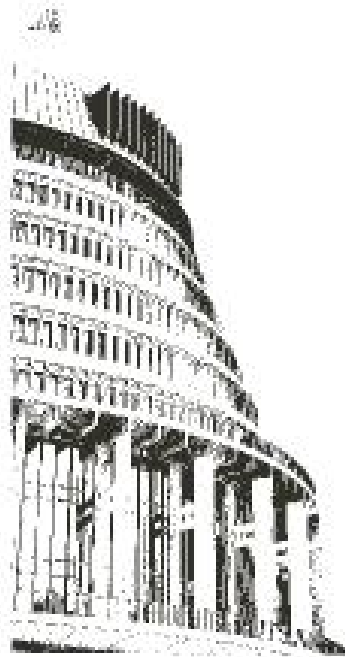


27 May 2004



budget 2004

- Budget Speech •
- Fiscal Strategy Report •
- Economic and Fiscal Update •

Guide to the Budget Documents

A number of documents are released on Budget day. The intent of these documents is to provide information about the Government's spending intentions; its performance; and the wider fiscal and economic picture.

The budget documents, ordered from widest to most specific coverage, are as follows:

Executive Summary

The *Executive Summary* is the overview of all the Budget information and contains the key points for the media and general public. It summarises the Government's spending decisions and generally focuses on issues raised in the Budget Speech, the *Budget Economic and Fiscal Update* and the *Fiscal Strategy Report*.

Budget Speech

The Budget Speech is the Minister of Finance's speech at the start of Parliament's debate about the Estimates. The Speech generally focuses on the overall fiscal and economic position, and how the Government will fund its policy priorities.

Fiscal Strategy Report

The *Fiscal Strategy Report* measures how the Government is going against its overall goals in areas such as achieving debt objectives. It includes:

- fiscal trends covering at least the next 10 years
- a comparison with the long term fiscal objectives set out in the *Budget Policy Statement*.

The Government must explain any changes between the *Fiscal Strategy Report*, the *Budget Policy Statement* and the previous year's *Fiscal Strategy Report*.

Budget Economic and Fiscal Update

This document includes the Treasury's overall economic and fiscal forecasts. The *Update* includes the implications of government financial decisions and other information relevant to the fiscal and economic position.

The Estimates of Appropriations

The Estimates outline how much money the Government plans to spend on each specified area or "Vote". The Supplementary Estimates outline the additional money required to cover the previous year's spending.

Departmental Statements of Intent

The *Statement of Intent* provides information about how each government department intends to manage for outcomes over the next three to five years. The *Statement of Intent* contains annual financial and output class information required under the Public Finance Act 1989.

Internet

These documents will be made available on the New Zealand Treasury's Internet site.
The URL for this site is www.treasury.govt.nz.

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Other Information

On the Treasury's website is a series of additional information that contains:

- information previously disclosed as part of the *Budget Update* (references have been made to the link within the document)
- economic forecast tables
- financial information bringing together a comprehensive comparison of the fiscal forecasts to those contained in the 2003 *December Update*.

Statement of Responsibility

On the basis of the economic and fiscal information available to it, the Treasury has used its best professional judgement in supplying the Minister of Finance with this Economic and Fiscal Update. The Update incorporates the fiscal and economic implications both of Government decisions and circumstances as at 7 May 2004 that were communicated to me, and of other economic and fiscal information available to the Treasury in accordance with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 1994.



John Whitehead
Secretary to the Treasury

20 May 2004

This Economic and Fiscal Update has been prepared in accordance with the Fiscal Responsibility Act 1994. I accept overall responsibility for the integrity of the disclosures contained in this Update, and the consistency and completeness of the Update information in accordance with the requirements of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 1994.

To enable the Treasury to prepare this Update, I have ensured that the Secretary to the Treasury has been advised of all Government decisions and other circumstances as at 7 May 2004 of which I was aware and that had material economic or fiscal implications.



Hon Dr Michael Cullen
Minister of Finance

20 May 2004