

The Treasury

Budget 2018 Information Release

Release Document August 2018

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

[1]	to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government	6(a)
[2]	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	6(b)(i)
[4]	to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	6(c)
[11]	to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements.	6(e)(vi)
[23]	to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people	9(2)(a)
[25]	to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information	9(2)(b)(ii)
[26]	to prevent prejudice to 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	9(2)(ba)(i)
[27]	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	9(2)(ba)(ii)
[29]	to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand	9(2)(d)
[31]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility	9(2)(f)(ii)
[33]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials	9(2)(f)(iv)
[34]	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions	9(2)(g)(i)
[36]	to maintain legal professional privilege	9(2)(h)
[37]	to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantages or prejudice	9(2)(i)
[38]	to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice	9(2)(j)
[39]	to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	9(2)(k)
[40]	not in scope	
[41]	that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment	18(c)(i)
[42]	information is already publicly available or will be publicly available soon	18(d)

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) and section 18 of the Official Information Act.

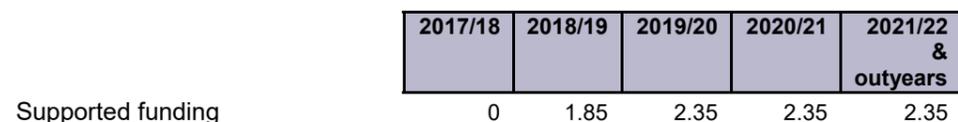
From: Hamish Slack [TSY]
Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2018 1:49 PM
To: [23]
Cc: Natalie Labuschagne [TSY]
Subject: MfE late bids: Treasury comment

Hi [23] – here is our initial assessment on MfE’s late bids. I emailed the department my thinking last night, giving them until 12pm today to respond. Nevertheless, thought it would be helpful to let you know where we currently are as I cannot see things moving much between now and 12pm.

Climate Directorate Capability

The Treasury Vote Team partially support this bid, though we note the bid has been assessed in a compressed timeframe. The Ministry is under pressure to deliver in several priority areas for this Government (climate change, urban planning, and water quality). To date, it has managed these pressures by surging resources into its Climate Directorate. This is not a tenable long-term solution, as it means the Ministry has not been able to devote sufficient resources in its other areas of focus (including the priority areas of water and urban planning). Not providing this funding would put delivering on the Government’s environmental ambitions at risk.

Even though this is a late bid, we have supported on-going funding (rather than 1 year of funding with the expectation that the Ministry would put in a subsequent bid in Budget 2019). This is for two reasons. First, we consider that the Government’s increased demands for policy on environmental matters will not taper; there will be an on-going need for increased capability in the Ministry. Second, the Ministry argues that on-going funding allows them to offer permanent positions, making it easier to attract high-quality staff. We accept this argument.



PFAS response

The Treasury Vote Team partially support this bid, though we note the bid has been assessed in a compressed timeframe. This issue relates to the use of fire-fighting foams containing the chemical PFAS (which were used in areas with petroleum fire risks, such as airports and ports). PFAS contamination is a significant issue – to date the Government’s work has focused on its use on New Zealand Defence Force sites, but it will have also been used at other sites around New Zealand. Given the potential risks associated with PFAS contamination, this work (to identify sites at a high risk of contamination, and work with local councils and land owners to engage in testing and mitigation work) is important.



Hamish Slack | Senior Analyst | **The Treasury**

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