park or nature reserve.

If re-elected, the Baird Government will make a number of major additions to our National Parks estate and build on the legacy that we have created for future generations to enjoy.

The addition of over 50 hectares known as 'The Drip' to Goulburn River National Park will protect a popular recreational attraction for the local community. This area has high biodiversity values and a spectacular sandstone gorge along the upper Goulburn River. The area also has cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, offers strong tourism potential and has good connectivity into the existing park.

The addition of nearly 600 hectares of land on Maddens Plains to Dharawal National Park will link the park to

A re-elected Baird Government will:

- ✓ Expand the Goulburn River National Park to include 'the Drip' – providing permanent protection for this spectacular sandstone gorge along the upper Goulburn River
- ✓ Expand the Dharawal National Park we established in 2011 to include Maddens Plains on the Illawarra
- ✓ Protect Western Sydney's resident emu population by adding over 200 hectares to the Wianamatta Regional Park

Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area and will safeguard the fragile ecosystems in this reserve from mining impacts. The addition will create a contiguous conservation zone which provides a critical habitat corridor between the Hacking River catchment and the Woronora Plateau.

We will also add an additional 237 hectares of land to the Wianamatta Regional Park from the former Australian Defence Industry Site at St Marys. This major addition complements the 63.5 hectares of regional park gazetted in 2008 and provides important habitat for the last remaining resident emu population in the Sydney basin.

Back The Baird Plan and keep NSW working.

2015 Election Policy Costing

Proposal Title: Enhance and Expand our National Park system

Lead Agency: Office of Environment and Heritage

General Government Sector Impacts

	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	4 Year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. Depreciation)	0	400	420	442	1,262
Depreciation	0	150	150	150	450
Less: Agency Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Revenue	0	10	26	26	62
Net Operating Result:	0	-540	-545	-565	-1,650
Capital Expenditure	0	3,000	0	0	3,000
Capital Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Less Depreciation	0	150	150	150	450
Net Capital Expenditure:	0	2,850	-150	-150	3,000
Net Lending/Borrowing:	0	-3,390	-395	-415	-4,200
Net Financial Liabilities:	0	3,390	3,785	4,200	

Total State Sector Impacts

Net Financial Liabilities:	0	3,390	3,785	4,200
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Notes and costing assumptions used:

The proposal has 3 components. One of these components -Wianamatta Park - has been costed. For the remaining 2 components OEH have confirmed that they can be met from existing recurrent OEH funding.

1. Addition of 'The Drip' to Goulburn River National Park - no financial impact.
2. Addition of 'Maddens Plain' to Dharawal National Park and removal of current depth restriction on Dharawal Nature Reserve.

OEH will meet the additional capital and recurrent costs associated with reservation of 'Maddens Plains' through a combination of contributions from the coal mining company involved (under negotiation) and existing OEH budget allocation.

3. Addition of 237 ha to the Wianamatta Regional Park in western Sydney including a nature reserve component of the residual emu population.

Note the capital cost estimate varies from the standard National Park establishment costing model as a contribution of capital works will be made by Lend Lease under the Deed of Transfer.

Cost estimate:

- a. Total capital cost to government is \$3m. This excludes the developer contribution. Capital investment is for the development of park assets such as picnic facilities, park entries, walking and cycling tracks and interpretative signage are outlined in the Wianamatta Regional Park Masterplan. (OEH assumes the recognition of the capital at the beginning of 2015-16 and recognition of depreciation (5%).)
- b. Annual recurrent cost is \$400,000 comprising \$228,000 for salaries (three staff) and \$172,000 for park management activities including maintenance and visitation support. Operating expenses exclude macrofauna management costs.
- c. The transfer of land to OEH will take place in the first quarter of 2015. OEH will meet basic recurrent costs until the end of financial year 2014/15 with the agreed developer contributions.
- d. Revenue comprises lease fees on telecommunications towers and site hire fees for booked facilities.