

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

This document has been proactively released and is available on:

- The Budget website from September 2026 to May 2027 only at: <https://budget.govt.nz/information-release/2026>, and on
- The Treasury website from later in 2026 at: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/budgets/budget-2026-information-release>

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
- [2] 6(b)(i) - to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [7] 6(e)(ii) - to prevent serious damage to the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the regulation of banking or credit
- [12] 7(a)(i) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of the Cook Islands
- [13] 7(a)(ii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of Niue
- [14] 7(a)(iii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of Tokelau
- [15] 7(a)(iv) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the Ross Dependency
- [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
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - 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 to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [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
- [41] 18(d) - information requested is or will soon be publicly available

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).

Copyright and Licensing

Cabinet material and advice to Ministers from the Treasury and other public service departments are © **Crown copyright** but are licensed for re-use under **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)** [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>].

For material created by other parties, copyright is held by them and they must be consulted on the licensing terms that they apply to their material.

Accessibility

The Treasury can provide an alternate HTML version of this material if requested. Please cite this document's title or PDF file name when you email a request to information@treasury.govt.nz.



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 2026 Package: Vote Courts

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2026 Budget package, as listed in the summary table below and detailed in the attached initiative documents:

Summary of Initiatives:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17624	Court and Coroner Related Costs - Demand-Driven Cost Pressures	-	12.154	-	-	-
17297	Offender Levy - Increasing Offenders' Contribution to Victim Services	-	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)
17635	Resource Management Reform - Planning Tribunal Court-related Costs	-	3.580	9.376	8.163	8.163
Total Operating		-	13.093	6.735	5.522	5.522

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Court and Coroner Related Costs - Demand-Driven Cost Pressures

Description: This initiative provides funding for court and coroner services to meet demand-driven cost pressures. This funding ensures court participants continue to receive support and representation, and that the judiciary have access to the specialist information required to enable them to progress cases.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	12.154	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	12.154	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Court and Coroner Related Costs	-	12.154	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	12.154	-	-	-

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Offender Levy - Increasing Offenders' Contribution to Victim Services

Description: This initiative increases revenue collected from the offender levy by raising the levy from \$50 to \$100. The additional levy revenue will offset the Crown's contribution to services for victims of crime, increasing offenders' contribution to address the harm their criminal behaviour has caused to victims.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Non-Tax Revenue:					
Offenders Levy	-	2.641	2.641	2.641	2.641
Total Operating	-	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)	(2.641)

Additional Recommendation

- noted** that in April 2026, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee agreed to increase the offender levy from \$50 to \$100 effective from 1 July 2026 [SOU-26-MIN-0034];

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Resource Management Reform - Planning Tribunal Court-related Costs

Description: This initiative seeks funding to establish a specialist body under the Government's resource management reforms. As a division of the Environment Court, the Tribunal will provide timely, accessible, independent and cost-effective resolution of planning disputes. This initiative will fund judicial officers, judicial support staff, and other tribunal-associated operating costs.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	3.580	9.376	8.163	8.163
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	3.580	9.376	8.163	8.163

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Court and Coroner Related Costs	-	0.050	0.150	0.150	0.150
Environment Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners' Salaries and Allowances (PLA)	-	0.648	1.557	1.557	1.557
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	2.882	7.669	6.456	6.456
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)	-	2.882	7.669	6.456	6.456
Total Operating	-	3.580	9.376	8.163	8.163

Additional Recommendation

3 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17632 in Vote Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport and Initiative 17633 in Vote Justice.