

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Urban Wood Reuse Plan and pilot program
Person requesting costing:	Andrew Barr MLA 
Date of request:	11 October 2024
Summary of proposal:	Labor will publish an Urban Wood Reuse Plan by the first quarter of 2025, including a program of supplying wood from removed urban trees for community organisations, schools, and repurposing. Given strong local and interstate community sector interest in creative reuse of wood from removed urban trees, Labor will establish and resource an application process for groups proposing to use wood in local projects for furniture, outdoor play, art and carpentry.
Issue the proposal will address:	The community has raised concerns about the removal of beloved longstanding and significant trees in urban and suburban areas, that are required to be taken down due to age, disease, dangers to passersby, or land development. Creative reuse of the wood from these trees in public or educational settings will alleviate concerns and maintain a strong community connection and memory of the trees.
Proposal's public announcement details (media release or policy statement published on a party website) ¹ :	act-labor-policy-position-statement-2024-7-october-2024.pdf (actlabor.org.au) page 51.

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

Note: The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

A re-elected Labor Government will publish, as a priority by the end of March 2025, the Plan that was being drafted by TCCS at the commencement of the Caretaker Period. This is currently budgeted within existing resources for completion and consideration by Government, and release.

TCCS will continue to administer this process.

At the commencement of the 2025-26 financial year, the Government will open a grant funding round to gauge sector interest in removed trees available on site at TCCS depot facilities. The grant criteria will focus on delivery of useful furniture for schools and community facilities located near the removed trees, such as yarning circles, tables, display cabinets, and natural playgrounds.

¹ As per Part 2, section 5 of the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012*

Involvement of the local community in determining uses and the location of the final product, conducted by the grant recipients, would be encouraged.

The pilot program would be conducted over two years, with a review after the second year conducted using existing TCCS resources.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)					
Expenses^(a)		-75	-75		-150
Capital^(a)					
Depreciation^(a)					
Offset - Expenses^(a)					
Offset - Capital^(a)					
Full-time equivalent employees					

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses, depreciation or capital outflows. A positive number indicates an increase in revenue or decrease in expenses, depreciation or capital inflows. The expenses row is not to include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal? Please provide links or attach information/data sources referenced.

The Treasuring our Trees program conducted in Victoria: [Community Projects — Treasuring Our Trees](#)

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

The funding allocation is a capped amount.

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?

The publication of the Plan and subsequent grant rounds will be conducted by the ACT Government. The milling and carpentry of creatively re-used wood, and the return of finished products to the community, be undertaken by grant recipients.

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

No.

Who will administer the proposal?
TCCS
How will the proposal be administered?
Via TCCS according to standard grants criteria and procedures.
Is the proposal part of a broader package? If so, please identify the other elements of the package.
Yes, it forms part of Labor's City Services package, act-labor-policy-positon-statement-2024-7-october-2024.pdf (actlabor.org.au) pp 47-54. It is not reliant of the delivery of other aspects of the package.
Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?
– If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal? – If yes, please specify the key assumptions.
No. TCCS will be expected to absorb the minor expenses associated with the release of the Plan and administration of the grant funding application assessments.
Will the proposal generate savings or offsets? If so, please quantify any savings or offsets.
No
Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? If so, will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?
Yes, Treasuring our Trees has provided an initial partnership proposal that included indicative costs (can be provided on request).
What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?
The proposal will directly or indirectly affect many ACT residents. Established tree removal can be an upsetting and damaging process for local communities. Reuse of wood from these trees involves the community in constructive discussions about maintaining the heritage value of the remove trees in a way that continues to benefit the local area.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?
No

What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
The proposal will commence from 30 March 2025 (date of release of the Plan) and the grant process will run from 1 July 2025 and for 2 years.
When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.
From 1 July 2025.
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
The pilot program will conclude at the end of the 2026-27 financial year. An internal review will be conducted by TCCS at that point regarding the pilot program's efficacy and community benefit.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
No