

# The Treasury

## Budget 2024 Information Release

### September 2024

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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
- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [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] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Budget 2024 Package: Vote Conservation

On 29 April 2024, Cabinet:

#### Appropriation Administrator: Department of Conservation

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2024 Budget package, as listed in the summary tables below and detailed in the attached initiative documents:

#### Summary of initiatives:

##### Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
15626	Reduction in Contractors, Consultants and Back-office Functions - Department of Conservation	-	(11.257)	(11.257)	(11.257)	(11.257)
15627	Reduction in Legal, Regulatory Services and Strategic Partnerships Functions - Department of Conservation	-	(1.635)	(1.635)	(1.635)	(1.635)
15628	Return of Funding - Contaminated Sites Programme	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
15631	Return of Funding for the Jobs for Nature Programme	-	(15.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)
15630	Return of Funding for the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary	(0.535)	(7.299)	(3.089)	(3.089)	(3.089)
<b>Total Operating</b>		<b>(0.535)</b>	<b>(37.551)</b>	<b>(31.341)</b>	<b>(31.341)</b>	<b>(31.341)</b>

##### Capital Initiative (Impact on Debt)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
15630	Return of Funding for the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary	-	(2.185)	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(2.185)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Summary of contingency initiatives:**

**Operating Contingency**

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
[33] and [38]						

**Capital Contingency**

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
[33] and [38]						

Note: Throughout the document, “total operating” refers to funding over five years (2023/24 to 2027/28) and “total capital” refers to funding over 10 years (2023/24 to 2032/33).

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Vote:** Conservation  
**Appropriation Administrator:** Department of Conservation  
**Title:** [33] and [38]

**Description:**

**Note this initiative is commercially sensitive.**

**Tagged Contingency**

	<b>\$m - increase/(decrease)</b>				
	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28 &amp; Outyears</b>
Operating Contingency	[33] and [38]				
Capital Contingency					
<b>Total</b>					

**Additional Recommendations**

2 [33] and [38]

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<b>Vote:</b>	Conservation
<b>Appropriation Administrator:</b>	Department of Conservation
<b>Title:</b>	Reduction in Contractors, Consultants and Back-office Functions - Department of Conservation
<b>Description:</b>	This savings initiative returns \$45.028 million operating funding for contractors, consultants and back-office functions at the Department of Conservation.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(11.257)	(11.257)	(11.257)	(11.257)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(11.257)</b>	<b>(11.257)</b>	<b>(11.257)</b>	<b>(11.257)</b>

\* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</b>					
Services for Conservation (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Conservation with the Community (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(1.197)	(1.197)	(1.197)	(1.197)
Management of Historic Heritage (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.290)	(0.290)	(0.290)	(0.290)
Management of Natural Heritage (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(5.964)	(5.964)	(5.964)	(5.964)
Management of Recreational Opportunities (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(3.806)	(3.806)	(3.806)	(3.806)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services for Conservation (MCA)	-	(11.257)	(11.257)	(11.257)	(11.257)
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>(11.257)</b>	<b>(11.257)</b>	<b>(11.257)</b>	<b>(11.257)</b>

### Additional Recommendations

- 8 **agreed** to scale back-office and enabling functions at the Department of Conservation to deliver savings in line with the Government's priorities;
- 9 **noted** that reducing enabling functions may have a corresponding impact on frontline service delivery as these functions will be reallocated from the back-office to frontline roles;

<b>Vote:</b>	Conservation
<b>Appropriation Administrator:</b>	Department of Conservation
<b>Title:</b>	Reduction in Legal, Regulatory Services and Strategic Partnerships Functions - Department of Conservation
<b>Description:</b>	This savings initiative returns \$6.540 million operating funding for Legal, Regulatory Services and Strategic Partnerships functions at the Department of Conservation.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(1.635)	(1.635)	(1.635)	(1.635)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(1.635)</b>	<b>(1.635)</b>	<b>(1.635)</b>	<b>(1.635)</b>

\* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</b>					
Services for Conservation (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Conservation with the Community (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.174)	(0.174)	(0.174)	(0.174)
Management of Historic Heritage (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.042)
Management of Natural Heritage (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.866)	(0.866)	(0.866)	(0.866)
Management of Recreational Opportunities (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.553)	(0.553)	(0.553)	(0.553)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services for Conservation (MCA)	-	(1.635)	(1.635)	(1.635)	(1.635)
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>(1.635)</b>	<b>(1.635)</b>	<b>(1.635)</b>	<b>(1.635)</b>

### Additional Recommendations

- 10 **agreed** to scale the Department of Conservation's external services functions so that funding can be reallocated at Budget 2024 in line with other Government priorities;
- 11 **noted** that this initiative may have a corresponding impact on the Department of Conservation's delivery of resource management, legal advocacy, and strategic partnerships functions;

**Vote:** Conservation

**Appropriation Administrator:** Department of Conservation

**Title:** Return of Funding - Contaminated Sites Programme

**Description:** This savings initiative returns \$8.000 million operating funding for the Contaminated Sites Programme which has been scaled to manage and remediate contaminated sites more gradually.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>

\* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</b>					
Services for Conservation (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Management of Recreational Opportunities (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services for Conservation (MCA)	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>	<b>(2.000)</b>

### Additional Recommendations

- 12 **agreed** to scale funding for managing contaminated sites on the conservation estate to deliver savings in line with the Government's priorities;
- 13 **noted** that reducing this funding may result in the closure of sites where it is no longer possible for the Department of Conservation to ensure health and safety requirements are met;



**Vote:** Conservation

**Appropriation Administrator:** Department of Conservation

**Title:** Return of Funding for the Jobs for Nature Programme

**Description:** This savings initiative returns \$55.440 million of uncommitted operating funding for the Jobs for Nature programme which is due to be completed in 2026.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(15.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(15.360)</b>	<b>(13.360)</b>	<b>(13.360)</b>	<b>(13.360)</b>

\* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</b>					
Services for Conservation (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Management of Natural Heritage (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(15.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services for Conservation (MCA)	-	(15.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)	(13.360)
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>(15.360)</b>	<b>(13.360)</b>	<b>(13.360)</b>	<b>(13.360)</b>

### Additional Recommendations

- 14 **agreed** to return unallocated funding from the Jobs for Nature programme to deliver savings in line with the Government's priorities;
- 15 **noted** that this funding is no longer required as the time-limited Jobs for Nature programme ends in 2025/26;
- 16 **noted** that as this funding is unallocated, the return of funding is not anticipated to impact delivery of existing departmental outputs;

**Vote:** Conservation

**Appropriation Administrator:** Department of Conservation

**Title:** Return of Funding for the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary

**Description:** This savings initiative returns \$17.101 million operating funding and \$2.185 million of capital funding for the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary due a change in Government priorities and agreement to stop this programme [ECO-24-MIN-0029].

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(0.535)	(7.299)	(3.089)	(3.089)	(3.089)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	(2.185)	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.535)</b>	<b>(9.484)</b>	<b>(3.089)</b>	<b>(3.089)</b>	<b>(3.089)</b>

\* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Capital Injections:</b>					
Department of Conservation - Capital Injection	-	(2.185)	-	-	-
<b>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Kermadec Rangitāhua Ocean Sanctuary / Te Kāhui o te Moana o Rangitāhua (MYA)	(0.535)	(0.255)	(0.435)	-	(0.246)
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</b>					
Services for Conservation (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Management of Natural Heritage (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(7.044)	(2.654)	(3.089)	(2.843)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services for Conservation (MCA)	-	(7.044)	(2.654)	(3.089)	(2.843)
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>(0.535)</b>	<b>(7.299)</b>	<b>(3.089)</b>	<b>(3.089)</b>	<b>(3.089)</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2.185)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Additional Recommendations

- 17 **noted** that on 22 March 2024, Cabinet agreed to discharge the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill [ECO-24-MIN-0029];
- 18 **agreed** to return funding from the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary initiative;
- 19 **noted** that as the Government has stopped this programme [ECO-24-MIN-0029], there are no impacts associated with returning this funding.