

## Estimates Hearing – Finance (Minister Bishop)

Topic	Talking Points																																																	
<p>What impact have savings had on the Ministry's funding?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The combined impact on the Ministry's funding from Budget 2024 and Budget 2025 is as follows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Departmental Funding</b> – a forecast reduction of 32.2% by 2028/29, compared to 2023/24 actuals (updated for BEFU25).</li> <li><b>Non-Departmental Funding (Crown)</b> – a forecast reduction of 63.3% by 2028/29, compared to 2023/24 actuals (updated for BEFU25).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #004a99; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: left;">\$m</th> <th>23/24</th> <th>24/25</th> <th>25/26</th> <th>26/27</th> <th>27/28</th> <th>28/29</th> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #004a99; color: white;"> <th></th> <th>(Actual)</th> <th>*</th> <th>*</th> <th>*</th> <th>*</th> <th>*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Departmental Appropriations</td> <td>240.0</td> <td>191.1</td> <td>208.0</td> <td>189.2</td> <td>156.6</td> <td>162.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Departmental (Crown excl ETS)</td> <td>165.5</td> <td>148.3</td> <td>78.0</td> <td>66.7</td> <td>61.6</td> <td>60.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Departmental (product stewardship)</td> <td>2.8</td> <td>57.3</td> <td>64.5</td> <td>66.0</td> <td>68.8</td> <td>68.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Departmental (waste levy funded)</td> <td>106.0</td> <td>177.0</td> <td>259.8</td> <td>226.2</td> <td>242.0</td> <td>263.8</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #004a99; color: white;"> <td><b>Total Appropriations (excl ETS)</b></td> <td><b>514.2</b></td> <td><b>573.7</b></td> <td><b>610.2</b></td> <td><b>548.1</b></td> <td><b>528.9</b></td> <td><b>555.8</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*As at Budget 25 (BEFU 2025/26)</p>	\$m	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29		(Actual)	*	*	*	*	*	Departmental Appropriations	240.0	191.1	208.0	189.2	156.6	162.8	Non-Departmental (Crown excl ETS)	165.5	148.3	78.0	66.7	61.6	60.8	Non-Departmental (product stewardship)	2.8	57.3	64.5	66.0	68.8	68.4	Non-Departmental (waste levy funded)	106.0	177.0	259.8	226.2	242.0	263.8	<b>Total Appropriations (excl ETS)</b>	<b>514.2</b>	<b>573.7</b>	<b>610.2</b>	<b>548.1</b>	<b>528.9</b>	<b>555.8</b>
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<p>How much does the Ministry spend on contractors and consultants?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table below details contractor and consultant spend by the Ministry:</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #004a99; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: left;">\$m</th> <th>2019/20 Actual</th> <th>2020/21 Actual</th> <th>2021/22 Actual</th> <th>2022/23 Actual</th> <th>2023/24 Actual</th> <th>2024/25 Forecast</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total cost (\$m)</td> <td>16.747*</td> <td>23.42</td> <td>28.6</td> <td>37.1</td> <td>23.1</td> <td>13.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Revised total in line with updated PSC guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry has spent \$5.28 million on contractors and consultants for the nine months ending 31 March 2025. It is forecast to spend \$13.5m total by 30 June 2025.</li> <li>Detailed information on the contractors and consultants engaged in 2024/25, including information about tendering, will be provided to the Committee as part of the 2024/25 Annual Review of the Ministry in December 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Is the Ministry's payment of policy contractors in line with the MBIE guidance on maximum rates?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes. The Ministry follows the MBIE's guidance on the maximum rates of policy contractors.</li> <li>Current hiring processes ensure contractor rates are checked against current maximums as communicated by MBIE.</li> </ul>	\$m	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	Total cost (\$m)	16.747*	23.42	28.6	37.1	23.1	13.5																																			
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<p>How much does the Ministry spend on litigation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry does not differentiate litigation costs from other general legal expenditure in its accounts.</li> <li><i>[We would need to revert to the committee post-hearing if this question is asked.]</i></li> </ul>																																																	
<p>What funding does the Ministry provide to NGOs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to NGOs for 2023/24 and 2024/25 (to 31 December 2024) is shown in the table below:</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #004a99; color: white;"> <th></th> <th>2023/24 12 mths to 30.6.24 (\$)</th> <th>2024/25 6 Mths to 31.12.24 (\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated</td> <td>200,000</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Zealand Fish and Game Council</td> <td>225,339</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental Defence Society</td> <td>343,883</td> <td>33,860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Para Kore Marae Incorporated</td> <td>1,290,404</td> <td>124,458</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment Hubs Aotearoa Incorporated</td> <td>1,410,150</td> <td>211,000</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #004a99; color: white;"> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>3,469,776</b></td> <td><b>369,318</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2023/24 12 mths to 30.6.24 (\$)	2024/25 6 Mths to 31.12.24 (\$)	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated	200,000	-	New Zealand Fish and Game Council	225,339	-	Environmental Defence Society	343,883	33,860	Para Kore Marae Incorporated	1,290,404	124,458	Environment Hubs Aotearoa Incorporated	1,410,150	211,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,469,776</b>	<b>369,318</b>																												
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget 2024 saw the end of funding for several community groups and ENGOs, except where contracted arrangements prevented that. The Ministry has returned \$7.944 million over four years from the Community Environment Fund, which provided funding to community groups to strengthen partnerships and encourage participation in environmental initiatives in the community. This has impacted the Para Kore Marae Incorporated and Environment Hubs Aotearoa, with funding concluding on 30 November 2024 and 30 June 2025, respectively.</li> <li>Funding was also provided to the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) and Forest &amp; Bird to participate in a pilot programme to support their engagement with regional councils on the development of new regional resource management plans. This pilot has been discontinued due to legislative changes and funding ended from early June 2024.</li> </ul>												
<p>Funding for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) toward the Paris Agreement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UNFCCC is the entity that provides the Secretariat that supports the global climate change response, including in respect of the Paris Agreement. This contribution is paid once a year against the appropriation, and this amount varies each year depending on the agreed outcome of the budget negotiations and due to exchange rate fluctuations.</li> <li>New Zealand has contributed \$201,822 in the current financial year (2024/25) to the UNFCCC core budget. Contributions for the previous four financial years are detailed below:</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="611 432 1961 520"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2020/21</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> <th>2024/25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Framework Convention on Climate Change</td> <td>153,744</td> <td>305,852</td> <td>171,532</td> <td>205,449</td> <td>201,882</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to New Zealand’s annual UNFCCC core budget contribution, New Zealand can also contribute to the UNFCCC Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities on an ad-hoc and voluntary basis.</li> </ol>		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Framework Convention on Climate Change	153,744	305,852	171,532	205,449	201,882
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