

The Treasury

Budget 2022 Information Release

August 2022

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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
- [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
- [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] Out of 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

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Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Finance
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister for Racing



22 October 2021

Hon Dr David Clark
Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear David

Overview

Thank you for your recent engagement on Budget 2022. As you will be aware, we have set a very high bar for the initiatives that will be invited for submission.

Over 560 initiatives were submitted through the Budget 2022 invitation process. Indicative funding sought totals \$64 billion operating and \$9.2 billion capital across the forecast period. As will be obvious to you, that is far beyond the funding available and has required me to make early decisions to allow for an effective Budget process.

Even having done this, I still need your assistance to support the Budget process. In that light, I have had to carefully reduce the number of potential Budget 2022 initiatives through the invitation process, to reduce wasted effort and to ensure that the Budget decision-making stage is as strategic and targeted as possible, supported by robust value-for-money analysis and confidence of delivery.

I expect the number of initiatives submitted in December across all portfolios to be less than the number invited. Similarly, I expect total funding sought to be less than the indicative funding of invited initiatives. I ask that you play your part in this focusing of Budget priorities and only submit those invited initiatives in your portfolios that are the highest priority, represent strong value for money, and are implementation ready.

When initiatives are submitted in December, I expect these to be accompanied by a clear articulation of relative priorities. This may include a ranking of submitted initiatives within your portfolio, identifying those that are less discretionary and higher priority.

When prioritising, I expect you to focus on the implementation readiness of initiatives and delivery risk. I will only be supporting initiatives that are implementation ready, unless there is clearly articulated reasoning for why an exception to this rule should be considered.

Budget 2022 Invitations

With this in mind, I have considered the proposals that you outlined in your letter for your Digital Economy and Communications portfolio, and the initiatives detailed in the Annex are invited for consideration through Budget 2022.

Initiative submission templates and guidance were communicated to your department on 30 September and are available on CFISnet.

Please note that while I have invited these initiatives to be submitted for consideration, this does not guarantee that they will receive funding. 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 2022 package considered by Cabinet. Therefore, I expect that all initiatives will be supported by a robust case for funding and a strong evidence base, as well as realistic scaling and reprioritisation options.

Coordination of Budget 2022 Initiatives

There is a need for strong coordination of the Government's investment in cyber resilience initiatives. In place of two initiatives (13683 and 13794), I ask that you, alongside the Minister Responsible for the GCSB, lead the development of a cross-government "strengthening cyber resilience and capability" initiative, working with relevant Ministers, including Ministers Hipkins and Nash, to ensure a coordinated approach. [33]

Several Industry Transformation Plan (ITP) initiatives have been invited for submission in December, including your initiative 13792 – Implementing actions in the Digital Technologies Industry Transformation Plan. The ITP work programme is headed by the Minister for Economic and Regional Development and constitutes a significant and varied work programme for the Government. I expect you to work with Minister Nash on your ITP initiative, especially before submission of final initiatives in December, to ensure that it aligns with the overall ITP work programme.

The above points are also addressed in the Annex.

Next steps

The proposals that I have not invited you to submit as Budget 2022 initiatives may be addressed through future Budgets or other levers such as reprioritisation of baseline funding. As per the expectations that I have previously outlined, I will not support any out-of-cycle funding requests for these initiatives unless there is a compelling case for urgency.

I look forward to discussing options for funding initiatives through Budget 2023 at a later stage.

Thank you for your ongoing work.

Yours sincerely



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Annex: Budget 2022 Invitations

Title	Comment and/or condition
13647 – Digital Identity (including RealMe)	
[33]	
[33]	[33]
13794 – Empowering New Zealand to be cyber resilient	
[25] and [33]	
13791 – Improving Rural Connectivity	I expect you to submit a scaled version of this initiative, focused on the highest priority elements for investment.
13792 – Implementing actions in the Digital Technologies Industry Transformation Plan	I expect you to work with the Minister for Economic and Regional Development to ensure this initiative aligns with the wider ITP work programme.
13793 – Addressing Māori interests in Radio Spectrum Funding	I note that the funding amount sought should be subject to the outcome of negotiations.