

## Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)
Name of Policy:	Protect Kosciuszko National Park
Date of request:	30 January 2019

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents and include information on what the policy aims to achieve):	See <u>Attachment 1</u> .
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	

	2018/19 \$'000	2019/20 \$'000	2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	Total \$'000
Impact on GGS expenses					
Impact on GGS revenue					
Impact on General Government Sector (GGS) net operating result <sup>1</sup>					
Impact on GGS capital expenditure <sup>2</sup>					
Impact on GGS net lending/borrowing					

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

<sup>1</sup> Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

<sup>2</sup> Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? (See checklist)	See <a href="#">Attachment 1</a> and <a href="#">Attachment 2</a> .
Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	No.
Are there associated savings, offsets or, in the case of a revenue proposal, offsetting expenses? If yes, please provide details.	Existing resources would be available for reallocation from the government's existing Kosciuszko plan. Other National Parks and Wildlife resources may also be redirected to fund the policy.
Are there significant costs or savings <b>outside</b> the forward estimates period which should be considered in costing this policy? <sup>3</sup>	No.

<b>Administration of policy</b>	
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2019
Intended duration of policy <sup>4</sup> :	To 30 June 2022.
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	National Parks and Wildlife.
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account (e.g. agreements between different levels of government)?	No.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	..

<b>If the policy is mainly an expenditure<sup>5</sup> commitment</b>	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Uncapped.
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	N/a.

### Attachment 1

1. Ensure that the plan of management of Kosciuszko National Park is the primary management document to guide the operation of the park.

➤ *Guideline status. Nil impact on the budget estimates.*

<sup>3</sup> Particularly important for large projects with long lead times, policies with a delayed timetable for implementation, or policies where up-front investment is required to achieve long term savings.

<sup>4</sup> Where a policy is intended to be ongoing, please indicate "ongoing" in the space to the right

<sup>5</sup> Expenditure is operating expenses, e.g. salaries, interest cost and grants. Expenditures are fully included in the impact on operating balance.

2. Minimise the impacts of pest species (both plants and animals) through adequately funded and effective control programmes. This includes wild pigs, dogs, deer and horses;
  - *Absorb within existing resources. Scalable to funds available for redirection.*
3. Conduct a scientific assessment and count of the horse population in consultation with key stakeholders;
  - *Absorb within existing resources. Scalable to funds available for redirection.*
4. Ensure wild horses are acknowledged for their cultural value by retaining a smaller population in the park where degradation is less critical, and manage the horse population guided by the extensive work that produced the 2016 Draft Wild Horse Management Plan to:
  - increase resources and research capacity for humane population control measures such as fertility control;
  - establish a formal and well-resourced rehoming program for wild horses to rapidly increase the number of horses able to be rehomed outside of the park;
  - ensure that large horse populations do not lead to starvation and the poor animal welfare outcomes of mortality from starvation;
  - ensure that horse populations in identified sensitive landscapes are actively managed to protect the fragile alpine habitat and threatened plant and animal species; and
  - maintain the ban on aerial culling to continue humane animal welfare standards.
  - *Absorb within existing resources.*
6. Repair the mountain catchments – establish a highly-trained Kosciuszko works crew dedicated to halting erosion in the mountain catchments and restoring and repairing the current eroding slopes, wetlands and mountain streams. This work will restore the best possible water delivery from the catchments to the Snowy Scheme and for downstream farmers, towns and cities and includes:
  - Employ and train locals as specialist soil conservation teams to work in the subalpine and alpine areas in non-snow months and in the Byadbo-Lower Snowy area during the winter months;
  - Systematically restore eroding mountain wetlands including the “damming” of entrenched streams to return water table levels to pre-disturbance levels and to enable recovery;
  - Systematically restore snow gum woodlands removed during the grazing era to enhance water yield from the catchments;
  - Undertake maintenance works of the 1957 soil conservation works of the Main Range;
  - Systematically restore Kosciuszko’s mountain creeks and rivers to a non-eroding and weed free status;
  - Systematically restore the eroding creek lines and slopes of the Byadbo-Lower Snowy area of the Park.
  - *\$9.38 million in the first year, \$7.72 million in subsequent years (indexed).*
  - *Activities scalable to available resources.*

## Attachment 2

The “Protecting and restoring Kosciuszko’s catchments project” is a \$25 million project over the forward estimates that employs 60 people.

### Indicative annual costs, Kosciuszko catchment restoration project

Item	Details	Estimated Cost (\$m)
Staff salaries for project management and 6 work crews	Project manager north; project manager south; 2 project administration officers; 2 project environmental officers; 2 project planners; 6 foremen; 6 leading hands; 6 plant operators; 34 field officers (each crew has 8 personnel comprising 1 foreperson, 1 leading hand, 1 plant operator and five field officers)	\$4.59
Office accommodation rent, utilities, fuel costs, travel costs, materials, contractor costs, plant hire; helicopter hire	Annual operating costs, restoration materials and contractor costs for 6 crews. Helicopter operations will be a large cost. Approximately \$0.52 million per annum per crew.	\$3.13
Establishment costs in support of 6 crews of 9 personnel, each crew working in a separate location	Costs include 6 x 4wd trucks; 6 x 4wd utes; 6 x 4wd land cruisers; 1 x sedan; 2 x lightweight 4wds. Estimated cost = \$1.66 million	\$1.66 (one-off)
	Year 1	\$9.38
	Years 2 & 3	\$7.72
	<b>Total indicative cost</b>	<b>\$24.82</b>

### Indicative Restoration Crew Placement

Restoration Base	Restoration Project	Restoration actions
<b>NON-SNOW MONTHS</b>		
Jindabyne Crew One	Highest rainfall zone: Alpine area; maintenance 1960s soil conservation work.	Restore eroding drainage lines; re-establish soil cover for scald areas; undertake snowgum plantings for water yield.
Jindabyne Crews Two and Three	Wetland and creek restoration: Alpine and sub-alpine, Jagungal Wilderness.	Restore each heavily disturbed wetland water table by damming incised creeks and reintroduce sphagnum as appropriate.
Jindabyne Crew Four	Tin Mines trail to Cowombat Flat.	Restoration of creeks, fens and wetlands, especially the Ingeegoodbee River.
Tumut Crew One and Two	Long Plain, Blue Waterholes and Tantangara Dam catchment areas.	Restoration of heavily disturbed wetlands, creeks and the Murrumbidgee River

SNOW MONTHS		
Jindabyne Crews One, Two and Four	Lower Snowy restoration	Deployment to individual sub-catchments to commence a very long term restoration project to repair horse damage and prevent further erosion and siltation of the Snowy River
Jindabyne Crew Three	Establish and maintain a nursery for Snow Gum seedlings	Seedlings to be planted in the areas previously removed by graziers.
Tumut Crew One and Two	Work on lower altitude restoration areas	Restoration work may include Snowy 2 disturbance