

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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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
- [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).

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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 2026 Package: Vote Māori Development

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Māori Development - Te Puni Kōkiri

- 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
17431	Te Māori Tū - Forging New Trade Relationships Through Showcasing Culture	-	-	-	-	-
17116	Baseline Savings - Te Puni Kōkiri	-	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)
Total Operating		-	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)

Summary of contingency initiative:

Operating Contingency

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17588	Māori Media – Strengthening the Māori Media Sector for a Digital Future and Commissioning Te Reo Māori Content	-	14.000	14.000	10.000	10.000
Total Operating		-	14.000	14.000	10.000	10.000

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Māori Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Māori Development - Te Puni Kōkiri

Title: Te Māori Tū - Forging New Trade Relationships Through Showcasing Culture

Description: This initiative reprioritises funding for activities undertaken by Te Māori Manaaki Taonga Trust associated with the development and delivery of a programme of trade focused events and digital outreach activities that showcase traditional and contemporary Māori arts, goods, and services. It also covers provision for training opportunities to support workforce and entrepreneurial capability related to taonga.

New Appropriation Approval

Name	Appropriation Minister	Period	Type	Category Name	Scope
Te Māori Tū - He Hanga Hononga Tauhokohoko Mā te Whakatairanga Ahurea Te Māori Tū - Forging New Trade Relationships Through Showcasing Culture	Minister for Māori Development	Multi-Year Appropriation Start: 1/07/2026 Finish: 30/06/2031 Amount (\$m): 10.000	Non-Departmental Output Expenses	N/A	Kua whakawhāiti mai tēnei tahua ki te whakawhanaketanga me te whakatutukinga o ngā hōtaka e whakatairanga ana i ngā toi, ngā hautaonga me ngā ratonga Māori o neherā, ō nāianei anō hoki. This appropriation is limited to developing and delivering programmes showcasing traditional and contemporary Māori arts, goods and services.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Operating Balance Impact*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Non-Departmental Output Expenses:						
Tahua Whanaketanga Māori Māori Development Fund	-	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)	(2.000)
Te Māori Tū - He Hanga Hononga Tauhokohoko Mā te Whakatairanga Ahurea Te Māori Tū - Forging New Trade Relationships Through Showcasing Culture (MYA)	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 2 **noted** that this initiative aligns with the proposed ^[33]
which is expected to go out for agency and
Ministerial consultation ahead of Cabinet in early May 2026;
- 3 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year
Appropriation: ‘*Te Māori Tū - He Hanga Hononga Tauhokohoko Mā te Whakatairanga
Ahurea | Te Māori Tū - Forging New Trade Relationships Through Showcasing Culture*’
reflect the indicative annual spending profile;

Vote: Māori Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Māori Development - Te Puni Kōkiri

Title: Baseline Savings - Te Puni Kōkiri

Description: This savings initiative delivers on the baseline reduction target for Te Puni Kōkiri and will be achieved through reductions in personnel, and contractor and consultant expenditure.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Te whakatinanatanga o ngā wawata ā-pāpori, ā-ōhanga, ā-whakawhanaketanga ahurea o te iwi Māori Realising the social, economic and cultural development aspirations of Māori (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(4.588)	(4.588)	(4.588)	(4.588)
Whakapakari Kaupapa Whānau Ora Whānau Ora Commissioning Approach (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.664)	(0.664)	(0.664)	(0.664)
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Ngā Hononga Māori Karauna Māori Crown Relations (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Te Whakapakari Āheinga Karauna Strengthening Crown Capability (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.648)	(0.648)	(0.648)	(0.648)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Ngā Hononga Māori Karauna Māori Crown Relations (MCA)	-	(0.648)	(0.648)	(0.648)	(0.648)
Total Operating	-	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)	(5.900)

Vote: Māori Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Māori Development - Te Puni Kōkiri

Title: Māori Media - Strengthening the Māori Media Sector for a Digital Future and Commissioning Te Reo Māori Content

Description: This initiative provides funding in a tagged contingency to support Whakaata Māori and Te Māngai Pāho to strengthen the Māori media sector. It will ensure the sector can develop talent and deliver better outcomes for te reo Māori in a rapidly changing media environment, whilst also contributing to economic growth.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	-	14.000	14.000	10.000	10.000
Total	-	14.000	14.000	10.000	10.000

Additional Recommendations

- 4 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Māori Development to jointly approve the drawdown of this contingency, subject to their satisfaction that funding can be appropriated;
- 5 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027;
- 6 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17356 in Vote Tertiary Education and Initiative 17638 in Vote Revenue (IRD-Crown), and that the cost of this policy is being offset by the closure of the final-year Fees Free scheme.