

The Treasury

Budget 2016 Information Release

Release Document July 2016

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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]	to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government	6(a)
[4]	to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	6(c)
[11]	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.	6(e)(vi)
[23]	to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people	9(2)(a)
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[31]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility	9(2)(f)(ii)
[33]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials	9(2)(f)(iv)
[34]	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions	9(2)(g)(i)
[36]	to maintain legal professional privilege	9(2)(h)
[37]	to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantages or prejudice	9(2)(i)
[38]	to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice	9(2)(j)
[39]	to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	9(2)(k)
[s18(c)(i)]	that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment	
[40]	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 [23] 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) and section 18 of the Official Information Act.

Treasury Report: Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery: Technical Appropriation Adjustment

Date:	26 April 2016	Report No:	T2016/746
		File Number:	DH-50-0

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	Approve the fiscally neutral transfer of \$1.428 million from Vote Lands to Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery to avoid unappropriated expenditure in 2015/16	Friday 29 April 2016
Minister supporting Greater Christchurch Regeneration (Hon Gerry Brownlee)	Approve the fiscally neutral transfer of \$1.428 million from Vote Lands to Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery to avoid unappropriated expenditure in 2015/16	Friday 29 April 2016

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
[34]			✓
Elizabeth Scurr	Team Leader, Fiscal and State Sector Management	04 917 6190 (wk)	[23] (mob)

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

Return the signed report to Treasury. **Refer** a copy of this report to the Minister for Lands.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

Enclosure: No

Treasury Report: Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery: Technical Appropriation Adjustment

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to a fiscally neutral adjustment of funding from Vote Lands to Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery (CER) to avoid unappropriated expenditure in Vote CER for the 2015/16 financial year.

Analysis

2. Joint Ministers have previously agreed to transfer all residual funding from Vote CER to Vote Lands, Vote Finance and Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet effective from 1 April 2016 [T2016/626 refers]. The amounts to be transferred were based on actual expenditure under Vote CER up to 31 March 2016 and the appropriation amount approved by parliament.
3. Officials have since discovered that actual expenditure for March for one of the multi-category appropriations (MCA) that has gone to Vote Lands has changed and is now higher. This means that Vote CER is showing an overspend in the MCA category of \$1.428 million and funding needs to be transferred back from Vote Lands.
4. To avoid unappropriated expenditure, joint Minister approval is required to do a fiscally neutral transfer of \$1.428 million from Vote Lands to the relevant MCA category in Vote CER. This funding has already been spent but at the time the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) had the appropriate authority as the appropriation had not yet transferred to Vote Lands.
5. Although the Budget Moratorium has commenced, joint Ministers (the Minister of Finance and the relevant appropriation Minister) have delegated authority from Cabinet (as outlined in the Budget Cabinet paper) to make any necessary adjustments to appropriations to finalise the Budget Package.

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a **note** that joint Ministers have agreed to transfer all residual funding from Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery to other relevant Votes and the transfer was based on actual expenditure by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority up to 31 March 2016 [T2016/626 refers];

Noted

Noted

- b **note** that the actual March expenditure for a multi-category appropriation transferred to Vote Lands is now higher and technical adjustments are required to avoid unappropriated expenditure;

Noted

Noted

- c **agree** to the following fiscally neutral adjustment to appropriations between Vote Lands and Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery to give effect to recommendation b) above with no impact on the operating balance or debt;

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 & Outyears
Vote Lands Minister supporting Greater Christchurch Regeneration					
Multi-Category Appropriation: Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Land Ownership and Management	(1.428)				
Non-Departmental Capital Expense:					
Purchase of Land and Improvements – Capital	(1.428)	-	-	-	-
Vote Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority Minister supporting Greater Christchurch Regeneration					
Multi-Category Appropriation: Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Land Ownership and Management	1.428				
Non-Departmental Other Expense:					
Purchase of Land and Buildings - Operating	1.428	-	-	-	-

Agree/disagree

Agree/disagree

- d **agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2015/16 under recommendation c) above be included in the 2015/16 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met by Imprest Supply; and

Agree/disagree

Agree/disagree

- e **refer** a copy of this report to the Minister for Lands

Refer/not refer

Refer/not refer

Elizabeth Scurr
Team Leader, Fiscal and State Sector Management

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance

Hon Gerry Brownlee
**Minister Supporting Greater Christchurch
Regeneration**