The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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- 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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Budget 2026 - Summary of savings and welfare reform options

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Savings figures listed are annual ongoing savings based on the outyear figure, and are rounded to the nearest million. Reference numbers correspond to the table with more detailed information.

All options that have been identified:

Savings realisable from 2026/27

[33]

Cost

Savings that would need more time to implement

14. Adjusting policy and operational settings for Temporary Additional Support:
[33]

16. Housing contribution and Income Related Rent: $131m for IRR component
Emergency Housing and Transitional Housing components not costed

[33]

11. Sole Parent invest-to-save*

[33]

Cost

My initial preferences:

Savings realisable from 2026/27

[33]

[33]

Savings that would need more time to implement

14. Adjusting policy and operational settings for Temporary Additional Support:
[33]

11. Sole Parent invest-to-save*

[33]

[33]

[33]

Cost

[33]

Key

Colour indicates how each option relates to Welfare Reform:

Savings that are not part of Welfare Reform	Savings that are part of Welfare Reform	Savings to consider as part of Welfare Reform	Spending to consider as part of Welfare Reform

[33]

Icons indicate areas of cross-vote reform:

- Housing System (incl. Review of Social Housing System)
- Interface with the tax system (Working for Families and Child Policies)

Caveats

- Some proposals re-use previous savings estimates, which may no longer be applicable:
  - older policy saving estimates will be based on out-of-date CPI/wage and volume assumptions - for example, options that were costed prior to BEFU 2025.
  - where changes to the welfare system have since been made or will be made, it can affect the results of previous estimates - for example, tightening eligibility of 18-19-year-olds and income charging phase 1 and 2 have since been agreed to in Budget 2025, which may affect older fiscal estimates.
- All options assume independence of the other policy changes. However, a number of options may interact with each other - [33]
- Estimated savings are highly sensitive to the forecast CPI/wage assumptions used, [33] .
- [33]
- Departmental costs may not be included or updated with current welfare settings.
- Where options have not been costed, we have provided an initial judgment of the savings to fit into the low, medium, or high category.

Footnotes

* Not costed.
[33]