

# The Treasury

## Budget 2017 Information Release

### Release Document July 2017

[www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/budget/2017](http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/budget/2017)

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)
[25]	to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information	9(2)(b)(ii)
[26]	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	9(2)(ba)(i)
[27]	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information - would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	9(2)(ba)(ii)
[29]	to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand	9(2)(d)
[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)
[40]	Not in scope	

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: Indication of Changes to Budget Products for Budget 2017

<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2017	<b>Report No:</b>	T2017/360
		<b>File Number:</b>	BM-2-8-2017-1

### Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)	<b>Indicate</b> at the chew session with Budget officials on Thursday 23 February your preferences for any changes to the Budget Website and Budget-at-a-Glance document.	23 February 2017

### Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
[34]			✓
Fiona Whiteridge	Manager	[39] (wk)	[23]

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

**Return** the signed report to Treasury.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

**Enclosure:** No

# Treasury Report: Indication of Changes to Budget Products for Budget 2017

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## Purpose of Report

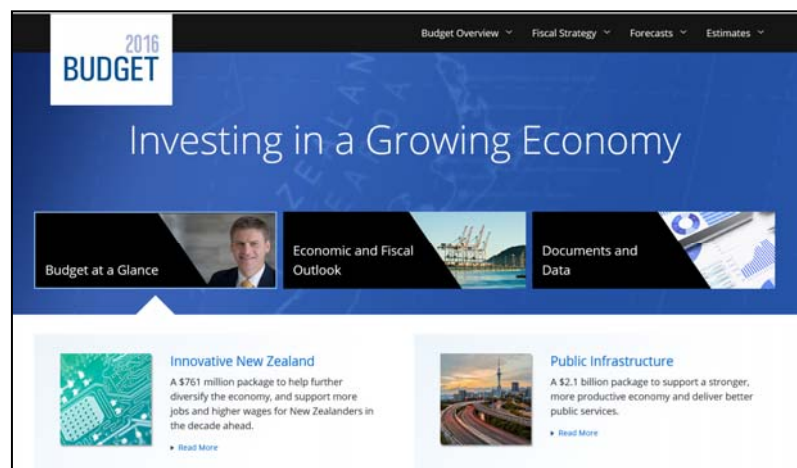
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1. At the Fiscal Issues meeting on Tuesday 7 February you indicated potential changes you had in mind for the Budget Website and the Budget-at-a-Glance document. The purpose of this report is to provide you with additional context and information on the key features of each of these Budget products and when decisions would be required on any substantial changes. It also seeks to test with you what kind of changes you would like implemented for Budget 2017.

## Budget Website

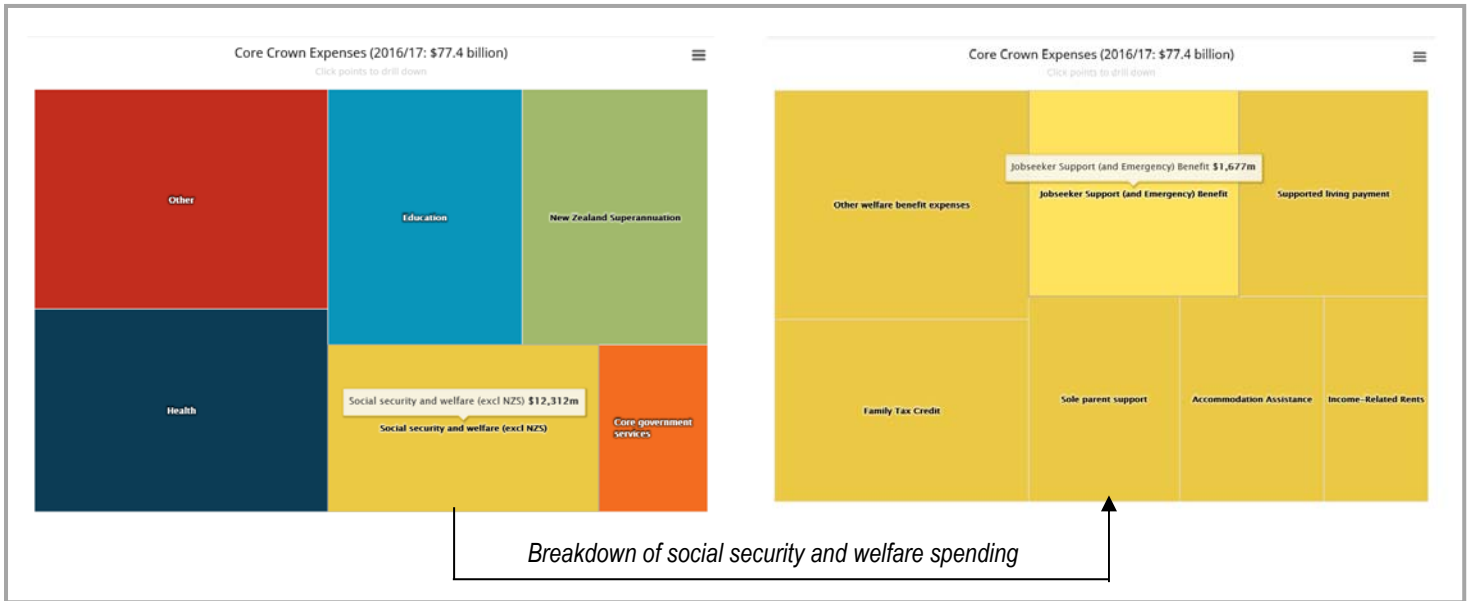
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2. The Budget Website underwent significant redevelopment for Budget 2016 and was a replacement to the Budget app. Prior to this, all Budget-related information was accessed through the Treasury website with the Budget Website used as a 'back-up' only.



3. The Budget app was replaced due to low user demand and the high maintenance costs associated with updating and refreshing the app. Not all information could be uploaded onto the app (e.g. large Estimates documents) and therefore users still needed to go through the website to access these documents.
4. The new Budget website is user friendly, interactive and can be accessed on a wider range of devices than the Budget app. Key features of the website include:

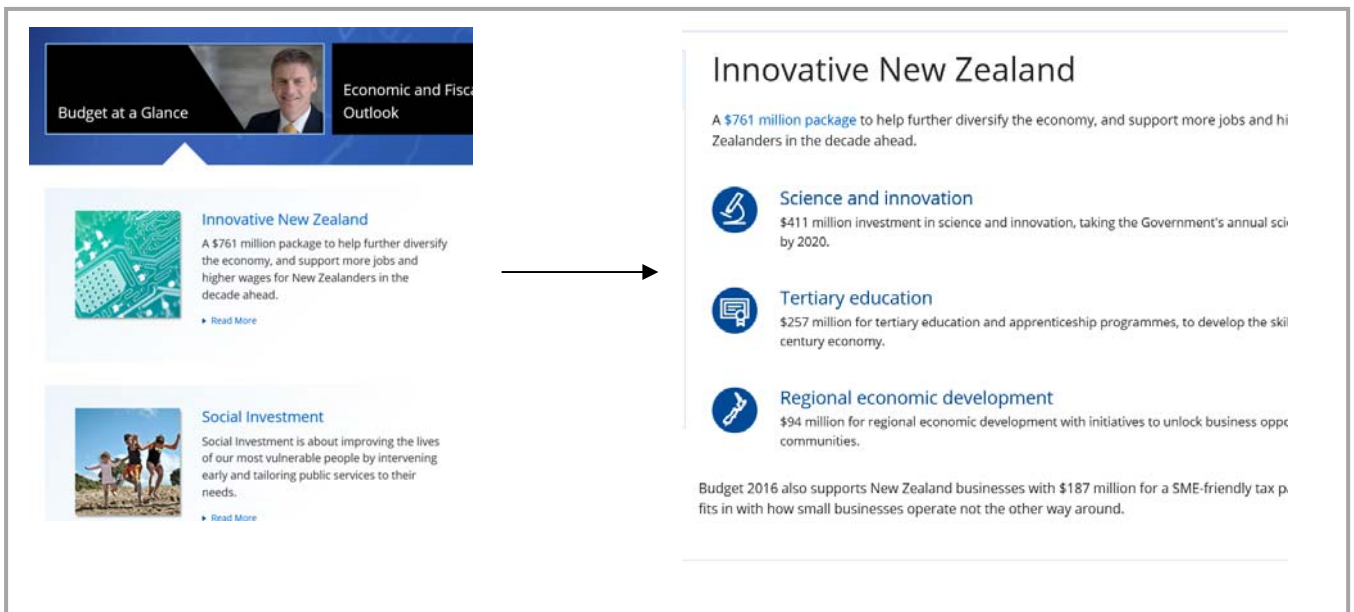
- a **Interactive graphs and charts** which provide information on the breakdown of Government expenditure and revenue.



- b **My tax dollars** – this provides an overview of how an individual’s income is split up by area of Government expenditure.



- c **Overview of Budget packages** by themes or priority areas (for example, Innovative New Zealand for Budget 2016).



5. **The Treasury would need an indication of any substantial changes to the website by the end of February in order to engage developers and undergo user testing.** Examples of substantial changes include adding a new interactive feature such as a tax calculator or adding another level of information onto the existing interactive charts. Making changes to the colour scheme or adding new graphs or photos can be done relatively easily.
6. Changes after the end of February can be incorporated, however will add further pressure onto production deadlines and increase costs. The Treasury engages with external developers on the delivery of the website, therefore an early indication of any changes will provide enough time to complete user testing and reduce any production risks.

## Budget-at-a-Glance

7. Budget-at-a-Glance is an overview of key Budget information presented as a graphic fold-out document (pamphlet). The document provides a summary of the Budget package and key issues raised in the Budget Speech, the Fiscal Strategy Report and the Budget Economic and Fiscal Update.



8. The following information is currently included in the Budget-at-a-Glance document:
  - a Government's short-term fiscal priorities
  - b Key parameters for Budget (e.g. operating and capital allowances)
  - c Economic and Fiscal Outlook
  - d Key areas of new expenditure by theme/priority area
  - e Breakdown of total Government expenditure and revenue by area
  - f Assets and liabilities on the Crown balance sheet
9. **By the end of February, we would like an indication on your comfort around the content and appearance of the Budget-at-a-Glance document.** In particular, whether you would like any changes to the document.
10. The attached annex provides further detail on other Budget products, most of which are required under legislation.

## Recommended Action

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We recommend that you:

### *Budget Website*

- a **note** that the Budget Website underwent a substantial redevelopment for Budget 2016 and is now more user friendly and interactive;
- b **indicate** at the chew session with Budget officials on Thursday 23 February whether you are comfortable with the existing features of the Budget Website and any further changes you would like implemented for Budget 2017;
- c **note** the Treasury would need an indication of any substantial changes by the end of February to engage external developers and undergo user testing;
- d **note** any significant changes to the Website signalled late in the Budget process will add pressure onto production deadlines and result in delivery risks;

### *Budget-at-a-Glance*

- e **note** the Budget-at-a-Glance is a graphic fold-out document which provides an overview of key Budget information; and
- f **indicate** at the chew session with Budget officials on Thursday 23 February whether you are comfortable with the content and appearance of the Budget-at-a-Glance document and any further changes you would like implemented for Budget 2017.

Fiona Whiteridge  
**Manager**

Steven Joyce  
**Minister of Finance**

## Annex: Other Budget 2017 Documents

Budget Product	Description
<p><b>Budget Speech</b></p> <p><i>Prepared by the Minister of Finance's Office in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office.</i></p>	<p>The Budget Speech is the Minister of Finance's speech delivering the Budget Statement at the start of Parliament's Budget debate. The Budget Statement generally focuses on the overall fiscal and economic position, the Government's policy priorities and how those priorities will be funded.</p> <p>The Budget Day lock-up presentation (and associated speech) are also prepared by the Minister of Finance's Office, in coordination with the Prime Minister's Office.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Initiatives in Budget 2017</b></p> <p><i>Prepared by the Treasury.</i></p>	<p>Summary of Initiatives in Budget 2017 document presents the new initiatives contained in the Budget in a number of different ways - by Budget package, by area of spending and by Vote.</p> <p>The titles and descriptions of the initiatives for this product are agreed with the Minister of Finance's office.</p>
<p><b>Press Releases</b></p> <p><i>Coordinated by the Minister of Finance's Office in conjunction with the Treasury Communications team.</i></p>	<p>The Press Releases communicate the key policy details of the Budget initiatives and the associated new funding in Budget 2017.</p> <p>The press releases are coordinated and approved by the Minister of Finance's office. These are prepared by each Ministers' office and the Treasury reviews these for accuracy.</p>
<p><b>Budget Economic and Fiscal Update</b></p> <p><i>Prepared by the Treasury.</i></p>	<p>The Budget Economic and Fiscal Update (BEFU) is required by the Public Finance Act (PFA) and includes the Treasury's economic forecasts and the forecast financial statements of the Government incorporating the financial implications of Government decisions and other information relevant to the fiscal and economic outlook. The BEFU also outlines the key risks to the economic and fiscal forecasts.</p> <p>This is prepared by the Treasury and authorised by the Secretary of the Treasury and signed by the Minister of Finance.</p>
<p><b>Fiscal Strategy Report</b></p> <p><i>Prepared by the Minister of Finance's office in consultation with the Prime Minister's office.</i></p>	<p>The Fiscal Strategy Report (FSR) is a requirement of the PFA, designed to ensure transparency about the government's fiscal strategy.</p>
<p><b>2017/18 Estimates and 2016/17 Supplementary Estimates</b></p> <p><i>Prepared by the Treasury.</i></p>	<p>The Estimates, also required by the PFA, outline for the financial year about to start (the Budget year) expenses and capital expenditure the Government plans to incur on specified areas within each Vote, and capital injections it plans to make to individual departments.</p> <p>The Supplementary Estimates, also required by the PFA, outlines the additional expenses and capital expenditure required for the financial year about to end.</p>