

# The Treasury

## Budget 2024 Information Release

### September 2024

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#### 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
- [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

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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24 April 2024

Hon Penny Simmonds  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament Buildings

Dear Penny

## **Budget 2024 decisions – Vote Environment**

Following our discussions over the past weeks, this letter confirms the decisions made as part of Budget 2024. The proposed revenue increases as a result of changes to the Waste Disposal Levy and Waste Minimisation Initiatives have been included in the Budget package, however, are subject to Cabinet consideration and therefore, are not reflected in the attached portfolio overview.

In relation to the Ministry for the Environment's baseline savings submissions (IDs 15573, 15585, 15586, 15588 and 15591), the Treasury has advised me that the Ministry highlighted reduced capability to engage with and act in good faith in its partnership with Māori a result of progressing these savings. I would be grateful if you could please re-iterate to the Ministry the Government's expectation that they continue to prioritise meeting their Treaty of Waitangi obligations, despite their reduced baseline.

I would be grateful if you could direct your officials to work with the Treasury to prepare the necessary Estimates and Supplementary Estimates material for your sign off by 24 April.

A reminder that these decisions remain Budget Sensitive and should only be shared a need-to-know basis. My office will provide further advice on the approach to Budget communications. Thank you again for your support towards the successful delivery of Budget 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis  
**Minister of Finance**

Cc Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform  
Hon Andrew Hoggard, Associate Minister for the Environment  
Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change  
James Palmer, Secretary for the Environment / Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment

# Vote Environment

## Budget 2024 Package as at 24 April

All operating values are in average per annum and capital values are total capital. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. Initiatives are listed under lead portfolio.

New Spending	Savings and Revenue
<p><b>Cost Pressures and Capital Cost Escalations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil</li> </ul> <p><b>Government Policy Commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ID 15582: <b>Resource Management Reforms - Replacement</b> <i>Operating \$23.1m</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline Savings</b></p> <p>Total Operating: (\$36.1m) Total Capital: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ID 15573: <b>Departmental savings from reducing the Ministry's back-office enabling functions and services</b> <i>Operating (\$5.6m)</i></li> <li>ID 15585: <b>Environment Baseline Savings - Climate Change</b> <i>Operating (\$8.9m)</i></li> <li>ID 15586: <b>Environment Baseline Savings – Evidence and Data</b> <i>Operating (\$2.4m)</i></li> <li>ID 15588: <b>Environment Baseline Savings - Freshwater</b> <i>Operating (\$5.9m)</i></li> <li>ID 15591: <b>Environment Baseline Savings - Partnerships and Engagement</b> <i>Operating (\$9.4m)</i></li> <li>ID 15593: <b>Environment Baseline Savings – Climate Change Commission</b> <i>Operating (\$3.9m)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Tagged Contingencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ID 16158: <b>New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Market Governance</b> <i>Operating (\$8.6m)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Total New Spending Initiatives</b> Operating: \$23.1m, Capital: -</p>	<p><b>Total Savings and Revenue Initiatives</b> Operating: (\$44.7m), Capital: -</p>
<p><b>Net total: Operating: (\$21.6m), Total Capital: -</b></p>	

Denotes no outyears funding (time-limited)