

The Treasury

Budget 2021 Information Release

August 2021

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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).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified.

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 has been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [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
- [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
- [35] 9(2)(g)(ii) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment
- [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
- [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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Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

Associate Minister of Finance



Hon Grant Robertson
Parliament Buildings

Dear Minister

Thank you for your recent engagement on Budget 2021. As you will be aware, we have set a very high bar for the initiatives that will be invited for submission, limited to only the most critical cost pressures and urgent manifesto commitments.

I have considered the cost pressures and manifesto commitments that you outlined in your letters, and am inviting you to submit the following initiatives in your portfolio for consideration through Budget 2021.

Deputy Prime Minister – Establishment of Implementation Unit

I note that this initiative has the potential to help ensure delivery of investments that align with our Government's priorities.

Finance – Maintaining Treasury Capability

I expect that this initiative will include scaled options which allow us to identify and cease specified lower-value activities.

Please note that while I have invited these initiatives to be submitted, this does not guarantee that they will receive funding through Budget 2021. The Treasury will assess the value for money and relative priority of all initiatives, and this advice will help to inform the shape of the final Budget 2021 package. Therefore, I expect that all initiatives will be supported by a robust case for funding and a strong evidence base, as well as scaling and reprioritisation options.

The cost pressure commitment that I have not invited you to submit into Budget 2021 [33] may be addressed through future Budgets or other levers such as reprioritisation of baseline funding. I will not support any out-of-cycle funding requests for this initiative unless there is a compelling case for urgency.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Associate Minister of Finance