


Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of election commitment:	Food Industry Development Office and associated programs					
Person and party requesting costing:	Meredith Hunter, ACT Greens Parliamentary Leader					
Date of public release of election commitment, including source:	29/09/12 http://act.greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/food%20production.pdf					
Summary of election commitment:	To establish a Food Industry Development Office to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Administer a community gardens grants program (2) Engage with food producers and wholesalers to encourage more local food production and sale (3) Coordinate distribution of gardening educational material (4) Oversee a consultant tasked with the development of an ACT Food map to identify local and regional consumption and production patterns for basic foods such as meat, milk and bread. This work would also include a Food Futures Plan identifying actions to enhance ACT's food security in the future (5) Review regulation and planning for food processing, warehousing and wholesale markets 					
Intention of election commitment:	Equip a dedicated food agency to foster development of food production in the ACT and region.					
Signature of person requesting costing:						
Date of request for costing:	10/10/12					
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the election commitment?						
<p>Note: that where the request to cost an election commitment differs from the public announcement, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request.</p> <p>Note: it will be up to the professional judgment of the Director-General as to whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the election commitment.</p>						
Where relevant, is the funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?						
A capped amount.						
Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the election commitment?						
No.						
Will funding/the cost require indexation?						
Yes, some components of the commitment are indexed.						
What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this election commitment and estimated costs each year (if available)?						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue ^(a)						

Recurrent Expenses ^(a)		-571	-376	-382	-388	-1,717
Capital						

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses.

A break up of the recurrent expenses is as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1 X SOGC		-127.56	-131.39	-135.34	-139.39	-533.68
1 X 0.5 ASO6		-53.36	-54.97	-56.61	-58.31	-223.25
Community Garden grants		-125	-125	-125	-125	-500
Local and regional producer engagement		-40	-40	-40	-40	-160
Educational Materials for Backyard Gardening		-25	-25	-25	-25	-100
Food map consultancy and food futures plan		-200				
TOTAL		-570.92	-376.36	-381.95	-387.7	-1,716.93

What is the likely take up?

N/A.

Any other assumptions?

Staff

- The cost of employing the full time SOG C and the half time ASO6 are taken from Appendix A to the Standard Costing Parameters issued by Treasury and have been indexed at 3% per year
- The Food Industry Development Office will be set up within Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

Community Garden Grants

- the grants be administered by the Food Industry Development Office
- Grant of between \$500 - \$30,000 will be made for the establishment or expansion of community gardens. These figures are based on Question on Notice 2293 where CSDD indicated that \$44,950 had been provided to 13 community gardens on ACT housing sites over the last 5 years, where costs ranged from \$500 to \$10,000. Question on Notice 2287 where LDA indicated they contributed \$50,000 towards establishing the proposed Lawson community garden. Further, Canberra Organic Growers have advised that their community gardens have cost an average of \$25,000 - \$30,000 to establish.

Local and regional producer engagement

- This funding of \$40,000 per year is to assist the new Food Industry Development Office to engage with the food producers and wholesalers

Educational Materials for Backyard Gardening

- \$25,000 per year is to assist with production and distribution of educational material on gardens, provide advice on backyard gardening and peri-urban agriculture.

Food map consultancy and food futures plan

- one-off dollar limited funding to engage a consultant to prepare an ACT Food map to identify local and regional consumption and production patterns for basic foods such as meat, milk and bread. This work would also include a Food Futures Plan identifying actions to enhance ACT's food security in the future.

Administrative expenses

- Given the size of the proposed new office it is assumed that the administrative expense of setting up the new office can be absorbed within the existing Directorate funding.

Administration of the election commitment

How will the election commitment be administered?

The election commitment will be administered by the Food Industry Development Office, which will be situated within the Territory and Municipal Services.

Who will administer the election commitment?

TAMS.

Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this election commitment?

– If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this election commitment?

– If yes, please specify the key assumptions.

No. Any additional implementation cost beyond what is outlined above is expected to be absorbed from within existing directorate resources.

What is the intended implementation date of the election commitment?

From the commencement of the 2013-14 financial year.

Are there transitional arrangements associated with election commitment implementation?

Yes, the creation of a new office within the existing Directorate will require some minor transitional work during the establishment of the office.

Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?

No.

When is the election commitment expected to be fully operational?

Please provide further details i.e. start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc?

From the 2013-14 financial year.

Will the election commitment cease and if so when?

N/A

