

# The Treasury

## Budget 2017 Information Release

### Release Document July 2017

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[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.

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**From:** Timothy Roper [TSY]  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 March 2017 2:12 p.m.  
**To:** ^Parliament: David Kidson; ^Parliament: Sam Tendeter  
**Cc:** Alex Harrington [TSY]; Nathan Spence [TSY]  
**Subject:** NZ Screen Production Grant - NZ initiative in the other package

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi David and Sam

Treasury met with MCH this morning to discuss the relative merits of defer versus support now of Minister Barry's bid for [33] the NZ Screen Production Grant–NZ[33]. The choice between these two outcomes was always quite finely balanced, and depended on judgements around a number of factors, including expected demand and timing of incurring of expenses.

By way of background, the NZ Screen Production Grant–NZ is currently a multi-year appropriation (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019) totalling approximately \$84 million. As at February 2017 (i.e. just over half way through the 5-year timeframe), there is approximately \$59 million (71%) of the MYA remaining. Cabinet has recently agreed to some criteria changes to the scheme, due to come into effect from 1 July 2017, as well as review of the screen production sector in December 2017.

Following this morning's meeting, both agencies agree that **support now is the preferable approach**.

The arguments in favour of support now are:

- Increased certainty that grants will be able to made to productions already in train without risk of going unappropriated (if timing of expenses being incurred in relation to such grants occurs within the timeframe of the MYA)
- Allows for an expected surge in demand before the criteria changes kick in in July
- Provides good optics to the film industry, in terms of the Crown being seen to be meeting and making provision for its obligations under current rules
- [33]

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The arguments against support now are:

- Making commitments around various productions does not necessarily translate down the track to commensurate expenses being incurred, and timing of such expenses (and so requirement for an appropriation being in place) is uncertain
- [33]
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Regards,  
Tim

**Tim Roper | Senior Analyst | The Treasury**

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