

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 Maurice Williamson
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Maurice

I am writing to communicate my decisions on the final package for Budget 2011.

Budget Ministers have met a number of times in the last few weeks to discuss specific proposals, how they fit in the overall Budget package and how we will meet the costs of the Canterbury earthquake.

Following those discussions, I have decided that the SmartGate proposal in Vote Customs and the capital injection in Vote Lands of \$12 million for 2010/11 should be funded, but the capital injection of \$8 million in 2011/12 is declined.

I have also decided to fund the rescheduling of the 2011 census through a tagged contingency of \$50 million. As you are aware, Cabinet has agreed that funding should be provided for the Statistics 2020 business case in Budget 2011, as outlined in option three (preferred scenario) of the business case, and has directed Statistics New Zealand to arrange an independent review of the effectiveness of the workforce strategy and report back by the end of May 2011.

Your department should complete financial recommendations as soon as possible to give effect to any agreed changes to appropriations. I intend to take the final Budget package to Cabinet at the start of April. Following that, estimates documents will be due in April.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance