



Costing Election Manifestos

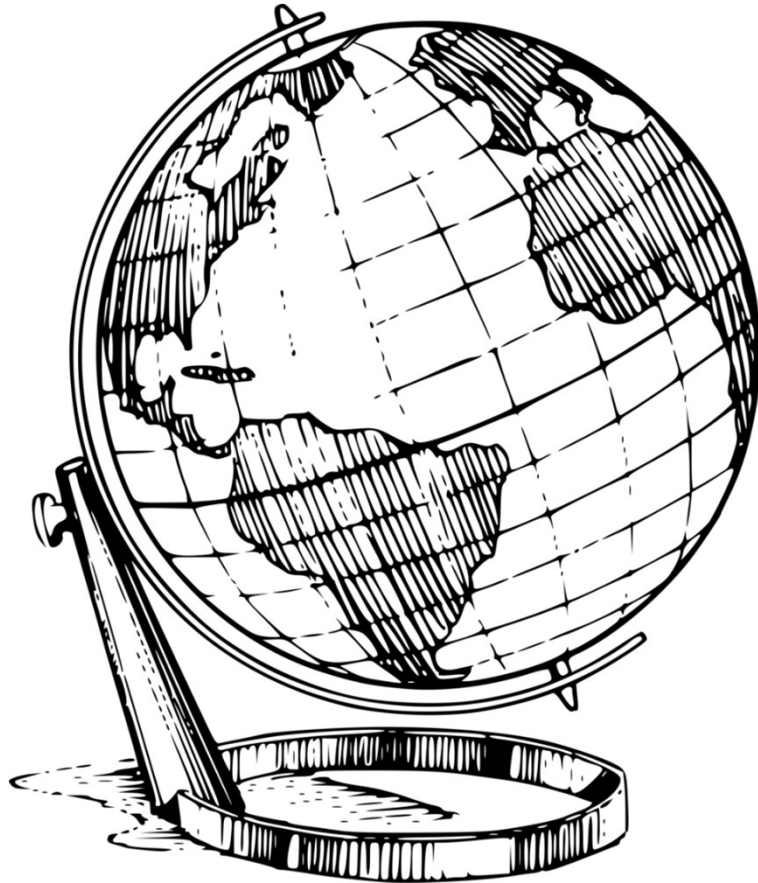
Scherie Nicol

28 February 2019, Brussels



Election costing

A common IFI function?



39% of OECD IFIs have a role in policy costing, only 4 are formally mandated to cost election platforms

Source: OECD IFI Database (2019)



Election costing

Growing debate on IFIs undertaking election costings

- Builds on regular modelling work but...
 - Requires broad range of analyses at one point in time
 - Deals with more novel, untested policy ideas
 - High political stakes, can result in gaming

=> Needs to be **well-resourced** and **well-designed**



Election costing

Some design aspects for consideration

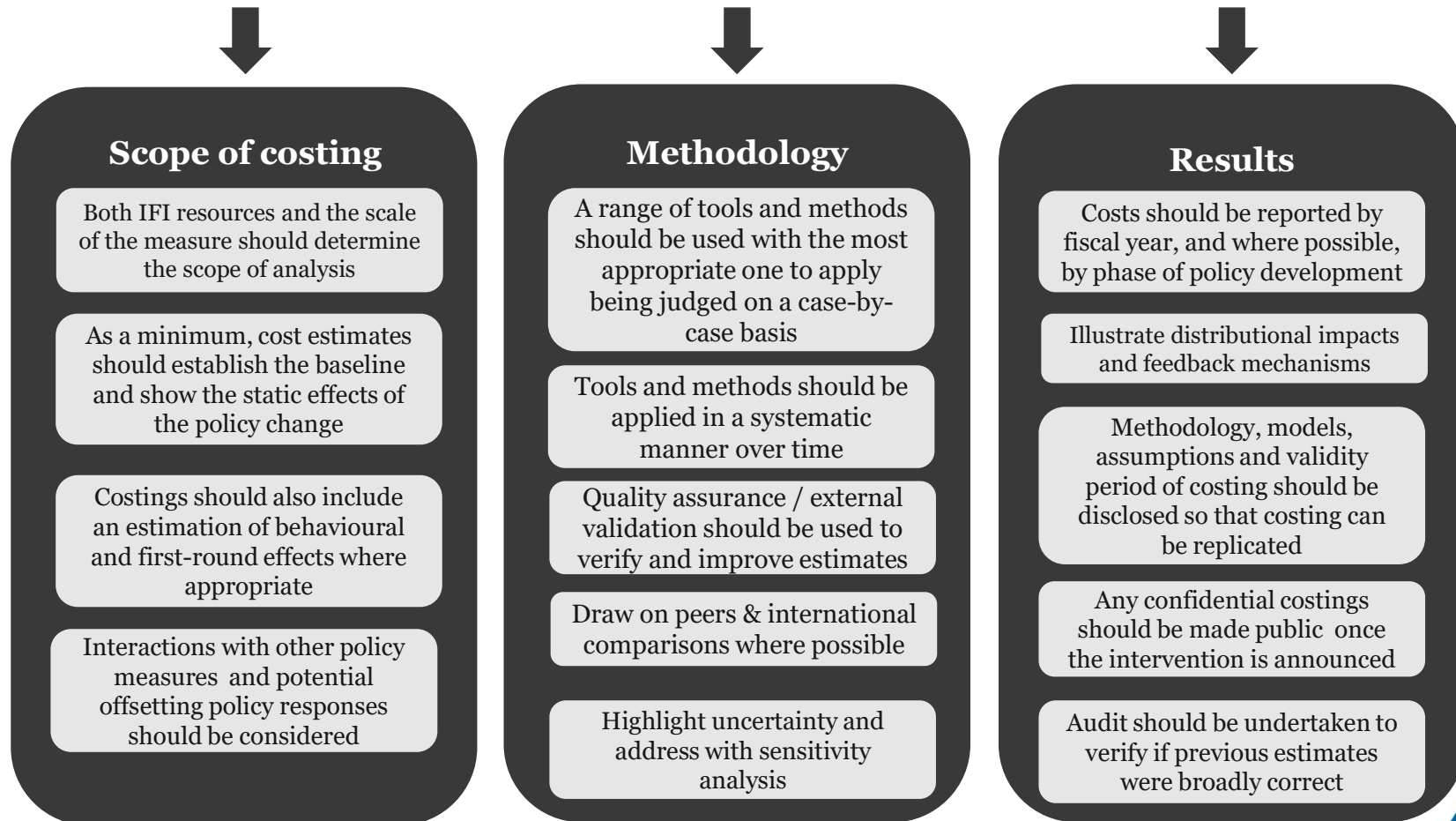
- What to cost
 - All parties vs. significant parties
 - Individual policies vs. platforms
- How to cost
 - Rigour: bottom-up costing vs “test of reasonableness”
 - Scope: static, dynamic
 - Time horizon of effects
- Presentation of results
 - Timing: pre-election, post-election
 - Measures: GDP, income equality, gender
- Complementary products
 - E.g., Netherlands Promising Policy series



Election costing

OECD working on costing benchmarks...

Anticipated coverage






Why is election costing important?



Equal access to independent costings helps level playing field between governing and opposition parties

Allows the political debate to focus on policy

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 **Bernard Hickey**
Bernard Hickey is the Managing Editor of Newsroom Pro and writes about politics and economics from the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Wellington. Twitter: @bernardchickey

Analysis: There is no hole in Labour's fiscal plan

National accuses Labour of a basic calculating error that blows an \$11.7 billion hole in its budget. Labour denies the mistake. Bernard Hickey looks at this fiscal version of a 'he said, she said' and finds no hole - just a political argument about cost inflation and spending priorities.



But most importantly...

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INQUIRER

Parliamentary Budget Office is keeping the bastards honest



Parliamentary Budget Officer Phil Bowen says of his office: 'It has helped to level the playing field ... [and] to say there has been no impact on transparency would be wrong'. Picture: Ray Strange.

The Australian | 12:00AM May 18, 2016

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Save

Injects “realism” into political debate



Costing election manifestos

Thank you