



PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Referred by: Coalition **Proposal No:** C1579
Date Referred: 08/03/2023 **Date Published:** 20/03/2023
Proposal Title: Support for Regional Education
Cluster: Education

General Government Sector Impacts

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'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 to enhance support for regional education by:

- Expanding the BackTrack program to additional locations including Moree, Dubbo, Lake Cargello and Broken Hill; and
- Doubling the number of places for the Beyond the Line Program from 200 per year to 400.

The cost of the policy is to be funded from the existing Department of Education budget. The PBO assumes that this is possible however it will be necessary to consider the cumulative affect of current budgets absorbing new policy costs.

Background

The expansion of BackTrack is funded at \$750,000 per year, starting 1 July 2023. This will be provided as a grant and funded through the existing budget for student behaviour support within the Department of Education.

Notes and costing assumptions continued:

The Beyond the Line program is currently funded at 200 places per annum from 2024-25. This proposal is to provide an additional 200 places per annum at a cost of \$1.4m per year from 2024-25.

The policy specifies that the cost of this commitment will be funded through the existing Teacher Supply Strategy program within the Department of Education. The 2022-23 budget has a total of \$22.4 billion allocated to Education and as at 2021 the budget for the [Teacher Supply Strategy](#) is \$38 million annually. On this basis the PBO considers that the assumption that the cost of the policy can be absorbed is reasonable.