

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 Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Primary Industries

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2026 Budget package, as listed in the summary tables 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
17129	Aquaculture Settlements - Delivering on the Crown's Legislative Obligations [37]	-	8.000	-	-	-
17128			-	-	-	-
17125	Baseline Savings - Ministry for Primary Industries	-	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)
17131	Wilding Conifers – Scaling the Crown's Investment in the National Control Programme	-	18.372	20.345	1.473	-
Total Operating		[37]				
			13.172	7.145	(11.727)	(13.200)

Summary of contingency initiative:

Operating Contingency

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
[37]						

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Primary Industries

Title: Aquaculture Settlements - Delivering on the Crown's Legislative Obligations

Description: This initiative enables the Ministry for Primary Industries to deliver future Crown settlement obligations under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	8.000	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	8.000	-	-	-

* 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:					
Fisheries: Aquaculture Settlements	-	8.000	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	8.000	-	-	-

Additional Recommendation

- noted** that this initiative corresponds to Initiative 17605 in Vote Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety;

Vote: Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Primary Industries

Title: Baseline Savings - Ministry for Primary Industries

Description: This savings initiative contributes to the baseline reduction target for the Ministry for Primary Industries and will be achieved via efficiency improvements across contracts, property, digital services, and support functions. It consolidates savings from multiple areas to reduce ongoing operating costs while maintaining core services and supporting more streamlined delivery.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Agriculture: Programmes Supporting Sustainability (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Agriculture: Administration of Grants and Programmes (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Agriculture: Programmes Supporting Sustainability (MCA)	-	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)
Biosecurity: Border and Domestic Biosecurity Risk Management (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Border Biosecurity Systems Development and Maintenance (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(3.500)	(3.500)	(3.500)	(3.500)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Biosecurity: Border and Domestic Biosecurity Risk Management (MCA)	-	(3.500)	(3.500)	(3.500)	(3.500)

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Development and Implementation of Primary Industries Policy Advice (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Agriculture: Policy Advice and Ministerial Servicing (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Development and Implementation of Primary Industries Policy Advice (MCA)	-	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)	(4.850)
Total Operating	-	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)	(13.200)

Vote: Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries and Food Safety

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Primary Industries

Title: Wilding Conifers – Scaling the Crown’s Investment in the National Control Programme

Description: This initiative provides funding for the continued control of wilding conifers and expands work in the highest risk areas, Branch Leatham and Wanaka. It enables the development and implementation of a new National Pest Management Plan, which will introduce national rules and allow cost-sharing from those who contribute to or benefit from the programme. This work protects productive land, biodiversity and tourism, supports water availability, reduces wildfire risk, and positions long-term management to transition to landowners.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	18.372	20.345	1.473	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	10.000	10.000	10.000	-
Total	-	28.372	30.345	11.473	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Biosecurity: Border and Domestic Biosecurity Risk Management (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Biosecurity Incursion Response and Long Term Pest Management (funded by revenue Crown)	-	5.000	10.000	-	-
Biosecurity Incursion Response and Long Term Pest Management (funded by revenue Crown)	-	13.372	10.345	1.473	-
Biosecurity Incursion Response and Long Term Pest Management (funded by revenue Dept)	-	10.000	10.000	10.000	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Biosecurity: Border and Domestic Biosecurity Risk Management (MCA)	-	28.372	30.345	11.473	-
Total Operating	-	28.372	30.345	11.473	-

Additional Recommendations

- 11 **noted** that this initiative comprises a total funding package of \$79.190 million over three years in addition to existing baseline activity by the Ministry for Primary Industries;
- 12 **agreed** that \$15 million in operating funding for this initiative be charged against the *Emerging Priorities Contingency*;
- 13 **agreed** that \$30 million in operating funding will be allocated from the Department of Conservation's International Visitor and Conservation Levy allocation;
- 14 **noted** that \$9 million of baseline funding under the *Management of Natural Heritage* category within the *Services for Conservation* Multi-Category Appropriation within Vote Conservation will be allocated to the above initiative;
- 15 **agreed** that the remaining \$25.190 million in operating funding for this initiative be charged against the Budget 2026 operating allowance.