

Reference: 20240644

30 September 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 8 August 2024. You requested the following:

Budget Allocation Details for Cyclone Recovery: A comprehensive breakdown of the over \$1 billion allocated in Budget 2024 for the rebuild and recovery of communities affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland Anniversary Floods. This should include detailed information on specific activities, initiatives, and projects to be funded.

Climate Change Initiative Funding:

- 1. A detailed outline of the \$2.6 billion allocated in Budget 2024 to continue funding "high-value" climate change initiatives previously supported by the Climate Emergency Response Fund. This should include specific details of the activities, initiatives, and projects to be funded.*
 - 2. A clear definition of the term "high-value" climate change initiatives as used in Budget 2024.*
 - 3. A list of organisations, companies, or individuals that have already received funding under this allocation, specifying the amount and purpose of each grant.*
 - 4. Eligibility criteria for organisations, corporations, and individuals seeking funding under this allocation, including any exclusions.*
- I would prefer to receive the requested information electronically if possible.*

In response to the first part of your request about Budget allocation details for cyclone recovery:

Budget 2024 provided more than \$1 billion for the rebuild and recovery of communities affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and the 2023 Auckland Anniversary floods. This included funding for the following initiatives:

Initiative Title	Total Operating \$ millions	Total Capital \$ millions
North Island Weather Events – Road Response and Recovery	330.000	609.250
Continued Recovery from the North Island Weather Events	53.102	-

Temporary Accommodation Service – 2023 North Island Weather Events	27.833	-
Total Operating and Capital		1,020.185

The Budget 2024 Summary of Initiatives includes a breakdown of the description for each of the initiatives above and is publicly available on the Budget 2024 website: [Summary of Initiatives - Budget 2024 - 30 May 2024](#). Accordingly, I have refused this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

In response to the second part of your request about climate change initiative funding:

1. Approximately \$2.6 billion of funding previously allocated from the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for climate change initiatives was estimated to be remaining for the period 2023/24-2026/27 following Budget 2024 savings. A breakdown of this estimate at an initiative level is attached at Appendix 1.

A final round of monitoring and reporting will be undertaken at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. This is expected to be published on the Treasury website, here: [Climate Emergency Response Fund \(CERF\) Monitoring and Reporting Document Library | The Treasury New Zealand](#), and will clarify the final amount of funding remaining for CERF initiatives post Budget 2024 decisions.

2. The Treasury uses a value-for money framework to assess the value of initiatives. This framework considers an initiative's expected benefits and costs relative to other options, distribution of impacts, alignment with Government priorities, and deliverability. We apply this framework in the advice we provide to the Minister, who then decides which initiatives constitute high value in line with overarching government objectives.
3. The CERF provided a funding source for public investment in climate-related initiatives, distinct from the main Budget process. CERF funding was only available for central government agencies.

CERF initiatives received funding through Budget 2022 and Budget 2023. Treasury does not hold information about how CERF funding has been distributed at an agency-specific level. Instead, initiatives are grouped into areas called 'votes'. Each vote corresponds to funding for a particular agency or group of agencies. For example, Vote Health includes all health-related appropriations administered by the Ministry of Health.

For further information about how funding from the CERF was allocated across votes, please refer to:

- Budget 2022: [B2 Wellbeing Budget 2022 - A Secure Future - Summary of Initiatives - 19 May 2022 \(treasury.govt.nz\)](#) page 157.
- Budget 2023: [B2 Wellbeing Budget 2023 - Support for Today, Building for Tomorrow - Summary of Initiatives - 18 May 2023 \(treasury.govt.nz\)](#) page 128.

Depending on the initiative, agencies may have funded third parties (e.g., councils) to deliver outcomes. The Treasury does not hold information on the companies, individuals, or organisations that agencies may have contracted.

4. At Budget 2024, the Government confirmed its decision to close the CERF. Going forward there will be no further allocations from the CERF. Instead, funding for climate-related matters will be considered alongside other funding proposals as part of the normal budget process.

Previously when the CERF was active, an initiative was eligible for funding from the CERF if it:

- was included in an Emissions Reduction Plan, or directly supported emissions reductions (domestically or internationally),
- was included in a National Adaptation Plan, or directly reduced vulnerability or exposure to the impacts of climate change,
- supported a te ao Māori approach to the climate response,
- addressed the distributional impacts of climate change or the climate policy response, or
- supported the development of any initiatives meeting these criteria in the future.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Bond
Manager, Budget

Appendix 1: Estimated funding remaining for high value CERF-funded initiatives (2023/24-2026/27)

The figures in the table below are based on CERF monitoring and reporting data from Q2 2023/24 and Budget 2024 savings information. They are approximate only and based on the best information available at the time. Some of the estimated remaining figures in the table are recorded as negative (marked with an asterisk). This is likely due to discrepancies in the timespan of funding used to calculate the estimated funding remaining. A final round of CERF monitoring and reporting is expected to be published [here](#) shortly and will clarify the final funding remaining for CERF initiatives post Budget 2024 savings.

Vote(s)	Title	Estimated funding remaining for the period: 2023/24 - 2026/27 (post-B24 savings)
Lands	3D Coastal Mapping	29.94
Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety	Agricultural Emissions Reduction – Developing the Agricultural Emissions Pricing System	9.67
Environment		
Revenue		
Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety	Agriculture Emissions Reduction – Accelerating Development of Greenhouse Gas Mitigations	372.59
Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety	Agriculture Emissions Reduction – Supporting Producers and Māori Entities Transition to a Low Emissions Future	2.49
Foreign Affairs	Aotearoa New Zealand's International Climate Finance Commitment 2022-2025	603.59
Environment	Climate Data Infrastructure	17.73
Transport	Community Connect Programme – Free Fares for Children and Half-Price Fares for Under 25-Year-Olds and Total Mobility Passengers	(64.11)*
Business, Science and Innovation	Decarbonising Freight Transport – Resourcing and Seed Funding	3.93
Transport		
Transport	Decarbonising the Public Transport Bus Fleet	53.34
Environment	Delivering New Zealand's International Climate Change Target Through Offshore Mitigation	7.64
Business, Science and Innovation	Developing a Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy	1.71

Vote(s)	Title	Estimated funding remaining for the period: 2023/24 - 2026/27 (post-B24 savings)
Business, Science and Innovation	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	104.68
Transport		
Environment	Emissions Reduction Plan Performance Monitoring	17.57
Finance		
Business, Science and Innovation	Emissions Trading Scheme – Market Governance	6.65
Environment		
Forestry		
Environment	Enabling a Scaled-up, High Quality Voluntary Carbon Market	2.48
Business, Science and Innovation	Enhancing Energy Resilience for New Zealand Communities through Distributed Renewable Energy	39.37
Business, Science and Innovation	Equitable Transitions Package – Regional Hydrogen Industry Transition	(4.35)*
Tagged Contingency		
Business, Science and Innovation	Equitable Transitions Programme	9.63
Business, Science and Innovation	Establishing a Renewable Electricity System on New Zealand Domestic Islands	10.10
Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety	Establishing Native Forests at Scale to Develop Long-Term Carbon Sinks and Improve Biodiversity	50.74
Forestry		
Tagged Contingency		
Business, Science and Innovation	Extending the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme (2022)	43.32
Business, Science and Innovation	Funding Further Decarbonisation of Process Heat and Implementation of Supporting Policies	319.70
Business, Science and Innovation	Grant Scheme for Clean Heavy Vehicles	29.87

Vote(s)	Title	Estimated funding remaining for the period: 2023/24 - 2026/27 (post-B24 savings)
Māori Development	Hapori Māori – Increasing Community Resilience through Data Capability and Access	(3.01)*
Forestry	Increasing Woody Biomass Supply to Replace Coal and other Carbon Intensive Fuels and Materials	47.38
Environment	Māori Climate Action	27.07
Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety	Maximising Carbon Storage: Increasing Natural Sequestration to Achieve New Zealand's Future Carbon Goals	100.34
Conservation		
Environment		
Forestry		
Transport	Mode-Shift and Reducing Light Vehicle Kilometres Travelled	105.95
Finance	New Zealand Green Investment Finance – Additional Capital to Mobilise Private Green Investment	100.00
Transport	Public Transport – Workforce Sustainability and Skill Improvements Tranches 2 and 3	2.40
Social Development	Public Transport Concessions for Community Services Cardholders	73.92
Transport		
Environment	Reducing Emissions from Waste	67.31
Transport	Retaining and Recruiting Bus Drivers – Improving Terms and Conditions	52.68
Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety	Setting up and operating an agricultural emissions pricing scheme	0.70
Business, Science and Innovation	Supporting Renewable and Affordable Energy in New Zealand Communities	4.38
Business, Science and Innovation	Supporting the Energy Transition to a Low Emissions Economy	11.32
Business, Science and Innovation	Supporting the Transition to a Renewable Electricity System	2.00
Business, Science and Innovation	Warmer Kiwi Homes Programme – Extension and Expansion (2023)	298.07

Vote(s)	Title	Estimated funding remaining for the period: 2023/24 - 2026/27 (post-B24 savings)
Tagged Contingency	Westport Flood Resilience	19.92
Total Operating and Capital		2,578.71