

The Treasury

Budget 2011 Information Release

Release Document

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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 Gerry Brownlee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Gerry

In early December you forwarded to me the Four-year Budget Plans prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development for Votes Economic Development and Energy as part of the preparation for Budget 2011.

Budget Ministers met to discuss the Four-year Budget Plans on Wednesday 15 December and this letter is to confirm that the Plan for Vote Economic Development has been accepted. However, if funding reprioritised for the Square Kilometre Array and International Funds Domicile Project proposals is not required, I would like to invite you to report back to Cabinet at the appropriate time with options on how the funding would be used.

Budget Ministers also agreed that the Four-year Budget Plan submitted for Vote Energy should be resubmitted by 10 February 2011 to more fully consider the following:

- What is intended to be achieved over the next four years; the priorities and corresponding actions in the Plan are focussed on 2011/12 and do not refer to broader Government priorities.
- More information is needed on the bid for new funding in relation to geological data acquisition as part of the Petroleum Investment Strategy.
- Include information on potential funding for the Knowledge Investment Strategy as part of the Petroleum Action Plan.

As a Cabinet we will need to determine the relative priority of the proposals for new funding and how they will be funded as part of the Budget. Cabinet agreed allocations of the operating allowance for Budget 2011 on 26 October. Funding for further proposals will require us to find other offsetting savings.

Your department should submit financial recommendations in March to give effect to any agreed changes to 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