

The Treasury

Budget 2014 Information Release

Release Document

July 2014

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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] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 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
- [3] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [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)(ba)(i) - to prevent prejudice to the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.
- [6] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [7] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [8] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [9] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [10] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [11] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [12] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [13] Not in scope
- [14] 6(e)(iv) - to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements.

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, a [3] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.



Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Budget 2014 Package: Vote Energy

On 14 April 2014, Cabinet:

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2014 Budget package, as listed in the summary below and detailed in the attached initiative documents;

Summary of initiatives included in the attached initiative documents:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 & Outyears
7990	Resources Data Acquisition And Management	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
7998	Electricity Authority - Customer Switching Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating		-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000

- 2 **agreed** to establish new appropriations where required to implement these initiatives, as described in the attached initiative documents;
- 3 **approved** the changes to appropriations to implement the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
- 4 **approved** the additional recommendations to give effect to the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
- 5 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Vote Minister to approve jointly any technical adjustments to baselines necessary to remove any errors or inconsistencies identified while finalising the 2013/14 Supplementary Estimates, the 2014/15 Estimates and the fiscal forecasts;
- 6 **authorised** the chief executives of departments that monitor Crown entities directly affected by decisions in this minute to inform the chair and/or chief executive of a Crown entity, on a budget-in-confidence-until-budget-day basis, of decisions that directly affect that Crown entity for the purpose of planning and preparation of their Statement of Intent;

- 7 **noted** that all communications relating to the 2014 Budget are co-ordinated by a Budget communications committee, and that any requests for early announcement will need to have both the written approval of the Minister of Finance and sign-off from the Prime Minister's office.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (14) 174

Initiative No: 7990**Vote:** Energy**Title:** Resources Data Acquisition and Management**Description:** Provides for a programme to acquire and analyse seismic information relating to New Zealand's mineral, petroleum and geothermal resources.**New Appropriation Approval**

Name	Period	Type	Category Name	Scope
Resource Data Acquisition and Management	Multi-Year Appropriation Start: 1/07/2014 Finish: 30/06/2018 Amount (\$m): 8.000	Non-Departmental Output Expenses	N/A	This appropriation is limited to the acquisition and analysis of seismic information relating to New Zealand's minerals, petroleum and geothermal resources.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	-
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	-

	\$m - increase/(decrease)		
	2013/14	2014/15 to 2017/18	2018/19 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Output Expense:			
Resource Data Acquisition and Management (MYA)	-	8.000	-
Total Operating	-	8.000	-

Additional recommendation

- 8 **noted** that the indicative spending profile for the new multi-year appropriation described in the table above is as follows:

Indicative annual spending profile	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & outyears
	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	-

Vote: Energy

Title: Electricity Authority - Customer Switching Fund

Description: Provides for a programme to promote the potential benefits of switching, and facilitate the ease of the switching process for consumers, in accordance with the Electricity Authority's statutory functions.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	2.000	3.000	2.500	-
Total	-	2.000	3.000	2.500	-

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Output Expense:					
Electricity Industry Governance and Market Operations	-	2.000	3.000	2.500	-
Total Operating	-	2.000	3.000	2.500	-

Additional recommendation

9 **noted** that this initiative is offset by an increase in the levy on Electricity Industry participants as follows:

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 & Outyears
Non-Tax Revenue:					
Levy on Electricity Industry Participants	-	2.000	3.000	2.500	-
Total Revenue	-	2.000	3.000	2.500	-