

# The Treasury

## Budget 2015 Information Release

### Release Document July 2015

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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] 6(e)(iv) - to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements.
- [4] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [5] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [6] 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.
- [6a] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - to protect information, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
- [7] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [8] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [8a] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [9] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [10] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [11] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [12] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [13] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [14] Not in scope

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, a [4] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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



## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### 2015 Budget Package: Vote Environment

On 20 April 2015, Cabinet:

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2015 Budget package, as listed in the summary below and detailed in the attached initiative documents;

#### Summary of initiatives included in the attached initiative documents:

##### Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
8622	Environmental Protection Authority – Exclusive Economic Zone Legislative Functions	-	4.000	-	-	-
8618	NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) Supply Management (Including Auctioning)	-	1.700	1.000	0.700	0.700
8965	Reprioritisation of Funding	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
8620	Resource Management Reform	-	5.800	4.600	4.900	5.100
8621	Water Reform by 2019 for 2025	-	4.100	4.500	4.500	3.700
<b>Total Operating</b>		-	<b>13.600</b>	<b>8.100</b>	<b>8.100</b>	<b>7.500</b>

- 2 **approved** changes to appropriations to implement the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
- 3 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Responsible Minister to approve jointly any technical adjustments to baselines necessary to remove any errors or inconsistencies identified while finalising the 2014/15 Supplementary Estimates, the 2015/16 Estimates and the fiscal forecasts;
- 4 **authorised** the chief executives of departments that monitor Crown entities directly affected by decisions in this minute to inform the chair and/or chief executive of a Crown entity, on a budget-in-confidence-until-budget-day basis, of decisions that directly affect that Crown entity for the purpose of planning and preparation of their Statement of Intent;

- 5 **noted** that all communications relating to the 2015 Budget are co-ordinated by a Budget communications committee, and that any requests for early announcement will need to have both the written approval of the Minister of Finance and sign-off from the Prime Minister's office.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (15) 173

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**Vote:** Environment

**Title:** Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) – Exclusive Economic Zone  
Legislative Functions

**Description:** To enable the EPA to carry out its legislative functions under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012.

**Appropriation Changes**

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	4.000	-	-	-
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>4.000</b>	-	-	-

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>					
Environmental Protection Authority: Regulatory Functions MCA					
<b>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Decision Making	-	3.500	-	-	-
Monitoring and Enforcement	-	0.500	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>4.000</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**Vote:** Environment

**Title:** New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Supply Management (Including Auctioning)

**Description:** To set up and operate a supply management strategy and auctioning system in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	1.700	1.000	0.700	0.700
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1.700</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.700</b>	<b>0.700</b>

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>					
Climate Change MCA					
<b>Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Domestic Climate Change Programme Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.700	1.000	0.700	0.700
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>1.700</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.700</b>	<b>0.700</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	-	-	-	-	-

### Additional Recommendation

[8]

**Vote:** Environment

**Title:** Reprioritisation of Funding

**Description:** Reprioritisation to support Budget priorities.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
<b>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Community Environment Fund	-	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)
Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund	-	(0.800)	-	-	-
Promotion of Sustainable Land Management	-	-	(0.800)	(0.800)	(0.800)
<b>Non-Departmental Other Expense:</b>					
Environmental Legal Assistance	-	(0.200)	(0.200)	(0.200)	(0.200)
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**Vote:** Environment

**Title:** Resource Management Reform

**Description:** A package of reforms to the Resource Management Act 1991 and increased national focus on resource management issues.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	5.800	4.600	4.900	5.100
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5.800</b>	<b>4.600</b>	<b>4.900</b>	<b>5.100</b>

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>					
Improving Resource Management MCA					
<b>Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Resource Management Implementation (funded by revenue Crown)	-	3.300	1.600	2.100	2.700
Resource Management Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	-	2.500	3.000	2.800	2.400
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>5.800</b>	<b>4.600</b>	<b>4.900</b>	<b>5.100</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**Vote:** Environment

**Title:** Water Reform by 2019 for 2025

**Description:** Delivering the bulk of water reform initiatives by 2019 to support councils and communities in meeting 2025 target for setting water objectives and limits.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	4.100	4.500	4.500	3.700
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>4.100</b>	<b>4.500</b>	<b>4.500</b>	<b>3.700</b>

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>					
Improving Resource Management MCA					
<b>Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Water Management Implementation (funded by revenue Crown)	-	2.200	2.600	2.600	2.100
Water Management Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.600
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>4.100</b>	<b>4.500</b>	<b>4.500</b>	<b>3.700</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	-	-	-	-	-