

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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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).

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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 Transport (Technical Initiatives)

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Transport

- 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 technical 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
17405	Expansion of the Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-	-
17400	Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation	-	(0.690)	0.285	0.286	0.119
17403	Reprioritisation of the North Island Weather Events Funding	10.000	40.000	-	(50.000)	-
Total Operating		10.000	39.310	0.285	(49.714)	0.119

Capital Initiatives (Impact on Debt)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17402	Rephasing the GPS on Land Transport Loan and GPS on Land Transport - Capital Grant	(326.460)	(93.540)	420.000	-	-
17404	Rephasing the New Zealand Upgrade Transport Projects Tagged Contingency	-	-	-	-	-
17403	Reprioritisation of the North Island Weather Events Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital		(326.460)	(93.540)	420.000	-	-

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Transport

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Transport

Title: Expansion of the Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Fund

Description: This initiative reprioritises available funds in the Auckland City Rail Link (ACRL) Targeted Hardship Fund toward related economic assistance activities for affected businesses.

New Appropriation Approval

Name	Appropriation Minister	Period	Type	Category Name	Scope
Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Initiative	Minister of Transport	Annual	Non-Departmental Other Expenses	N/A	This appropriation is limited to support administration costs and payments to eligible businesses for hardship associated with sustained and major disruption, and for initiatives to promote business activity in areas heavily impacted by the construction of ACRL.

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
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Fund (MYA)	(0.595)	-	-	-	-
Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Initiative	0.595	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 2 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport jointly to agree a transfer of up to \$0.595 million from 2025/26 to 2026/27 in the '*Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Initiative*' appropriation, following completion of the 2025/26 audited financial statements of the Ministry of Transport, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt across the forecast period;
- 3 **agreed** the Multi-Year Appropriation '*Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Fund*' is adjusted by \$(0.595) million;
- 4 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation '*Auckland City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Fund*' reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile;

Vote: Transport

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Transport

Title: Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation

Description: This initiative transfers funding from the Non-Departmental Output Expenses Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation Multi-Year Appropriation expiring 30 June 2027, to an annual appropriation between 2027/28 and 2029/30.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(0.690)	0.285	0.286	0.119
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(0.690)	0.285	0.286	0.119

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Non-Departmental Output Expenses:					
Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation	-	-	0.285	0.286	0.119
Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation (MYA)	-	(0.690)	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	(0.690)	0.285	0.286	0.119

Additional Recommendations

- 5 **agreed** that the Multi-Year Appropriation '*Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation*' be adjusted by \$(0.690) million;
- 6 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation '*Public Transport Bus Decarbonisation*' reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile;

Vote: Transport

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Transport

Title: Rephasing the GPS on Land Transport Loan and GPS on Land Transport - Capital Grant

Description: This initiative rephases the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Loan (2024 - 2028) Multi-Year Appropriation (MYA) and Government Policy Statement on Land Transport - Capital Grant (2024-2028) MYA to reflect the latest National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) revenue forecast.

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	(326.460)	(93.540)	420.000	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(326.460)	(93.540)	420.000	-	-

* 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 Capital Expenditure:					
Government Policy Statement on Land Transport - Capital Grant (2024-2028) (MYA)	(1.460)	1.460	-	-	-
Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Loan (2024 -2028) (MYA)	(325.000)	(95.000)	420.000	-	-
Total Capital	(326.460)	(93.540)	420.000	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 7 **noted** that the spending profile of the above Multi-Year Appropriations will be further updated once the final National Land Transport Fund revenue forecast is available;
- 8 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation 'Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Loan (2024 -2028)' reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile;
- 9 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation 'Government Policy Statement on Land Transport - Capital Grant (2024-2028)' reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile;

Vote: Transport

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Transport

Title: Rephasing the New Zealand Upgrade Transport Projects Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative rephases the New Zealand Upgrade Transport Projects tagged contingency funding of \$8 million in 2025/26 and \$263 million in 2026/27 into 2027/28 to reflect the timeline for when the Marsden Point construction costs will be incurred.

Additional Recommendations

10 **agreed** to rephase the tagged contingency funding of \$8.0 million in 2025/26 and \$263.0 million in 2026/27 into 2027/28;

11 **noted** that after this adjustment, the tagged contingency phasing will be:

	\$m				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
New Zealand Upgrade Programme Tagged Capital Contingency	-	-	271.000	-	-
Total Capital	-	-	271.000	-	-

Vote: Transport

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Transport

Title: Reprioritisation of the North Island Weather Events Funding

Description: This initiative reprioritises unspent funding of \$50 million for local roads recovery and \$1 million for State Highways recovery from the 2023 North Island Weather Events to a new Multi-Year Appropriation to support the response and recovery works following the 2026 severe weather event.

New Appropriation Approvals

Name	Appropriation Minister	Period	Type	Category Name	Scope
2026 Severe Weather Event - State Highway Recovery	Minister of Transport	Multi-Year Appropriation Start: 1/03/2026 Finish: 30/06/2030 Amount (\$m): 1.000	Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure	N/A	This appropriation is limited to providing additional funding to the National Land Transport Fund for State Highway Recovery Works across New Zealand arising from the 2026 Severe Weather Events.
2026 Severe Weather Event - Local Road Response and Recovery	Minister of Transport	Multi-Year Appropriation Start: 1/03/2026 Finish: 30/06/2030 Amount (\$m): 50.000	Non-Departmental Output Expenses	N/A	This appropriation is limited to providing additional funding to the National Land Transport Fund for the response and recovery of local road networks across New Zealand arising from the 2026 Severe Weather Events.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	10.000	40.000	-	(50.000)	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10.000	40.000	-	(50.000)	-

* 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 Output Expenses:					
2026 Severe Weather Event - Local Road Response and Recovery (MYA)	10.000	40.000	-	-	-
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
North Island Weather Events - Local Road Recovery (2025-2030) (MYA)	-	-	-	(50.000)	-
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure:					
2026 Severe Weather Event - State Highway Recovery (MYA)	-	1.000	-	-	-
North Island Weather Events - State Highway Recovery (MYA)	-	(1.000)	-	-	-
Total Operating	10.000	40.000	-	(50.000)	-
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 12 **agreed** that the Multi-Year Appropriation '*North Island Weather Events - State Highway Recovery*' be adjusted by \$(1.000) million;
- 13 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation '*North Island Weather Events - State Highway Recovery*' reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile;
- 14 **agreed** that the Multi-Year Appropriation '*North Island Weather Events - Local Road Recovery (2025-2030)*' be adjusted by \$(50.000) million;
- 15 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation '*North Island Weather Events - Local Road Recovery (2025-2030)*' reflect the change to the indicative annual spending profile;
- 16 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation '*2026 Severe Weather Event - State Highway Recovery*' reflect the indicative annual spending profile;
- 17 **noted** that the amounts shown in the Appropriation Changes table for the Multi-Year Appropriation '*2026 Severe Weather Event - Local Road Response and Recovery*' reflect the indicative annual spending profile.