

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 Defence Force (Technical Initiatives)

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Defence Force

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

Summary of technical initiative:

Operating Initiative (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17497	Vote Defence Force - Alignment of Funding to the Delivery of Outputs and Establishment of a Multi-Year Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating		-	-	-	-	-

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Defence Force

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Defence Force

Title: Vote Defence Force - Alignment of Funding to the Delivery of Outputs and Establishment of a Multi-Year Appropriation

Description: This initiative makes fiscally neutral adjustments to align Vote Defence Force baselines with forecast expenditure. It also establishes a Multi-Year Appropriation (MYA) relating to the unwind of the discount rate of the liability for veterans' entitlements, to succeed the current MYA, which expires on 30 June 2026.

New Appropriation Approval

Name	Appropriation Minister	Period	Type	Category Name	Scope
Unwind of Discount Rate - Veterans' Entitlements 2026-2031	Minister for Veterans	Multi-Year Appropriation Start: 1/07/2026 Finish: 30/06/2031 Amount (\$m): 857.000	Non-Departmental Other Expenses	N/A	This appropriation is limited to the unwinding of the discount rate (interest expense) of the liability for the veterans' entitlements provided for under Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Veterans' Support Act 2014, and annuities authorised by Cabinet to recognise a special contribution by the recipient to New Zealand society as a part of their qualifying service or qualifying operational service.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Operating Balance Impact*	-	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	0.144	-	-	-	-
Total	0.144	-	-	-	-

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

	Sm - increase/(decrease)					
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:						
Unwind of Discount Rate - Veterans' Entitlements	-	(143.000)	(161.000)	(177.000)	(188.000)	(188.000)
Unwind of Discount Rate - Veterans' Entitlements 2026-2031 (MYA)	-	143.000	161.000	177.000	188.000	188.000
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:						
Advice to the Government (MCA)						
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>						
Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.044)	-	-	-	-	-
Situational Awareness (funded by revenue Crown)	(3.177)	-	-	-	-	-
Supporting Ministers (funded by revenue Crown)	0.221	-	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Advice to the Government (MCA)	(4.000)	-	-	-	-	-
Defence Force Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks (MCA)						
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>						
Air Force Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Others Tasks (funded by revenue Crown)	4.174	-	-	-	-	-
Army Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Others Tasks (funded by revenue Crown)	8.526	-	-	-	-	-
Navy Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Others Tasks (funded by revenue Crown)	(53.951)	-	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Defence Force Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks (MCA)	(41.251)	-	-	-	-	-
Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests (MCA)						
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>						
Military Operations in Support of a Rules-Based International Order (funded by revenue Crown)	2.433	-	-	-	-	-
Military Operations that Contribute to Regional Security (funded by revenue Crown)	1.067	-	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests (MCA)	3.500	-	-	-	-	-

	Sm - increase/(decrease)					
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Policy Advice And Other Services For Veterans (MCA)						
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>						
Administration Services (funded by revenue Crown)	0.800	-	-	-	-	-
Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	0.160	-	-	-	-	-
Services and Payments to Veterans (funded by revenue Crown)	3.040	-	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policy Advice And Other Services For Veterans (MCA)	4.000	-	-	-	-	-
Protection of New Zealand and New Zealanders (MCA)						
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>						
Assistance to the Civil Power and Provision of a Public Service in Emergency Situations (funded by revenue Crown)	10.132	-	-	-	-	-
Defence International Engagement (funded by revenue Crown)	(9.575)	-	-	-	-	-
Defence International Engagement (funded by revenue Dept)	0.144	-	-	-	-	-
Defence Support to the Community (funded by revenue Crown)	5.727	-	-	-	-	-
Military Assistance to Civil Authorities in Non-Emergency Situations (funded by revenue Crown)	6.257	-	-	-	-	-
Resource and Border Protection Operations (funded by revenue Crown)	25.210	-	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Protection of New Zealand and New Zealanders (MCA)	37.895	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	0.144	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendation

- 2 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation: ‘Unwind of Discount Rate - Veterans’ Entitlements 2026-2031’ reflect the indicative annual spending profile.