

The Treasury

Budget 2011 Information Release

Release Document

June 2011

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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] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [3] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [4] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [5] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [6] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [7] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [8] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [9] 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
- [10] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [11] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice.

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, an [8] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(h).

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

Hon Paula Bennett
5.3R EW The Beehive
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Paula

In early December you forwarded to me the Four-year Budget Plan prepared by the agencies below as part of the preparation for Budget 2011:

- Ministry of Social Development (Votes Social Development and Youth Development); and
- Department of Labour (Vote Employment).

Votes Social Development and Employment

Budget Ministers met to discuss the Four-Year Budget Plans on Wednesday 15 December. This letter is to confirm that the Plan for Votes Social Development and Youth Development has been accepted, except for the proposals described below:

- Supporting Better Youth Employment Outcomes; and
- Supporting the Protection and Well-Being of our Most Vulnerable Children.

The proposals in the Four Year Plan do not seek new funding, but as your Budget plan notes, the proposals require further development and involve changes to policy that we will need to work through as a Cabinet. Budget Ministers agree that Cabinet should discuss the proposals and I would like to invite you to submit papers for these proposals to Cabinet for consideration in February.

Vote Employment

Budget Ministers also agreed that the Four-year Budget Plan submitted for Vote Employment should be resubmitted by 10 February to more fully consider the following topics:

- The Vote Employment priorities for 2011: in particular it would be useful to consider the implications of the priorities identified, both in terms of what will be achieved in Vote Employment, and how the Vote will deliver a step change in its performance in the coming year.

- Whether there are other areas of low value expenditure within the Vote, in addition to information-only products.

Your departments should submit financial recommendations in March to give effect to the agreed changes in appropriations. Following that, estimates documents will be due in April. Treasury will publish further Budget guidance, including the timetable, shortly.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance