

## Treasury Report: Proactive Release of Budget 2009 Documents

<b>Date:</b>	28 April 2009	<b>Report No:</b>	T2009/1048
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### Action Sought

	<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	<b>Note and agree</b> to the recommendations in this report	Friday, 1 May 2009
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Simon Power)	<b>Note</b> contents	<b>None</b>
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)	<b>Note</b> contents	<b>None</b>

### Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
<i>[deleted – privacy]</i>			
Chris Bunny	Manager, Fiscal Management	917 6201 (wk)	973 6926 (res) 021 1834 805

### Minister of Finance's Office Actions (if required)

**Confirm** that Treasury will prepare and send letters to Ministers outlining the proactive release.  
**Coordinate** replies from other Ministers' Offices for the release date.

**Enclosure: Yes**

## **Treasury Report: Proactive Release of Budget 2009 Documents**

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### **Executive Summary**

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The purpose of this report is to seek your view on whether you want to continue with the proactive release of Budget-related documents.

Treasury, with the approval of the previous Minister of Finance, has proactively released Budget-related documents for the last three years. The release is made on the Treasury website. The material disclosed is guided by the provisions of the Official Information Act (OIA). Relevant Vote Ministers and their Offices are consulted on this release.

Prior to proactively releasing Budget documents, the previous Minister of Finance (and his Office) received numerous OIA requests. These requests normally spanned most Votes thereby affecting the majority of departments and Treasury Vote teams. These requests were dealt with in an ad-hoc manner, which were individually time consuming and the responses were inconsistent, often requiring further clarification.

The material for release is processed by Treasury Vote teams to remove any information that would normally be withheld under the OIA. Deleted information generally covers issues of commercial sensitivity, free and frank advice and issues under active consideration, i.e. declined Budget bids. The modified material is then sent to your Office, who then co-ordinate with other Ministers' offices to ensure they are satisfied with the documents prior to releasing on the Treasury website.

Treasury considers that the proactive release of Budget documents has been quite successful in managing OIA requests for Budget-related material, reducing the time spent dealing with requests in both Ministers' offices and Treasury. In most cases, the information released has satisfied the needs of requestors.

Over the last three years, the release has been two to three weeks after Budget Day. Should you agree to continue with this practice, we suggest a release three weeks after Budget day, i.e. Thursday 18 June 2009. We consider that three weeks provides enough time to process all the recommended release material.

We suggest you write to your Ministerial colleagues outlining your decision to release Budget 2009 related material; and detailing what actions they and their Offices need to carry out. We have attached a draft letter for you to consider. Should you agree to this letter, the Treasury can prepare and send these letters to Ministers.

Below is a broad range of the types of documents we recommend releasing. Annex A provides a complete list of suggested papers to release.

#### ***Papers recommended to be released***

We suggest releasing similar types of papers as in previous years, namely:

1. Budget Policy Statement considered at Cabinet on 8 December 2008;
2. Cabinet minutes from the Budget Policy Statement;
3. Budget Briefings for Support Parties;

4. Letters to Ministers who you did not meet with;
5. Paper for the first Senior Executives Group meeting on 11 February 2009;
6. Paper for the second Senior Executives Group meeting on 17 February 2009;
7. Paper for the third Senior Executives Group meeting on 27 February 2009;
8. Paper for the first Budget Ministers' meeting on 9 March 2009;
9. Paper for the second Budget Ministers' meeting on 30 March 2009;
10. Bilateral briefings;
11. Budget package Cabinet paper considered by the Cabinet Strategy Committee on 6 April (including Cabinet minute);
12. Budget package Cabinet paper considered by Cabinet on Monday 20 April; and
13. All Cabinet Minutes associated with the above (these are currently being developed by the Cabinet Office and they will be sent to your Office once they are completed).

Copies of all these documents except the Cabinet minutes related to the Budget package are attached for your consideration.

## Recommended Action

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We recommend that you:

- a **note** that the previous years' release of Budget material onto the Treasury website has been successful in reducing the time spent on subsequent OIA requests;
- b **agree** to release Budget 2009 material on the Treasury website on 18 June (three weeks after Budget day);

*Agree/disagree.*

- c **agree** that the following documents be considered for inclusion in the proactive release:

Document	Decision
2009 Budget Policy Statement considered at Cabinet on 8 December 2008	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Cabinet minute from the Budget Policy Statement	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Reports for the Senior Executives Group 1, 2 and 3	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Paper for Budget Ministers' meeting on 9 March & 30 March	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Bilateral briefings	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Support Party Budget Briefing for Votes Local Government and Consumer Affairs	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Support Party Budget Briefing for Votes Maori Affairs and Community and Voluntary Sector	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Support Party Budget Briefing for Vote Revenue	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Treasury Report outlining Ministers with no bilaterals	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Letters to Ministers with no bilaterals outlining your decisions (eight letters)	<i>Agree / disagree</i>

Cabinet Memo on the Budget package discussed at Cabinet Strategy Committee on 6 April	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
Budget package Cabinet paper discussed at Cabinet on Monday 20 April	<i>Agree / disagree</i>
All Cabinet Minutes associated with the above	<i>Agree / disagree</i>

- d **agree** that Treasury prepare the proactive release of relevant Budget-related material every year from 2009 onwards (eliminating the need to write a Treasury Report every year), with prior consultation with your Office on the documents to release;

*Agree/disagree.*

- e **agree** to the attached letter for your Ministerial colleagues outlining your decision to release Budget 2009 related material.

*Agree/disagree.*

**Chris Bunny**  
 Manager, Fiscal Management  
 for Secretary to the Treasury

**Hon Bill English**  
 Minister of Finance

## **ANNEX A**

The Treasury recommended proactive release for Budget 2009 material is:

### ***Key Documents***

#### *Budget Policy Statement*

- Cabinet Paper – CAB (08) 586: 2009 Budget Policy Statement
- Cabinet Minute – CAB Min (08) 45/5: 2009 Budget Policy Statement

#### *Senior Executives Group*

- Senior Executives Group Paper 1 – 11 February 2009
- Senior Executives Group Paper 2 – 17 February 2009
- Senior Executives Group Paper 3 – 27 February 2009

#### *Budget Ministers*

- Treasury Report T2009/513 – Budget Ministers' Paper 1: Objectives and Priorities for the Budget Bilaterals
- Treasury Report T2009/723 - Budget Ministers' Paper 2: Confirming the 2009 Budget Package

#### *Budget Decisions*

- Cabinet Memo on the Budget Package discussed at Cabinet Strategy Committee on 6 April
- Cabinet Minute – STR Min (09) 5/2: 2009 Budget Package
- Cabinet Paper – CAB (09) 173: 2009 Budget Package
- Cabinet Minute – CAB Min (09) 13/7: 2009 Budget Package

#### *Bilateral Briefings*

- Bilateral Briefing for Votes Environment and Climate Change
- Treasury Report T2009/483 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Defence, Defence Force and Research, Science & Technology
- Aide Memoire: PROACTIVE RELEASE OF BUDGET 2009 DOCUMENTS
- Treasury Report T2009/484 – Bilateral Briefing for Vote Commerce
- Treasury Report T2009/486 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Fisheries and Housing
- Treasury Report T2009/495 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Agriculture & Forestry and Biosecurity

- Treasury Report T2009/503 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Arts, Culture & Heritage, Attorney General, Serious Fraud and Treaty Negotiations
- Treasury Report T2009/505 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Economic Development, Energy and Resource
- Treasury Report T2009/506 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Labour (including ACC) and Food Safety
- Treasury Report T2009/509 – Bilateral Briefing for Vote Finance
- Treasury Report T2009/566 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Transport and Communications
- Treasury Report T2009/567 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Tourism, Ministerial Services and Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Treasury Report T2009/570 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Foreign Affairs and Trade, Official Development Assistance and Sport & Recreation
- Treasury Report T2009/574 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Education and Education Review Office
- Treasury Report T2009/575 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Health and States Services
- Treasury Report T2009/622 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Corrections, Courts, Justice and Police (Justice Sector Votes)
- Treasury Report T2009/647 – Bilateral Briefing for Votes Employment and Social Development and Employment
- Treasury Report T2009/671 – Support Party Budget Briefing for Votes Local Government and Consumer Affairs
- Treasury Report T2009/713 – Support Party Budget Briefing for Votes Maori Affairs and Community and Voluntary Sector
- Treasury Report T2009/707 – Support Party Budget Briefing for Vote Revenue
- [*deleted – commercial activities*]
- [*deleted – commercial activities*]

#### Letters to Ministers

- Treasury Report T2009/545 – Confirmation of Ministers who will receive letter rather than bilateral in Budget 2009
- Letter to Hon Judith Collins – Vote Veterans' Affairs – Defence Force
- Letter to Hon Tim Groser – Vote Conservation
- Letter to Hon Maurice Williamson – Votes Building, Housing, Customs and Statistics
- Letter to Hon Richard Worth – Votes Lands and Internal Affairs

- Letter to Hon John Carter – Votes Racing and Emergency Management
- Letter to Hon Jonathan Coleman - Vote Immigration
- Letter to Hon Georgina te Heuheu – Vote Pacific Island Affairs
- Letter to Hon Pansy Wong – Women's Affairs
- Budget 2009: Budget Submissions for Votes Office of the Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel

### Cabinet Minutes

- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(1) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote ACC
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(2) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Agriculture and Forestry
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(3) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(4) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Attorney-General
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(6) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Biosecurity
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(7) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(8) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Commerce
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(9) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Communications
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(10) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Communications, Security & Intelligence
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(11) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Community and Voluntary Sector
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(12) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Conservation
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(13) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Consumer Affairs
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(14) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Corrections
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(15) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Courts
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(16) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Customs
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(17) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Defence
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(18) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Defence Force
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(19) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Economic, Industry and Regional Development

- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(20) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Education
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(21) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Education Review Office
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(22) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Emergency Management
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(23) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Employment
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(24) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Energy
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(25) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Environment
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(26) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Finance
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(27) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Fisheries
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(28) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Food Safety
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(29) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(30) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Health
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(31) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Housing
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(32) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Immigration
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(33) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Internal Affairs
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(34) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Justice
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(35) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Labour
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(36) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Lands
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(37) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Local Government
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(38) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Maori Affairs
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(39) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Ministerial Services
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(41) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote National Library
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(42) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Office of the Clerk
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(43) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Official Development Assistance
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(45) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Pacific Island Affairs



- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(46) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Parliamentary Counsel
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(47) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Parliamentary Service
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(48) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Police
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(49) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(50) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Racing
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(51) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Research, Science and Technology
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(52) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Revenue
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(53) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Security Intelligence
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(55) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Serious Fraud
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(56) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Social Development
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(57) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Sport & Recreation
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(58) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote State Services
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(60) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Statistics
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(61) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Tourism
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(62) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Transport
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(5) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Treaty Negotiations
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(40) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Veteran's Affairs - Defence
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(44) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Veteran's Affairs – Social Development
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(54) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Women's Affairs
- Cabinet Minute - CAB Min (09) 13/8(59) - 2009 Budget Package: Vote Youth Development