

Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Liberals & Nationals Government
Name of Policy:	Great Artesian Basin Infrastructure Investment (GABII) Program
Date of request:	5 March 2019

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents and include information on what the policy aims to achieve):	<p>The NSW Liberals and Nationals will invest \$13m over four years beginning in 19/20 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Rehabilitate (cap and pipe) high priority free flowing bores and drains in the Great Artesian Basin to save water and maintain artesian pressure which is essential for water supplies.- Enhance reliability of water supply to significantly reduce the impact of drought. <p>A project agreement with the Commonwealth will be sought to secure a co-contribution of \$13 million of Commonwealth funds for a total program of \$26m.</p>
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	No

	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 ¹					
Impact on GGS capital expenditure ²					
Impact on GGS net lending/borrowing					

Note: Has the policy been costed by a third party? No
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?	Yes, this policy is an extension of a previous program, the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI). In 2017, the Commonwealth and NSW governments announced joint funding of \$4.5m for further investment in the rehabilitation of the Great Artesian Basin until June 2019.
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? <i>(See checklist)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total NSW Government contribution for the program is assumed to be \$13m over 2019/20 to 2022/23 - The NSW Government's \$13m funding for the program is to be sourced from the 18/19 existing drought support package - The Commonwealth Government is assumed to provide matching funding of \$13m over 2019/20 to 2022/23, consistent with its September 2018 announcement outlining funding for the program from 2019/20: http://minister.agriculture.gov.au/littleproud/Pages/Media-Releases/saving-water-gab.aspx - A funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government to provide \$13m in matching funding is assumed to be finalised by June 2019.

¹ Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

² Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	
Are there associated savings, offsets or, in the case of a revenue proposal, offsetting expenses? If yes, please provide details.	Yes, the NSW Government's \$13m contribution for the program is assumed to be entirely funded from the existing drought support package.
Are there significant costs or savings outside the forward estimates period which should be considered in costing this policy? ³	

Administration of policy	
Intended date of implementation:	2019/20 onwards
Intended duration of policy ⁴ :	4 years.
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	NSW Department of Industry
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account (e.g. agreements between different levels of government)?	A project agreement with the Commonwealth Government will need to be finalised to secure a co-contribution of \$13 million of Commonwealth funds for total program funding of \$26m.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No

If the policy is mainly an expenditure⁵ commitment	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	NSW Government and Commonwealth Government contributions are assumed to both be capped at \$13m each over 2019/20 to 2022/23.
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	N.A.

If the policy is mainly a revenue commitment	
Transaction based or capped:	
Thresholds and/or exemptions:	
Collection method:	

³ 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.

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

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

Additional expenditure associated with collection:	
If the policy is mainly a capital costs⁶ commitment	
Nature of Capital Spending	
Type of work, size and capacity:	Cap and pipe artesian bores and channels.
Proposed start and completion date of work:	
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	
Associated asset sell off (if any):	N/A
Recurrent Impacts	
Offsetting expenditure savings:	
On-going maintenance, depreciation and operational expenses:	
Third party funding involvement:	
Delivery model ⁷	

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?
- Will additional staff be needed in the agency responsible for the policy?
 - How many and at what approximate levels?
- Are there other resources required?
- Are you assuming administrative costs will be absorbed within the agency?

Please note that:

⁶ Capital costs differ from expenditure in that only depreciation will be included in the impact on operating balance.

⁷ There is a range of possible delivery models, e.g. built, owned and operated by a NSW government agency; built and transferred to a private operator; privately built for public operation; privately built and operated with government assuming risk or providing a guarantee in relation to future income (often applicable to public/private partnership arrangements), and so on. The policy should provide assumptions about the proposed delivery model.

- 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.