Costings during an election period

The Victorian PBO prepared the most outputs for its inaugural election period than any other Australian jurisdiction, despite the Victorian Parliamentary Budget Officer's appointment in close proximity to the 2018 general election.

The Victorian PBO prepared the most election commitment costings, election policy costings and pre-election and post-election reports of any Australian jurisdiction during an election period. This is partly explained by its higher number of functions than other PBOs.

Following the 2019 NSW election, the NSW PBO noted that:

- they were assisted by agencies for a majority (67.4%) of costings were produced with the assistance of agencies, rather than in-house

- They had access to models used by specific agencies, including NSW Treasury models for tax policies.

Prior to the 2019 election, the Australian PBO expanded the scope of its post-election reporting services. It invited political parties smaller than those normally included to opt in to the post-election reporting process.

It is important to note that comparing the number of policy costings prepared does not consider the complexity of responses and the familiarity of the PBO with the policy areas based on previous costings. Accordingly, it is an indicator only.

	NSW PBO 2015 election	Victorian PBO 2018 election	NSW PBO 2019 election	Australian PBO 2019 election
Election policy costings	248 [1]	215	349 [2]	n/a
Election commitment costings	179	829	227	427
Total costings	**476**	**1,044**	**576**	**427**
Pre-election and post-election reports	2	6	2	3

Notes: We use the term election policy costing to refer to a costing completed during an election or caretaker period but not included in a costing aggregation report. An election commitment costing is a costing that may have been requested, but for the Victorian and Australian PBOs was also identified from public statements, and is included in a post-election report.
[1] The NSW PBO Post election report 2015 stated that while 478 policy costings were requested, 49 were withdrawn before completion and 248 were not published. 179 completed costings were published by the NSW PBO.
[2] The NSW PBO Post-Election report 2019 stated that while 576 policy costings were completed, only 188 were fully completed internally by the PBO.
Source: Internal Victorian PBO data, NSW PBO Post-Election reports 2015 and 2019, Parliamentary Budget Office Annual Report 2018-19 (Canberra).