

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 Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Climate Change Issues
Minister for ACC
6.4 EW The Beehive
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Nick

In early February you forwarded to me the resubmitted Four-year Budget Plan prepared by the Department of Labour for Vote ACC as part of the preparation for Budget 2011.

Budget Ministers met to discuss the fiscal implications of the Canterbury earthquake, resubmitted Four-Year Budget Plans, and the capital package on Monday 28 February.

At that meeting we agreed that the Plan submitted for Vote ACC should be accepted on the basis that the Department of Labour, in consultation with Treasury and ACC, reports back to Cabinet by 30 June 2011 on all requirements for capital and on all fiscal and financial risks associated with ACC's participation in a competitive environment.

We also agreed that decisions on the Dispute Resolution Services Limited capital proposal be deferred until the next Budget Ministers meeting. This will give Budget Ministers time to consider the costs associated with the Canterbury earthquake and the impact these will have on the operating and capital allowances.

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.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance