

# 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.



9 April 2014

Liz MacPherson  
Chief Executive and Government Statistician  
Statistics New Zealand  
Statistics House  
Hinemoa Street  
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Liz,

## **Statistics New Zealand Four Year Plan 2014-2018**

Thank you for producing and submitting the 2014-2018 Four Year Plan for Statistics New Zealand. This letter provides you with a summary of the key points from the review by Central Agencies and the GCIO of Statistics New Zealand's four year plan.

The plan will be used as a basis for ongoing discussions with you and the appropriate teams within Statistics New Zealand over the months to come, and provides context for ministers' decisions on the proposed Budget 2014/15 initiatives. It was developed while Statistics New Zealand was in the midst of wholesale change, with implications for the agency's workforce, organisational structure, operating model and finances. We acknowledge that producing a four year plan under these circumstances has not been easy.

The level of change has also necessarily affected the completeness and permanence of the plan. Since the plan was completed, the situation has continued to evolve, with key steps taken in respect of the regrouping, rebaselining and rebalancing projects. In particular, we note:

- the appointment of the new second and third tier management teams and plans to progress the next stage of regrouping;
- completion of the first phase of the Stats 2020 rebaselining, and
- rebalancing the departmental budget.

These substantial achievements are a credit to your leadership.

The planned report to Cabinet on the Stats 2020 programme will be an opportunity to update ministers on these developments, to discuss any proposed adjustments to the timing or scale of the Stats 2020 benefits and to indicate any financial implications.

When we come to work with you on the next four year plan (for Budget 2015/16) we expect a number of major initiatives will have come into play:

- the results of the updated Ten Year Strategic Plan
- the outcome of the '3 Rs'
- any other steps to strengthen corporate capability to ensure the Department's long-term financial viability and achievement of the Stats 2020 outcomes, and
- the outcome of the planned Performance Improvement Framework review.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2014 in a variety of contexts, including your Advisory Group, major programme and project monitoring, and in the preparation of Cabinet papers.

Yours sincerely



Matt Gilbert  
Team Leader  
Economic Performance and Strategy  
Team  
The Treasury



Mary Slater  
Assistant Commissioner  
State Services Commission