

The Treasury

Budget 2022 Information Release

August 2022

This document has been proactively released and is available on:

- The **Budget website** from August 2022 to May 2023 only at: <https://budget.govt.nz/information-release/2022>, and on
- the **Treasury website** from later in 2022 at: <https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/budget-2022-information-release>.

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
- [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

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 6(a).

Copyright and Licensing

Cabinet material and advice to Ministers from the Treasury and other public service departments are © **Crown copyright** but are licensed for re-use under **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)** [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>].

For material created by other parties, copyright is held by them and they must be consulted on the licensing terms that they apply to their material.

Accessibility

The Treasury can provide an alternate HTML version of this material if requested. Please cite this document's title or PDF file name when you email a request to information@treasury.govt.nz.

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
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Grant

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 us 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, you and 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.

You and I expect the number of initiatives submitted in December across all portfolios to be less than the number invited. Similarly, you and 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 submit only 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 be supporting only 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 Finance portfolio, and the initiatives detailed in the annex are invited for consideration through Budget 2022.

All Budget 2022 initiatives are expected to complete all value-for-money information and analysis requirements outlined in the initiative submission template due 10 December, except for the cost pressure initiatives identified with an asterisk in the annex. As these initiatives are considered to be low-risk and involve a small quantum of funding, these initiatives are required to complete only delivery aspects of the value-for-money information and analysis.

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.

Delivery of Budget 2022 Initiatives

The Treasury has advised me of potential early-stage delivery risk associated with two of the initiatives I have invited, the details of which are included in the annex.

Ahead of initiative submission, please ensure the Treasury works on a plan to mitigate delivery risk where possible.

If delivery risk cannot be mitigated, I expect you to consider deferring initiatives to a future Budget, at which point I would expect this risk to be mitigated. If initiatives cannot be deferred, I expect you to outline a clear rationale in December for why funding is required through Budget 2022 despite any delivery concerns.

Next steps

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 Dr Megan Woods
Associate Minister of Finance

Annex 1: Budget 2022 Invitations

Title	Comment and/or condition	Delivery risk
[33]		

13800 – Funding to Monitor other entities and functions*	I expect this initiative to include a scaled amount for 2021/22.	There are constraints in the labour market that may impact this initiative. The initiative should discuss these.
13803 – Improving the Government Finance Function	I expect this initiative to include scaling options focusing on critical cost pressure elements only, as well as options for re-prioritising resources away from lowest-value activities.	There are constraints in the labour market that may impact this initiative. The initiative should discuss these.
13879 – Refinancing of Kainga Ora - Homes and Communities and Housing New Zealand Limited Debt *		
14043 – Income Tax Exemption for the Reserve Bank’s proposed deposit insurance scheme		