

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.

Dr the Rt Honourable Lockwood Smith
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Lockwood

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:

- Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (Vote Office of the Clerk); and
- Parliamentary Service (Vote Parliamentary Services).

Budget Ministers met to discuss the Four-year Budget Plans on Wednesday 15 December. At that meeting we agreed that the Plan submitted for Vote Office of the Clerk should be accepted as submitted.

Budget Ministers agreed to accept the Plan for Vote Parliamentary Service, with the exception of the following proposals, which are declined:

- The Provision of Services and Support for the Transition of Parliament resulting from a General Election. Any additional resources necessary will be considered following a General Election when the actual costs of the transition are known.
- Rewarding Member Support Staff. Given the current fiscal climate, Budget Ministers want remuneration adjustments to be managed from within baselines.

The capital initiative seeking new funding for the Maintenance of Parliament Buildings will be considered in February 2011 alongside all other bids seeking funding from the \$1.39 billion allowance for new capital in Budget 2011.

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