



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:	Combatting Child Sexual Assault
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?	Support child sexual assault victims and crack down on sex offenders
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		5,484	5,621	5,762	16,867	
Impact on GGS capital expenditure ⁴						
If different from above, impact on total State Sector net financial liabilities ⁵						

Note: Has the policy been costed by a third party?

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.

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? <i>(See checklist)</i>	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:	Ongoing
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Attorney General & Justice
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account?	N/A
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	N/A

If the policy is mainly an expenditure⁶ 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:	

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

If the policy is mainly a capital costs⁷ commitment	
Type of work, size and capacity:	
Proposed start and completion date of work:	
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	
Offsetting expenditure savings:	
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?
- 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.

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.

A re-elected Baird Government will support child sexual assault victims and crack down on child sex offenders



The Baird Government is committed to ensuring that the interests of child sexual assault victims are paramount.

The community rightfully expects that penalties for child sexual assault offenders reflect the heinous nature of these crimes and that the justice system supports victims through the trial process.

If re-elected, the Baird Government will ensure that the sentencing of child sex assault offenders meets community expectations by increasing the maximum penalty for sexual intercourse with a child under 10 from 25 years to life imprisonment. We will also include 13 additional child sexual assault offences in the Standard Non-Parole Period (SNPP) scheme.

This tougher approach to sentencing for child sexual offences was recommended by the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee which considered whether current sentencing options for perpetrators of child sexual assault were still effective.

The Standard Non-Parole Periods we will introduce for child sexual offences are significantly higher than the current average sentences. For example, for the crime of sexual intercourse with a child between 10 and 14 years, the current average sentence is less than two years. Our proposed SNPP is 7 years. For the crime of aggravated sexual intercourse with a child between 10 and 14 years, the current average sentence is 3.73 years. Our proposed SNPP is 9 years.

These SNPPs will send a clear message that the community expects judges to impose tougher sentences on child sex offenders.

A re-elected Baird Government will also support child witnesses in the courts.

We will pilot a specialist child sexual assault judicial

A re-elected Baird Government will:

- ✓ Increase the maximum penalty for sexual intercourse with a child under 10 from 25 years to life imprisonment
- ✓ Include 13 additional child sexual assault offences in the Standard Non-Parole Period scheme (SNPPs)
- ✓ Pilot a specialist child sexual assault judicial program
- ✓ Introduce Children's Champions who will be responsible for supporting child witnesses through the trial process
- ✓ Keep children out of the courts by introducing pre-recorded cross examination

program. Under this program we will appoint two specialist judges who will undergo intensive training on managing child sexual assault matters. These judges will go on circuit around the State, to reduce the waiting time for child sexual assault cases. The judges will adopt a case management approach to support children through the court process.

We will also introduce Children's Champions who will be responsible for supporting child witnesses through the trial process which has been successful in the UK, and keep children out of the courts by introducing pre-recorded cross examination, so they can provide evidence in a safe space.

We believe our package of reforms will deliver tougher sentences for child sexual offences, and greater consistency. Confidence in the justice system is undermined when sentences for child sex offenders appear out of step with community expectations. We are also committed to ensuring that child witnesses get the support and guidance they need.

Back The Baird Plan and keep NSW working.

2015 Election Policy Costing

Proposal Title: Combatting Child Sexual Assault

Lead Agency: Department of Justice

General Government Sector Impacts

	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	4 Year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. Depreciation)	0	5,484	5,621	5,762	16,867
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Agency Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Revenue	0	0	0	0	0
Net Operating Result:	0	-5,484	-5,621	-5,762	-16,867
Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Net Capital Expenditure:	0	0	0	0	0
Net Lending/Borrowing:	0	-5,484	-5,621	-5,762	-16,867
Net Financial Liabilities:	0	5,484	11,105	16,867	

Notes and costing assumptions used:

The commitment will appoint specialist judges to hear child sexual assault cases around the state; introduce children's champions to support child witnesses through the court process; and keep children out of the courts by introducing pre-recorded cross examination.

The costing includes appointment of two specialist judges. The funding will provide:
 \$2.64m for two District Court specialist child sexual assault judges
 \$1.76m to implement pre-recorded cross-examination for the smallest contact group
 \$0.94m to implement the children's champions program for the smallest contact group.