

The Treasury

Budget 2020 Information Release

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Cabinet Document Details

Title: **Cabinet Paper CAB-20-SUB-0153: 2020 Budget Technical Financial Recommendations**

Date: **3 April 2020**

Creator: Office of the Minister of Finance

Information Withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

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Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to sections of the Act under which information may have been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(b)(i) - 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
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [11] 6(e)(vi) - to prevent serious damage to 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
- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - 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 to prejudice 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
- [27] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - 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
- [29] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand

- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [40] not in scope
- [41] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment
- [42] 18(d) - information is already publicly available or will be publicly available soon.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Office of the Minister of Finance

Cabinet

2020 BUDGET TECHNICAL FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposal

1. This paper seeks approval of the technical initiatives for Budget 2020.

Relation to Government Priorities

2. This paper concerns technical adjustments to appropriations without significant policy implications and therefore does not impact Government priorities.

Financial Recommendations for Budget 2020

3. For Budget 2020, Cabinet will consider financial recommendations in two tranches:
 - 3.1. technical financial recommendations, which do not impact on the allowances or require significant policy considerations; and
 - 3.2. significant financial recommendations, for which new funding is being sought or represent significant policy changes.
4. This paper presents the technical financial recommendations for Budget 2020. Technical initiatives are primarily:
 - 4.1. Minor changes to scope statements of appropriations
 - 4.2. Fiscally neutral adjustments that are not allowed under the delegation of the March Baseline Update (MBU)
 - 4.3. Items that were excluded from MBU

5. The technical financial recommendations impact the following Votes:

- 5.1. Arts, Culture and Heritage
- 5.2. Business, Science and Innovation
- 5.3. Conservation
- 5.4. Courts
- 5.5. Education
- 5.6. Environment
- 5.7. Finance
- 5.8. Health
- 5.9. Internal Affairs
- 5.10. Justice
- 5.11. Labour Market
- 5.12. Parliamentary Service
- 5.13. Social Development
- 5.14. Tertiary Education
- 5.15. Transport
- 5.16. Treaty Negotiations

6. Overall, these technical changes are fiscally neutral.

Population Implications

7. As the changes proposed in this paper represent minor technical adjustments, namely to the scope and structure of appropriations, no new significant impacts on any population groups are expected.

Consultation

8. This paper was prepared by the Treasury. The technical Budget financial recommendations are based on the Budget technical initiatives that were submitted by Responsible Ministers. All the financial recommendations attached are supported by the Treasury and respective departments.

Communications

9. Budget Day is Thursday, 14 May 2020. The Office of the Minister of Finance coordinates all communications relating to Budget 2020, including requests for early announcements arising from Budget decisions. Written approval from the Prime Minister and myself is required for any early announcements.

Proactive Release

10. Every year following Budget Day, the Treasury coordinates a proactive release of Budget documents. The aim of this release is to improve transparency of the Budget decision-making process. The 2020 release of documents will include this paper, along with other significant documents such as the Budget Strategy Paper. I will consult with you during the process on the proposed release.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

1. **agree** to the technical Budget initiatives for Budget 2020 as set out in the financial recommendations accompanying this paper;
2. **authorise** the Minister of Finance and relevant Responsible Ministers to approve changes to technical initiatives and appropriations where this proves necessary to finalise the 2020 Budget package;
3. **note** that all communications relating to the 2020 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; and
4. **agree** that until the Appropriation (2020/21) Estimates Bill is enacted, expenses or capital expenditure against appropriations set out in the 2020/21 Estimates and being sought in that Bill may be met from Imprest Supply.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance