

## Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)
Name of Policy:	Cutting waste—prudent management of legal expenses (\$20m)
Date of request:	14 December 2022

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents and include information on what the policy aims to achieve):	Reduce NSW Government spending on external legal contracts by \$20 million per annum
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	

Your estimated costing of the policy <sup>1</sup>						
	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 and later years <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Total \$'000
Impact on General Government Sector (GGS) net operating result <sup>3</sup>						
Impact on GGS capital expenditure <sup>4</sup>						
If different from above, impact on total State Sector net financial liabilities <sup>5</sup>						

**Note:** Has the policy been costed by a third party?  
If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?

**See Model\_Legal Expenses spreadsheet.**

<sup>1</sup> Amounts should be expressed in nominal dollars. GGS - General Government Sector.

<sup>2</sup> Please provide information on other years if spending occurs outside the forward estimate years and will be required to cost the policy or will assist in public understanding of the policy.

<sup>3</sup> Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

<sup>4</sup> Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

<sup>5</sup> Only required if proposal is outside GGS. Negative for a reduction in net financial liabilities.

<b>Key assumptions made in the policy</b>	
Does the policy relate to a previous announcement? If yes, which announcement?	No.
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? <i>(See checklist)</i>	<p>NSW Labor believes there is scope for more economical management of spending on legal contracts in the general government sector.</p> <p>The policy being costed is to reduce expenses on external legal contracts by \$20 million from 2023-24. Each agency would have its budget allocation reduced by a fixed amount proportionate to its expected legal expenses. It would be the agency's responsibility to manage its operations within the revised resourcing.</p> <p>Where possible, agencies should be encouraged to make use of the Crown Solicitor's Office and to redirect their existing legal budgets towards this and similar internal government resources.</p> <p>The executive would maintain discretion to reallocate the impact of the saving across agencies in order to protect essential services and deliver on government priorities.</p> <p>Please include the baseline (current expenses) in the costing explanation.</p>
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.	n/a

<b>Administration of policy</b>	
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2023
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing.
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Whole-of-government.

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>6</sup> commitment</b>	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Uncapped.
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	n/a

<b>If the policy is mainly a revenue commitment</b>	
Transaction based or capped:	n/a
Thresholds and/or exemptions:	n/a
Collection method:	n/a
Additional expenditure associated with collection:	n/a

<b>If the policy is mainly a capital costs<sup>7</sup> commitment</b>	
<b>Nature of Capital Spending</b>	
Type of work, size and capacity:	n/a
Proposed start and completion date of work:	n/a
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	n/a
Associated asset sell off (if any):	n/a
<b>Recurrent Impacts</b>	
Offsetting expenditure savings:	n/a
On-going maintenance, depreciation and operational expenses:	n/a
Third party funding involvement:	n/a
Delivery model <sup>8</sup>	n/a

<sup>6</sup> Expenditure is operating expenses, e.g. salaries, interest cost and grants. Expenditures are fully included in the impact on operating balance.

<sup>7</sup> Capital costs differ from expenditure in that only depreciation will be included in the impact on operating balance. The capital cost of the asset to be acquired will however be included in the net financial liabilities statement.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

**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:**

- 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.