

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
- [12] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to prevent prejudice to the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

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 Tim Groser
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide feedback on the Four Year Budget Plan and recent March Baseline Update submission covering Vote Climate Change.

Four Year Budget Plan

I consider that the Four Year Budget Plan, prepared by the Ministry for the Environment, is acceptable but due to the need to better understand and prioritise medium-term cost pressures and risks, another Four Year Budget Plan should be submitted in advance of Budget 2013.

March Baseline Update

I have examined the submission and I have identified one issue with the proposed updates, as described Appendix One below.

All other aspects of the baseline update are agreed.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance

Appendix One: *Vote Climate Change*

Front Loading of Spending

The baseline update seeks to increase the appropriations in 2011/12 by \$0.168 million offset by reductions in 2012/13 and 2013/14 only. However, this proposal is outside the technical delegations provided to Ministers in Cabinet Office Circular CO (11) 6.

I support the intent of the administration review and the proposal to front-load spending. Officials have proposed that the issue is dealt with through the Budget process as a technical issue and I support that approach.

Appendix Two: *Vote Climate Change*

Front Loading of Spending

The baseline update seeks to increase the appropriations in 2011/12 by \$0.168 million offset by reductions in 2012/13 and 2013/14 only. However, this proposal is outside the technical delegations provided to Ministers in Cabinet Office Circular CO (11) 6.

I support the intent of the administration review and the proposal to front-load spending. Officials have proposed that the issue is dealt with through the Budget process as a technical issue and I support that approach.