

# The Treasury

## Budget 2013 Information Release

### Release Document

July 2013

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- [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
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- [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] Not in scope
- [13] 7(b) - to prevent prejudice to relations between any of the Governments of New Zealand, the Cook Islands or Niue
- [14] 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.

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



23 APR 2013

# Office of Hon Craig Foss

MP for Tukituki

Minister of Commerce

Minister of Consumer Affairs

Minister of Broadcasting

Associate Minister for ACC

Hon Bill English  
Minister of Finance  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Bill

### Introduction

I am writing to seek your agreement to extend from 30 April 2014 to 30 June 2015, the expiry date of the Vote Consumer Affairs Multi-Year Appropriation - Upgrading and Promoting the Consumer Powerswitch Website. Under the Public Finance Act section 10(3), changes to a Multi-Year Appropriation (MYA) expiry date can only be extended to 30 June 2015.

### Background

A MYA of \$4.5 million was appropriated to Vote Consumer Affairs to upgrade and promote the Powerswitch website. This was to stimulate competition and innovation in the retail electricity market and was scheduled to run over three and a half years (1 November 2010 – 30 April 2014).

Currently, the MYA expires 30 April 2014, at which point the Powerswitch facility will still be operational but will receive minimal publicity. In order to give consideration around options for further funding I propose an extension is made to this appropriation until 30 June 2015.

### Recommendations

I recommend that you:

1. **Agree** to extend from 30 April 2014 to 30 June 2015, the expiry date of the Vote Consumer Affairs Multi-Year Appropriation - Upgrading and Promoting the Consumer Powerswitch Website;
2. **Agree** that the proposed changes to the Multi-Year Appropriation above be included in the 2012/13 Supplementary Estimates;
3. **Note** that there are no financial impacts on the operating balance arising from this decision.

Hon Craig Foss  
Minister of Consumer Affairs

Date signed: 23/4/13

Agree / Disagree

Hon Bill English  
Minister of Finance

Date signed: 24/4/13