

# The Treasury

## Budget 2012 Information Release

### Release Document

June 2012

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- [1] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(c) - to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [3] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [4] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [5] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [6] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [7] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [8] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [9] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [10] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [11] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
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Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, an [4] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(b)(ii).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Hon Steven Joyce  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Thank you for your Four Year Budget Plan and recent March Baseline Update submission covering Vote Economic Development.

### **Four Year Budget Plan**

The Four Year Budget Plan prepared by the Ministry for Economic Development covering Vote Economic Development, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Communications, Energy and Tourism is of sufficient quality for Budget 2012. However, as the Ministry of Economic Development will be merged with other agencies to form the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment it will be necessary to submit another Four Year Budget Plan for Budget 2013. When the Four Year Budget Plan is next submitted there are a few areas where improvements could aid Ministerial decision making:

- clearer prioritisation of existing programmes relative to any new budget initiatives
- more quantification and discussion of cost pressures, and
- greater discussion of how these cost pressures will be met.

### **Budget initiatives**

Budget Ministers have considered the following Budget initiatives for Economic Development and have reached the following decisions.

The following initiatives are supported in full:

- Contribution to the development of a convention centre (7344)
- Additional policy advice costs for RWC 2011 and the GETS programme (7343), and
- Savings from Grants, Major Events, Management Development and Escalator Funds (7358).

The following initiatives are not supported:

- [7]
- [6]

[7]

### **Final Budget decisions**

Final decisions on Budget initiatives, as well as possible expenditure savings, will be made by Cabinet on 23 April 2012. Please note that acceptance of all Four-year Budget Plans is subject to the Government making satisfactory progress towards its priority of returning to surplus by 2014/15. If economic circumstances put the surplus target at risk, Cabinet may need to reconsider its fiscal track and some or all Budget Plans.

### **March Baseline Update**

I have examined your submission and approve your updated baselines for Vote Economic Development.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill English  
**Minister of Finance**