

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 Arts, Culture and Heritage

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

- 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
17265	Baseline Savings - Ministry for Culture and Heritage (Arts, Culture and Heritage)	(1.400)	(2.984)	(2.975)	(2.875)	(2.875)
17266	Baseline Savings - Ministry for Culture and Heritage (Media and Communications)	-	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)
17251	New Zealand Screen Production Rebate (Domestic) - Continued Funding	-	0.200	57.467	70.200	57.450
Total Operating		(1.400)	(6.276)	51.000	63.833	51.083

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Title: Baseline Savings - Ministry for Culture and Heritage
 (Arts, Culture and Heritage)

Description: This savings initiative contributes to the baseline reduction target for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. It reduces funding for all entities in the Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio. Specific areas of savings will be determined by entity boards or leadership teams.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(1.400)	(2.984)	(2.975)	(2.875)	(2.875)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(1.400)	(2.984)	(2.975)	(2.875)	(2.875)

* 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:					
Heritage Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.109)	(0.100)	(0.050)	(0.050)
Non-Departmental Output Expenses:					
Management of Historic Places	-	(0.334)	(0.334)	(0.334)	(0.334)
Museum Services	-	(1.080)	(1.080)	(1.080)	(1.080)
Performing Arts Services	-	(0.927)	(0.927)	(0.927)	(0.927)
Promotion and Support of the Arts and Film	-	(0.434)	(0.434)	(0.434)	(0.434)
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Policy Advice, Monitoring of Funded Agencies and Ministerial Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.400)	(0.100)	(0.100)	(0.050)	(0.050)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policy Advice, Monitoring of Funded Agencies and Ministerial Services (MCA)	(1.400)	(0.100)	(0.100)	(0.050)	(0.050)
Total Operating	(1.400)	(2.984)	(2.975)	(2.875)	(2.875)

Additional Recommendation

- 2 **noted** that the entities impacted by the baseline savings are the Antarctic Heritage Trust, Creative New Zealand, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand Film Commission, New Zealand Music Commission, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, Royal New Zealand Ballet, and Te Matatini;

Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Title: Baseline Savings - Ministry for Culture and Heritage (Media and Communications)

Description: This savings initiative contributes to the baseline reduction target for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. It reduces funding for all entities in the Media and Communications portfolio. Specific areas of savings will be determined by entity boards.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)

* 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 Output Expenses:					
Public Media Services	-	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)
Total Operating	-	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)	(3.492)

Additional Recommendation

- noted** that the entities impacted by the baseline savings are the Broadcasting Standards Authority, New Zealand On Air, and Radio New Zealand;

Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Title: New Zealand Screen Production Rebate (Domestic) - Continued Funding

Description: This initiative provides funding for the domestic component of the New Zealand Screen Production Rebate (NZSPR-NZ), in line with forecast costs of the scheme following targeted policy changes to improve cost control while encouraging economic growth and sector sustainability, and to support the scheme's administration costs.

New Appropriation Approval

Name	Appropriation Minister	Period	Type	Category Name	Scope
New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand	Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage	Annual	Non-Departmental Other Expenses	N/A	This appropriation is limited to providing funding assistance or equity investments for New Zealand screen productions that meet the qualifying tests as determined by the New Zealand Film Commission.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	0.200	57.467	70.200	57.450
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	0.200	57.467	70.200	57.450

* 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 Output Expenses:					
Promotion and Support of the Arts and Film	-	0.200	0.200	0.200	(12.550)
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand	-	-	-	-	70.000
New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand (MYA)	-	-	57.267	70.000	-
Total Operating	-	0.200	57.467	70.200	57.450

Additional Recommendations

- 4 **noted** that in March 2026, Cabinet agreed in principle, subject to Budget 2026 decisions, to continue the NZSPR-NZ with targeted changes to improve cost control while encouraging economic growth and sector sustainability [ECO-26-MIN-0035];
- 5 **agreed** that all decisions made in principle above relating to NZSPR-NZ are confirmed as final;
- 6 **noted** that actual expenditure for the NZSPR-NZ remains dependent on demand, and that this may result in cost pressures that would need to be managed through future Budget processes;
- 7 **noted** that following the expiry of the Multi-Year Appropriation: *New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand* on 30 June 2029, \$70 million of annual funding reverts to the *New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand* annual appropriation;
- 8 **agreed** the Multi-Year Appropriation: *New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand* is adjusted by \$127.267 million;
- 9 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation: *New Zealand Screen Production Rebate - New Zealand* reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile.