The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

This document has been proactively released and is available on:

- 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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Guide for Titles and descriptions

You should start with the titles and descriptions agreed for Financial Recommendations, and amend as per the guidance below to ensure that they are suitable for publication.

Section 1: General style guide

- There are strict character limits for titles and descriptions: **300 characters for titles and 800 characters for descriptions**.
- **Use plain language** suitable for a general audience, avoiding uncommon vocabulary and jargon.
- **Macrons** are available on CFISnet and should be used where applicable for te reo Māori words.
- **Uncommon acronyms should be written out in full.** Commonly used acronyms understood by the general public (e.g., GST) are acceptable, but public sector specific abbreviations (e.g., MBIE, DHB, TEC) are not.

Key terms and consistency points

- New Zealand
- New Zealanders or Kiwis (either is fine)
- Fiscal sustainability, fiscal discipline
- Per cent (not percent or %) unless using in table, % is fine
- Low-emissions (not low-emission or low emissions)
- coalition Government (not Coalition Government unless at the start of a sentence)
- Te reo translations *after* the English version, not before unless referring to TPK initiatives (or other agreed programmes, e.g. Ka Ora, Ka Ako).

Numbers and decimal places

- Operating and capital spending need to be shown separately. Do not aggregate them.
- Be clear about any <u>new</u> levels of funding arising from Budget 2026.
- Wherever relevant, show figures for the whole forecast period.
- All spending is on a GST-exclusive basis.
- With exceptions such as years, page numbers and sometimes percentages (see below) spell out numbers in text for numbers up to ten – so “seven years of funding”. Numbers over ten can be written as numbers.
- All numbers 10,000 or greater should carry a comma (e.g. for five-digit figures and bigger, not four-digit figures).
- Unless more or less precision is appropriate in context, round millions to one decimal place:
    - “$3.8 million,” not “$3.760 million”. The exception is when referring to amounts of less than $1 million, where figures should be expressed in thousands, eg, $765,000.
- Billions should also be rounded to one place:
    - “$3.3 billion,” not “$3.27 billion” or “$3,270 million”
- Make an exception where decimals imply false precision, such as:
    - “This will boost revenue by at least $325 million.”

Section 2: Titles

- **Titles should have meaningful first words/beginnings**. Initiatives are listed alphabetically, and it is important that the first word in the title distinguishes it from other initiatives. Titles should not start with generic words such as "*increasing*", "*additional*", and "*establishing*".
- **Titles must make clear reference to the policy or programme**, and the output or outcome intended. For example:
    - Healthy Home Standards – Ensuring Compliance
    - Learning Support – Maintaining Ministry Support Staff
    - Health Infrastructure – Accelerating Work Programme
    - Ministry for Environment Accommodation Cost Pressure
- **A common stem should be used to indicative related initiatives** (be that a set of new initiatives or initiatives that relate to an existing strategy or work programme). For example:
    - Future of Rail – Core Asset Management
    - Future of Rail – Rail Network Investment Programme
    - Resource Management Reform – Implementation Support
- **For initiatives relating to baseline savings,** these will be published as a single initiative line for each vote and they should be titled as:
    - **For agencies with single vote:** Baseline Savings – [Department Name]
    - **For agencies with Multiple votes:** Baseline Savings – [Department Name] (Vote name)

Section 3: Descriptions

- **Descriptions should begin with the stem statement** "This initiative…".
- **Descriptions should outline the outputs being purchased and the expected outcomes**. For example, *"This initiative provides funding to establish a local wagon assembly plant at Hillside, Dunedin to increase employment and youth opportunities and rebuild industry capability."*
- **Descriptions do not need to restate the amount of funding being provided or saved through the initiative.**
- **Descriptions should provide contextual information, where relevant**. For example, *"This funding contributes to an existing programme that currently receives $x million per annum"* OR *"This programme will retain $x million per annum"*
- **For baseline savings initiatives the following descriptions should be used:**
    - **For agencies with a single Vote:** This savings initiative delivers on the baseline reduction target for Ministry or Department [insert name] and will be achieved via [insert as required e.g. efficiencies, reduction in back-office costs].
    - **For agencies with multiple Votes:** This savings initiative contributes to the baseline reduction target for Ministry or Department [insert name] and will be achieved via [insert as required e.g. efficiencies, reduction in back-office costs].
- **Savings initiatives should include rationale statements. Below are some rationale statements that can be used.**

Where the saving relates to programmes not yet started:

- This funding was uncommitted and there is no change to current service levels from the return of funding.
- This funding was to support a future scaling up of services and there is no change to current service levels from the return of funding.

Where the saving relates to third party revenue:

- This initiative substitutes baseline funding for third-party revenue to align costs of the services to their primary users. There will be no change to current service levels.

Where the saving relates to underspends:

- This saving corresponds to a historical underspend, meaning the risk of changes to current service levels from this saving are low.
- This saving is as a result of lower than expected costs to deliver x programme/activity,

Where the saving relates to a specific programme:

- This saving returns funding allocated to a [programme/function/service] that the Government has indicated is winding down/has already wound down.
- This saving is from the closure of a [programme/function/service] not aligned to the Government's priorities.
  This saving reduces funding available for [entity name/programme/function] by approximately X percent. $X.XXX per annum of funding for [entity name/programme/function] remains.

Where the saving relates to a fund:

- This saving reduces the quantum in this fund by approximately X%. $X per annum remains in this fund.

Examples – rationales in context

Not Quite	**Yes**
This savings initiative returns $10.0 million of total operating funding from Ministry of Health back-office expenditure.	This savings initiative returns $10.0 million of total operating funding from the Ministry of Health, *related to reduced spending on contractors and consultants.*
This savings initiative returns $25.5 million of total operating funding from de-scoping the Fiscal Sustainability Programme.	This savings initiative returns $25.5 million of total operating funding from de-scoping the Fiscal Sustainability Programme. *This saving reduces funding available for the Fiscal Sustainability Programme by approximately 35 percent. Approximately $95.000 million total operating funding for the Fiscal Sustainability Programme remains.*
This savings initiative returns $2.0 million of total operating funding arising from underspends due to lower-than-forecast costs.	This savings initiative returns $2.0 million of total operating funding resulting from lower-than-forecast costs to deliver the *New Zealand Space Programme,* therefore, the underspends can be returned to the centre.