The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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- 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).

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

Budget 2026 Package: Vote Customs (Technical Initiatives)

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Customs Service

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 technical initiatives:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

		$m - increase/(decrease)				
Initiative ID	**Initiative Name**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30 & Outyears**
17369	Disestablishment of the Border System Performance Appropriation and Transfer of Funding	-	-	-	-	-
17398	New Zealand Customs Service - Transfer of Savings to Address Critical Cost Pressures	(2.603)	0.384	2.219	-	-
Total Operating		**(2.603)**	**0.384**	**2.219**	**-**	**-**

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Initiative No: 17369

Vote: Customs

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Customs Service

Title: Disestablishment of the Border System Performance Appropriation and Transfer of Funding

Description: This initiative formally disestablishes the Border System Performance appropriation within Vote Customs following changes to the scope and functions of the Border Executive Board, which transitioned to a sector strategy group on 1 January 2026. These changes mean a stand-alone appropriation is no longer required.

Appropriation Changes

	$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30 & Outyears**
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 & Outyears**
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Border System Performance (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(1.417)	(1.417)	(1.417)	(1.417)
Border System Performance (funded by revenue Dept)	-	(0.283)	(0.283)	(0.283)	(0.283)
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Border Clearance and Risk Management (MCA)					
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Revenue Collection and Other Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.417	1.417	1.417	1.417
Revenue Collection and Other Services (funded by revenue Dept)	-	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.283
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Border Clearance and Risk Management (MCA)	-	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.700
Total Operating	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Initiative No: 17398

Vote: Customs

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Customs Service

Title: New Zealand Customs Service - Transfer of Savings to Address Critical Cost Pressures

Description: This initiative seeks to transfer current year financial savings generated through Customs' fiscal sustainability programme to address cost pressures in 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Appropriation Changes

	$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30 & Outyears**
Operating Balance Impact*	(2.603)	0.384	2.219	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**(2.603)**	**0.384**	**2.219**	**-**	**-**

* 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:					
Border Clearance and Risk Management (MCA)					
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Goods Clearance and Enforcement (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.042)	0.154	0.888	-	-
Revenue Collection and Other Services (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.519)	0.076	0.443	-	-
Travellers Clearance and Enforcement (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.042)	0.154	0.888	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Border Clearance and Risk Management (MCA)	(2.603)	0.384	2.219	-	-
Total Operating	**(2.603)**	**0.384**	**2.219**	**-**	**-**