


Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of election commitment:	<i>Investigate macrophyte restoration</i>					
Person and party requesting costing:	Meredith Hunter, ACT Greens Parliamentary Leader					
Date of public release of election commitment, including source:	30 th July 2012, http://act.greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Lakes_Initiative_Final.pdf (point 2, page 3)					
Summary of election commitment:	<p>This commitment involves conducting a cost-benefit study of macrophyte (water plants) restoration. The study would include an evaluation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most appropriate locations for establishment and/or enhancement of beds • Specific water quality benefits delivered • Costs and potential funding options 					
Intention of election commitment:	To produce an analysis that will assist in future Government policy making regarding macrophytes and their potential to improve water quality.					
Signature of person requesting costing:						
Date of request for costing:	3/9/12					
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?						
The funding for this commitment is dollar limited.						
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?						
No.						
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)						
Expenses ^(a)		-78				-78

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

What is the likely take up?
N/A.

Any other assumptions?
It is estimated that a study would take 10 consultant weeks @ \$1500/day = \$75,000. Including procurement costs (4% of total cost), this amounts to **\$78,000**.

This initiative is dollar limited so ESDD will need to undertake the work within this budgetary framework. As the work is predominantly to be performed by consultants, it is expected that minimal staff time within the Directorate would be required. On that basis, staffing costs have not been applied to this initiative.

Any work performed on this initiative should build on the work undertaken by Professor Ian Lawrence, as part of the Environment Commissioner's Lakes Inquiry 2011.¹

Administration of the election commitment
How will the election commitment be administered? Staff in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate will be responsible for administering the commitment.
Who will administer the election commitment? The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.
Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this election commitment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this election commitment? - If yes, please specify the key assumptions. <p>As mentioned above, given that the work is to be performed by consultants, it is expected that immaterial staff time within the Directorate would be required.</p>
What is the intended implementation date of the election commitment? It is proposed that this study would be conducted and finalised in 2013-14.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with election commitment implementation? No.
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered? No.
When is the election commitment expected to be fully operational? <i>Please provide further details i.e. start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc?</i> As mentioned above, the study will take place and be finalised in 2013-14.
Will the election commitment cease and if so when? The commitment will occur in 2013-14 only.

¹ Lawrence I., 2011, Water Quality Assessment (Appendix A).