

# The Treasury

## Budget 2024 Information Release

### September 2024

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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).

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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

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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Reference: T2024/578

Date: 8 March 2024

To: Minister of Finance (Hon Nicola Willis)

Deadline: None

## **Aide Memoire: Budget 2024 Bilateral Meetings for the Week starting 11 March**

This Aide Memoire provides you with information to support you in your bilateral meetings with the following portfolios and Ministers for the week of 11 March.

- **2:30pm – 3pm, Monday 11 March** – Vote Transport – Hon Simeon Brown
- **3:30pm – 4pm, Monday 11 March** – Vote Revenue – Hon Simon Watts
- **4:30pm – 5pm, Monday 11 March** – Vote Health – Hon Dr Shane Reti

Attached to this Aide Memoire are two Annexes for the Vote Revenue and Vote Transport bilaterals. The advice on the Health bilateral is being sent separately.

- **Annex A:** Budget 2024 Bilateral: Hon Simeon Brown (Minister of Transport)
- **Annex B:** Treasury Package – Budget Ministers 2 – Vote Transport
- **Annex C:** Budget 2024 Bilateral: Hon Simon Watts (Minister of Revenue)
- **Annex D:** Treasury Package – Budget Ministers 2 – Vote Revenue
- **Annex E:** Agency on a Page – Inland Revenue

The attached Annexes provide you with a proposed agenda, suggested talking points, background on the Vote's Budget package and an Annex of the portfolio's proposed Budget 2024 package as at BM2.

### ***Bilateral Meetings present you with the opportunity to discuss potential points of contention with the draft Budget 2024 package***

We have provided you with a draft Budget 2024 package as part of material to support discussion with Budget Ministers at BM2 scheduled to be held on Tuesday 12 March. The draft Budget 2024 package is within the operating allowance over the forecast period but a significant amount of new spending sought by portfolio Ministers has not been included and the package requires significant savings and reprioritisation, and difficult trade-offs to keep the package within the operating allowance.

The attached annexes for each portfolio provide you with suggested talking points to discuss with the relevant portfolio Minister. The talking points are on significant initiatives that the Treasury recommends you discuss with the Minister regarding initiatives where Treasury's recommendation is not to support the initiative fully, areas where further savings could be realised and general strategic talking points for Budget 2024.

***The outcomes of bilateral meetings are likely to be important ahead of BM3 where we suggest you make substantive package decisions***

Budget Ministers 3, scheduled Monday 25 March, is where we recommend Budget Ministers further reiterate the Budget package and approve substantive decisions to focus discussions on a limited set of outstanding decisions at BM4. To enable decisions at BM3, we recommend that you focus your bilateral meetings on the portfolio's draft package and seek agreement on specific actions on new spending and further savings within the portfolio to further progress the Budget 2024 package and keep it within the operating allowance.

To ensure that the actions and decisions from the bilateral meetings are reflected in BM3, we recommend that any follow-up actions for portfolio Ministers agreed during the meetings are requested to be send back to your office **by 12pm Thursday 14 March**. This will ensure that Treasury has the necessary time to provide advice on any proposals and incorporate any agreed decisions into your BM3 package.

We will provide you with information and timelines for incorporating actions and decisions from bilateral and multilateral meetings being held on the week of 18 March alongside background information to support you next week. Given the tight timeframes between meetings on the week of 18 March and BM3, some decisions following these bilateral and multilateral meetings may need to be incorporated in time for decisions at BM4.

## Budget 2024 Timelines

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<b>March</b>				
4	5	6	7	8
Fiscal strategy advice to Minister of Finance <b>Budget Ministers 1.5</b> - discussion on savings and status of package	Proposed Budget package and draft BM 2 materials to the Minister of Finance  Bilaterals (Hon Potaka)	Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance		Send BM 2 materials to Budget Ministers  Budget bilateral briefings to the Minister of Finance
11	12	13	14	15
Bilaterals (Revenue, Transport and Health)	<b>Budget Ministers 2</b> - consideration of draft Budget package and early Budget decisions	Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance	Lodge Cabinet paper for approval for any early Budget decisions <a href="#">required</a>	
18	19	20	21	22
Bilaterals (MBIE and Environment) Cabinet approves early Budget decisions Draft BM 3 materials to the Minister of Finance	Bilaterals (Education and Justice)	Bilaterals (Defence and Housing)  Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance	Advice to the Minister of Finance on preliminary fiscal forecasts	Send BM 3 materials to Budget Ministers
25	26	27	28	29
<b>Budget Ministers 3</b> - Substantive Budget package decisions		Budget Policy Statement released  Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance	Draft BM 4 materials to the Minister of Finance	Good Friday
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<b>April</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Easter Monday		Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance		Send BM 4 materials to Budget Ministers
8	9	10	11	12
<b>Budget Ministers 4</b> - Outstanding Budget package decisions		Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance  <b>Budget Ministers 5</b> - Outstanding package decisions (if required)		
15	16	17	18	19
Advice to the Minister of Finance on final economic and tax forecasts		Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance		
22	23	24	25	26
		Budget matters meeting with Minister of Finance	Anzac Day	Lodge final Budget 2024 package Cabinet paper
29	30	1	2	3

Kevin Cho, Analyst, Budget <sup>[39]</sup>

Keiran Kennedy, Manager, Welfare & Oranga Tamariki, Budget <sup>[35]</sup>