

The Treasury

Firearms Buyback Scheme Information Release

October 2019

This document has been proactively released by the Treasury on the Treasury website at <https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/firearms>

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] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 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
- [3] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [4] Not in scope

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

Copyright and Licensing

Cabinet material and advice to Ministers from the Treasury and other public service departments are © **Crown copyright** but are licensed for re-use under **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)** [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>].

For material created by other parties, copyright is held by them and they must be consulted on the licensing terms that they apply to their material.

Accessibility

The Treasury can provide an alternate HTML version of this material if requested. Please cite this document's title or PDF file name when you email a request to information@treasury.govt.nz.

Oral item for Cabinet – buy-back scheme to support the prohibition of semi-automatic firearms under the Arms Act 1983

8 April 2019

- On Monday 18 March, Cabinet gave the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Ministers of Finance, Police, Justice and Defence the Power to Act to make decisions on the development of a buy-back initiative to support amendments to the Arms Act 1983, namely the prohibition of certain types of semi-automatic firearms, parts and magazines [CAB-19-MIN-0105].
- Ministers with Power to Act have agreed to develop a buy-back initiative and are taking decisions on the design of the scheme.
- The indicative costs prepared by Police range between \$48 million and \$249 million in buy-back payments for newly prohibited items that were lawfully acquired. The greatest uncertainty comes from the lack of data on eligible firearms in circulation, but other variables include price and the final scope of the scheme.
- ACC has agreed to support the buy-back initiative with a contribution of \$10 million in 2018/19 and a further \$30 million in 2019/20 as an injury prevention measure under section 263(1) of the Accident Compensation Act 2001.
- I expect the remainder to be funded through the Budget 2019 operating allowance with any necessary adjustments charged against the between-Budget contingency or pre-committed against Budget 2020.
- The Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines and Parts) Amendment Bill 2019 will implement the new prohibitions and accompanying amnesty. It may also include reference to the buy-back. The legislation will come into force on 11 April 2019.
- Depending on the final form of the legislation, an expense provision for the costs of buying back prohibited items may be required at the time the Bill is passed. This is prior to final Budget 2019 decisions being taken by Cabinet on Monday 15 April. To avoid unappropriated expenditure, an appropriation must be in place before making an expense provision.
- I therefore seek agreement for authority to be delegated to the Ministers with Power to Act jointly to agree to establish any appropriations required for the buy-back, the amounts of those appropriations, the inclusion of those appropriations in the 2018/19 Supplementary Estimates and to meeting the expenses from Imprest Supply in the meantime.

Recommendations to be tabled

1. **note** that, depending on the final form of the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines and Parts) Amendment Bill, an expense provision for the costs of buying back prohibited items may be required at the time the Bill is passed;
2. **note** that the Bill is scheduled to be passed before Cabinet makes final decisions on the Budget package on Monday 15 April;
3. **note** that an appropriation is required to be in place prior to making an expense provision; and
4. **authorise** the Ministers with Power to Act jointly to agree to establish any appropriations required for the buyback, the amounts of those appropriations, the inclusion of those appropriations in the 2018/19 Supplementary Estimates and to meeting the expenses from Imprest Supply in the meantime.