



Parliamentary Budget Office - Election Policy Costing

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Referred By: Australian Labor Party
Date Referred: 6/02/2019

Proposal No: B336
Date Published: 18/03/2019

Proposal Title: Plan to Protect the State's Oceans and Marine Life

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)	-	1,110	1,138	1,166	3,414
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operating Balance:	-	(1,110)	(1,138)	(1,166)	(3,414)

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

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	(1,110)	(1,138)	(1,166)	(3,414)
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Total State Sector Impacts

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	(1,110)	(1,138)	(1,166)	(3,414)
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Notes and costing assumptions

The proposal has 6 policies to protect the State's Oceans and Marine Life.

Policy 1 provides a fixed amount of \$3.4 million over the forward estimates for a policy development process to establish a Sydney Harbour Marine Park.

Policies 2 to 6 propose a number of initiatives that are part of the normal business of government and could be met from within existing agency resources, as assumed by the policy. Hence, the total cost of the policy is \$3.4 million over the forward estimates.

Policy 1 provides fixed funding for a policy development process over 3 years to inform the determination of marine park status for Sydney Harbour according to the following table.

Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Support a panel of scientific experts	\$200,000	\$205,000	\$210,125	\$615,125
Advisory Committee	\$120,000	\$123,000	\$126,075	\$369,075
Community Consultation	\$140,000	\$143,500	\$147,088	\$430,588
Policy Development	\$650,000	\$666,250	\$682,906	\$1,999,156
Total	\$1,110,000	\$1,137,750	\$1,166,194	\$3,413,944

Total funding of \$1.1 million is provided in 2019-20 and grows at 2.5% per year as specified in the policy, with total funding of \$3.4 million over the forward estimates.

Notes and costing assumptions continued:

The final determination of the marine park status including zones would be subject to a further policy decision of the government based on the research and policy developed by this process.

Policy 2 proposes undertaking a review of marine park management rules and plans where required by legislation, starting with the Port Stephens - Great Lakes Marine Park. Such reviews are a normal function of government and could be met from within existing resources.

Policy 3 proposes prioritising protection of breeding areas where seabirds nest and raise their young such as islands, headlands and beaches. Under the policy the number of additional sites to be protected, and the potential re-prioritisation of existing environmental programs and expenditures, would be the subject of a further government decision. Hence, the policy has no additional cost until such a decision is made.

As a guide to potential costs, expenditure of \$10,000 per site per year would allow for improved signage, some community awareness materials and development of programs to enhance shorebird protection, with 1 additional staff member per 10 sites at a cost of about \$90,000 per year. The project could use volunteers for monitoring and community awareness activities to minimise overall costs.

Policy 4 requests the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee to consider the addition of the hawksbill sea turtle to the State's Threatened Species List. Consideration of new nominations for the List is part of the Scientific Committee's existing process and would therefore have no net financial impact.

Policies 5 and 6 proposes, within the first 100 days of the new government, to introduce legislation to ban single-use plastic bags and develop a plan to phase them out. Preparing legislation and implementation plans are part of the normal business of government agencies and could be met from within existing resources.