

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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20 March 2024

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings

Dear Nicola

Thank you for your letter on 12 March 2024 confirming what was discussed and agreed at our bilateral meeting, and inviting the submission of two late Budget initiatives:

- Emergency Ocean Response Capabilities (EORC) for the Cook Strait, and
- [33]

As requested, these two initiatives have now been submitted into CFISnet.

Confirmation of other matters discussed

At our bilateral meeting we also discussed funding for metropolitan rail pressures. This was not mentioned in your letter, but my understanding from our bilateral discussion is that you support seeking funding of [25]

- [25]
- \$107.700 million for one year of funding to begin addressing the backlog of deferred renewals on the metropolitan rail network, and to cover the local share shortfall for Network Management Plans (NMPs).

Please let me know if you disagree with the above summation of our discussion.

Update on reprioritisation sought through the Technical Budget process

As outlined in your letter, I will be using the Technical Budget process to seek reprioritisation of Vote Transport baseline funding to address the following cost pressures:

- Surf Life Saving New Zealand and Coastguard New Zealand pressures (\$63.644 million OPEX), and
- completion of the minimum operating network for Ground Based Navigation Aids (\$10.000 million CAPEX).

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Since our meeting, the Ministry of Transport has advised me that funding these two initiatives through reprioritisation leaves \$23.124 million of residual underspends in 2023/24 available. I intend to include in my Technical Budget package the option to utilise these underspends to fund a further initiative 'Severe Weather Response, Resilience and Recovery' at a scaled amount.

Funding this initiative would enable four non-government organisations (Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Coastguard New Zealand, New Zealand Land Search and Rescue, and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications) to replace assets that were destroyed or damaged in the North Island Weather Events, and provide targeted training and personal protective equipment (PPE) to these NGOs to improve their ability to respond to future severe weather events.

If supported, I suggest this funding be held in tagged contingency, subject to Cabinet's consideration of the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Weather Events. Ultimately, you will determine whether this is an initiative that you consider should be funded through Budget 2024.

Updated submissions

I will submit the above initiatives to CFISnet by 1pm 20 March 2024, as part of the Technical Budget process.

Thank you for your consideration of my Vote Transport Budget priorities. I look forward to our Cabinet meeting on 29 April 2024 to confirm our Government's Budget package.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'S' and 'B' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport