

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: Budget 2022 Financial Recommendations (Associate Minister of Finance Approval)

Date:	8 April 2022	Report No:	T2022/844
		File Number:	BM-2-4-2022-1

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr Megan Woods)	Approve the detailed financial recommendations for the initiatives for which Hon Grant Robertson is an appropriation Minister to give effect to the Budget 2022 package agreed by Cabinet on 11 April.	11 April 2022

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
Hamish Dick	Analyst, Budget Management	[39]	N/A (mob) ✓
Simon Duncan	Manager, Budget Management	[35]	

Minister's Office actions (if required)

<p>Return the signed report to Treasury.</p> <p>Send the attached recommendations documents and signed approval letters to Hon Grant Robertson.</p> <p>Return countersigned copies of these documents to the Treasury by Thursday 14 April 2022.</p>

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

Enclosure: Yes (shared via MS Teams)

Treasury Report: Budget 2022 Financial Recommendations (Associate Minister of Finance Approval)

Purpose of Report

1. In your capacity as Associate Minister of Finance, this report seeks your final approval of the detailed financial recommendations for the Budget 2022 initiatives for which the Minister of Finance is an appropriation Minister (both technical and significant initiatives).
2. We ask that you approve the detailed recommendations for these initiatives and sign the covering letters to the Minister of Finance with the relevant recommendations attached.

Budget 2022 Financial Recommendations

3. This year, Cabinet is agreeing the Budget 2022 package at the initiative level, with appropriation-level financial recommendations delegated to Joint Ministers (the Minister of Finance and relevant appropriation Minister) for approval.
4. This process has allowed Budget Ministers to take final decisions later than in previous years (and subsequent to final economic and tax forecasts), as it has not been necessary to finalise, approve and print ~500 pages of detailed financial recommendations for each Minister in advance of Cabinet's consideration of the Budget package [T2021/2720 refers].
5. In order to give effect to the Budget package, Joint Ministers (you jointly with Hon Grant Robertson as the relevant appropriation Minister) are required to approve the appropriation changes and related recommendations for each Budget initiative. In previous years, these changes have been agreed by Cabinet.
6. As these documents are giving effect to the Budget package agreed by Cabinet on Monday 11 April 2022, these appropriation changes are not in breach of the Budget moratorium. Any changes beyond the scope of what Cabinet has agreed cannot be approved until the Budget moratorium ends on Budget Day (19 May 2022).

Next Steps

7. We ask that you approve the detailed financial recommendations for the Budget 2022 initiatives for which Hon Grant Robertson is the appropriation Minister in time for letters to be sent to Hon Grant Robertson no later than the morning of Tuesday 12 April 2022.
8. Appropriation Ministers are then asked to countersign and return these approved financial recommendations no later than Thursday 14 April 2022 (ahead of Easter weekend).
9. Appropriation Ministers' approval of these financial recommendations is technical in nature and limited by the authority agreed by Cabinet on Monday 11 April. While Joint Ministers have scope to correct errors in recommendations documents, changes to initiatives that go beyond the scope of what was agreed by Cabinet (eg, whether or not an initiative is to be held in contingency or the total funding to be provided) would require Cabinet consideration following the conclusion of the Budget moratorium (Thursday 19 May 2022).

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a **approve** the detailed financial recommendations for the initiatives for which Hon Grant Robertson is the appropriation Minister in order to give effect to the Budget 2022 package, as detailed in the attached letters, and

Approved/Not approved

- b **sign** the attached letters and **send** to Hon Grant Robertson.

Simon Duncan
Manager, Budget Management

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Associate Minister of Finance