



Parliamentary Budget Office - Election Policy Costing

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Referred By: Australian Labor Party

Proposal No: B334

Date Referred: 5/02/2019

Date Published: 18/03/2019

Proposal Title: Plan to Reinstate Protections to Maintain and Improve Biodiversity

Cluster: Planning and Environment

General Government Sector Impacts

	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000	4 year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. depreciation)	-	1,100	1,100	-	2,200
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Offsets	-	1,100	1,100	-	2,200
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operating Balance:	-	-	-	-	-

Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
Net Capital Expenditure:	-	-	-	-	-

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	-	-	-	-
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Total State Sector Impacts

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	-	-	-	-
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Notes and costing assumptions

The policy proposes to establish a biodiversity taskforce to review the *Local Land Services Act 2013* and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The taskforce would prepare legislative and policy amendments that increase protections to maintain and improve biodiversity.

The taskforce would be administered by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and would operate for 2 years from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021.

The policy proposes any funding to support the review and taskforce beyond normal departmental resourcing would be sourced from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), which the PBO considers to be feasible. Hence, the policy has no net budget impact because costs are met by DPE resourcing and BCT funding.

The PBO estimates the taskforce could be adequately resourced at a cost of \$1.1 million per year, which would allow for:

- 3 taskforce secretariat members to meet regularly (at least once per month),
- between 6 to 8 secretariat support staff,
- the release of an Issues Paper, Draft Report and Final Report, and
- the holding of several public hearings.