



Parliamentary Budget Office - Election Policy Costing

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Referred By: Australian Labor Party
Date Referred: 5/02/2019

Proposal No: B338
Date Published: 18/03/2019

Proposal Title: Labor's Plan to Save the Koalas of South West Sydney: Infrastructure

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)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
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 the following:

1. Build three fauna and koala overpass crossings along Appin Road at known koala activity hotspots.
2. Build wildlife exclusion fencing and koala grids across all driveways and intersections along Appin Road.
3. Include stronger wildlife protection measures in development requirements.

There is no expected cost to this policy as these works are already underway as described below.

Key assumptions

Appin Road improvements

- The Australian and NSW governments are funding two individual projects to improve Appin Road.
- Both projects - the Appin Road upgrade between Rosemeadow and Mt Gilead and the Appin Road safety improvements between Mt Gilead and Appin include the investigation and installation of wildlife safety measures.
- The upgrade of Appin Road between Rosemeadow and Mt Gilead, is funded under a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) between Lendlease Communities and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).
- Transport for NSW has advised that the funding arrangement will also cover the cost to install fauna fencing on both sides of the corridor and two arboreal crossings (aerial rope bridges for small marsupials such as possums to cross Appin Road) as part of the proposed road works.
- The estimated total cost of this infrastructure is \$4 million.

Notes and costing assumptions continued:

- The second project, the Appin Road Safety Improvements is fully funded by the Australian Government (\$50 million). This project includes installation of fauna fences on both sides of the corridor which is estimated to cost \$7 million.
- Therefore the estimated total cost of the wildlife protection measures along Appin road is \$11 million, all of which is already included in the Budget.

Wildlife measures and development requirements

- There are a number of bodies in NSW that are involved in the approval of housing developments (depending on their location and size). These include:
 - Council,
 - regional panel
 - Sydney planning panel
 - or the Minister for Planning.
- There are also a number of Acts and planning instruments that regulate development at both the State and Commonwealth level:
 - *Environmental Planning and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) and its regulations*
 - *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) and its regulations*
 - *State Environmental Planning Policy No 44—Koala Habitat Protection (NSW)*
 - *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.*
- The policy aims to include stronger wildlife protection measures in development requirements and the costing assumes that these could be achieved through amendment to legislation or amendment to the VPA structure. The PBO is not able to estimate the cost of these options, but the PBO considers it feasible that DPE would be able to absorb any legislative or regulation changes within the current agency budget as part of the agencies regular activities.