

The Treasury

Budget 2015 Information Release

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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.

Treasury Report: Finalising decisions on the use of the Christchurch Housing Accord Fund

Date:	19 May 2015	Report No:	T2015/1038
		File Number:	SH-3-2-18

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	Agree to funding levels for the Auckland housing Budget contingency	19 May 2015
Minister for Building and Housing (Hon Dr Nick Smith)	Agree to funding levels for the Auckland housing Budget contingency	19 May 2015

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
[9]			✓
Tom Hall	Manager - Housing	04 917 6150 (wk)	[4]

Actions for the Minister's Office Staff (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

Enclosure: No

Treasury Report: Finalising decisions on the use of the Christchurch Housing Accord Fund

Purpose of Report

1. On 4 May 2015 Cabinet agreed that the balance of the Christchurch Housing Accord Fund capital contingency should be used to set up a Budget contingency fund for developing vacant Crown land in Auckland for housing. Cabinet also delegated authority to the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Building and Housing to finalise details to give effect to this policy decision [CAB min (15) 14/3A].
2. The purpose of this report is to seek final agreement on the amount of funding that will be reallocated from the Christchurch Housing Accord capital contingency.

Comment

3. Cabinet agreed in Budget 2014 to set aside \$75 million in a capital contingency to progress housing developments in Christchurch to increase the supply of temporary and affordable housing.
4. To date, the Government has committed \$22.8 million towards initiatives in Christchurch. This includes \$13.8 million to progress the Awatea, Welles Street and Colombo Street developments, \$4 million for emergency-housing initiatives targeted at vulnerable people and a further \$5 million for the Christchurch City Council to set up a home-ownership fund for low-income families.
5. On 4 May 2015, Cabinet agreed that the balance of the contingency should expire on 1 July 2015 and should be used to fund housing developments in Auckland [CAB Min (15) 14/3A]. These developments would follow a similar approach to the Awatea, Welles Street and Colombo Street developments and will therefore require a Budget contingency fund.
7. This report seeks confirmation that the full \$52.2 million (the remaining balance of the Christchurch Housing Accord capital contingency) be used for developments in Auckland.

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a **Note** that Cabinet agreed to establish a contingency fund in Budget 2015 to progress housing developments on vacant Crown land in Auckland and that funding for this would be reallocated from the Christchurch Housing Accord capital contingency
- b **Note** that the remaining balance in the Christchurch Housing Accord capital contingency is \$52.2 million
- c **Agree** to use this remaining balance (\$52.2 million) to progress housing developments in Auckland at pace

Agree/Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree/Disagree
Minister for Building and Housing

Tom Hall
Manager, Housing

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for Building and Housing