

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 Steven Joyce
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Steven

In early December you forwarded to me the Four-year Budget Plans from the agencies listed below as part of the preparation for Budget 2011:

- Ministry of Transport (Vote Transport);
- Ministry of Economic Development (Vote Communications); and
- Ministry of Education (Vote Tertiary Education¹).

Communications

At the Budget Ministers' meeting we agreed that the Plan submitted for Vote Communication should be accepted as submitted. I note that the amount of new capital being sought from the capital allowance for Ultra-fast Broadband in Budget 2011 has not yet been confirmed and will depend on negotiations currently underway.

Transport

We also agreed to accept the Plan for Vote Transport, except for the three proposals for new capital funding. I invite you to submit business cases for the following two proposals by 8 February if you want them to be considered in Budget 2011:

- Wellington Metro Rail; and
- Joint Venture Airport Funding.

I note that a proposal for the KiwiRail Turnaround plan will be submitted to Cabinet in February/March for consideration.

The proposals for new capital spending will be considered within the \$1.39 billion allowance for new capital in Budget 2011.

Tertiary Education

For Vote Tertiary Education, we agreed this should be referred back to the Ministry of Education so that further policy and financial detail can be added. In particular, it would be useful to see further details on savings initiatives within student loans, with a mind to returning these savings to the centre.

¹ This is being established as of Budget 2011.

The due date for resubmission is 10 February. In the meantime, Treasury will liaise with the Ministry of Education in preparing a revised submission.

Your departments should submit financial recommendations in March to give effect to any 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