

# The Treasury

## Budget 2018 Information Release

### Release Document August 2018

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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]	to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government	6(a)
[2]	to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government	6(b)(i)
[4]	to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	6(c)
[11]	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.	6(e)(vi)
[23]	to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people	9(2)(a)
[25]	to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information	9(2)(b)(ii)
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[27]	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information - would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	9(2)(ba)(ii)
[29]	to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand	9(2)(d)
[31]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility	9(2)(f)(ii)
[33]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials	9(2)(f)(iv)
[34]	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions	9(2)(g)(i)
[36]	to maintain legal professional privilege	9(2)(h)
[37]	to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantages or prejudice	9(2)(i)
[38]	to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice	9(2)(j)
[39]	to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	9(2)(k)
[40]	not in scope	
[41]	that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment	18(c)(i)
[42]	information is already publicly available or will be publicly available soon	18(d)

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) and section 18 of the Official Information Act.

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**From:** Hamish Slack [TSY]  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 April 2018 4:04 PM  
**To:** ^Parliament: Tamsin Royson  
**Cc:** [23]  
**Subject:** RE: Budget: Cabinet follow-up

Thanks Tamsin.

For the EPA: the funding was not a baseline increase for the EPA. It was to continue time-limited funding that EPA was provided when it was given the responsibility for certain decision making, monitoring and enforcement activities relating to NZ's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

There is a prima facie case that these activities should be substantially funded through cost recovery, but the current levels of cost recovery are very low. The original funding (provided in Budget 2016) was time-limited to allow time for the EPA to review the cost recovery settings for these activities. This cost recovery review has not occurred yet – the EPA did review its cost recovery for some of its other activities, but this was more resource intensive than anticipated, so that review did not encompass these EEZ activities.

We considered that it would be premature to provide on-going Crown funding. We have told EPA that should they review the cost recovery settings for its EEZ activities, and to seek on-going funding in a later Budget bid once the appropriate amount of Crown-funding has been determined. We recommended two-years of time-limited funding to give the EPA time to do this review.

Thanks  
Hamish

**Hamish Slack** | Senior Analyst | **The Treasury**  
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**From:** Tamsin Royson [39]  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 April 2018 3:17 PM  
**To:** Kamlesh Patel [TSY] [39]; Pooja Patel [TSY] [39]; Rachelle Earwaker [TSY] [39]; Katie Collier [TSY] [39]; Geraldine Wilkins [TSY] [39]; Laura Browne [TSY] [39]; Hamish Slack [TSY] [39]; Nathan Spence [TSY] [39]; Tim Stevenson [TSY]  
**Subject:** Budget: Cabinet follow-up

Hi team,

I'm told Cabinet was fairly straightforward. A couple of follow-up things that we would like checked or changed in addition to this morning's changes:

- Initiative 10190: Hon Parker asked if this was a baseline increase for the EPA and if so, why it was only funded for two years. Hamish, can you advise, please?
- [40]

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Regards,  
Tamsin

**Tamsin Royson**, Economic Advisor  
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