

The Treasury

Budget 2022 Information Release

August 2022

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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 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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Treasury Report: Draft Cabinet paper: Wellbeing Budget 2022 package

Date:	5 April 2022	Report No:	T2022/566
		File Number:	BM-2-14-2022

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Finance (Hon Grant Robertson)	Provide feedback on the attached draft Budget 2022 package Cabinet paper.	6 April 2022

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
Laura King	Senior Analyst, Budget Management	[39] [35]	✓
Simon Duncan	Manager, Budget Management		

Minister of Finance's Office Actions (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

Enclosure: Yes (attached)

Treasury Report: Draft Cabinet Paper: Budget 2022 Package

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides you with a draft Cabinet paper seeking approval of the Budget 2022 package. We seek your feedback on the paper by 6 April in order for changes to be incorporated ahead of it being lodged with the Cabinet office on 8 April.

Background

2. Following the sixth meeting of Budget Ministers on 1 April, initiatives have been finalised and communicated to agencies through CFISnet, and financial recommendations are being prepared by agencies.
3. As previously outlined, to simplify the process for Cabinet's approval of the Budget package we are taking a new approach to financial recommendations for Budget 2022. Cabinet will agree to the proposed Budget 2022 package at the initiative level and authorise Joint Ministers to agree to the detailed financial recommendations. This Budget 2022 Cabinet paper will include two annexes detailing both the significant and technical initiatives for approval.

Draft Budget 2022 Cabinet Paper

4. Attached is a draft Cabinet paper seeking approval of the Budget 2022 package for your feedback.
5. The paper covers the fiscal and economic outlook, the wellbeing approach applied in Budget 2022 and key Budget 2022 investments. It also includes the following topics:

COVID-19 Response Contingency

6. As part of the repurposing of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) around \$1 billion of unspent CRRF funding will be transferred into a new, tighter tagged contingency. We recommend the focus of this contingency is for urgent public health costs that cannot be met within baselines before Budget 2023.

Monitoring and Reporting of Significant Initiatives

7. Over the last two years there has been a focus both on delivery and the quality of reporting associated with Budget initiatives and announcements. This led to the establishment of the Implementation Unit. As part of the Treasury's role in supporting the Implementation Unit we are considering options for addressing the concerns around reporting (which have also been raised by the Auditor-General). [33]
8. Alongside this, the Treasury will assess the monitoring and reporting processes of significant initiatives and report back to you with findings and recommendations. The Treasury recommends that this work be noted in the Cabinet paper to create awareness that the focus on delivery and better reporting will continue. We have included a paragraph in the attached Cabinet paper noting this work.

Next Steps

9. We will incorporate your feedback and provide you with a final version of the Cabinet paper for your approval on 7 April.

Recommended Action

We recommend that you **provide feedback** on the attached draft Budget 2022 package Cabinet paper.

Simon Duncan
Manager, Budget Management

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance