

**Table 4 – Budget 2024 baseline savings and further savings and revenue measures breakdown**

	Savings Target	Savings Target Average <sup>1</sup>	Baseline Reduction Average <sup>2</sup>	Further Savings and Revenue Measures Average
Department Breakdown	Per cent	\$million	\$million	\$million
Ministry for the Environment	7.5	(49.1)	(49.1)	(44.4)

## Environment

	Budget 2024 Operating Average (\$m)	Operating Total (\$m)	Capital Total (\$m)
<b>Budget Breakdown for Vote</b>			
Increased Funding for Core Services	-	-	-
New Government Commitments	23.059	92.235	-
Savings and Revenue	(102.116)	(408.465)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(79.058)</b>	<b>(316.230)</b>	-

## New Government Commitments

### Resource Management Reforms – Replacement

This initiative provides funding to deliver the Government's resource management reforms, including fast-track consenting legislation, Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 amendments, updates to national direction and RMA replacement legislation. Funding is provided in outyears for ongoing operation of the resource management system to support system change.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	23.525	23.911	23.911	20.888	92.235	-

## Savings and Revenue

### Baseline Savings and Revenue

#### Back-Office Functions – Ministry for the Environment

This savings initiative returns funding for back-office functions to create efficiencies and align with the Government's priorities. These savings relate to reducing spending on contractors and consultants and a reduction in services relating to information and communications technology, accommodation, business and administrative support, programme and project management, legal, risk and assurance, finance, people and capability, Executive support, and procurement. It also incorporates savings from reductions in funding for staff travel, learning and development.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

<sup>1</sup> Operating annual average across five years (2023/24 to 2027/28).

<sup>2</sup> Operating annual average across five years (2023/24 to 2027/28). This is based on the final Budget 2024 package agreed by Ministers.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(3.588)	(6.204)	(6.272)	(6.189)	(22.253)	-

### Climate Change Commission

This savings initiative returns funding for the Climate Change Commission. These savings are achieved by returning all funding for the Climate Change Commission's agricultural emissions pricing advisory function, proposed under the previous Government, and scaling back the Commission's baseline funding to create efficiencies. \$14.9 million operating per annum remains for the Climate Change Commission from 2025/26.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(3.000)	(4.208)	(4.208)	(4.208)	(15.624)	-

### Climate Change Programmes

This savings initiative returns funding across climate change programmes to align with the Government's priorities. These savings are from reduced funding for the Climate Change Development Fund and Climate Resilience for Māori initiative. These savings also reduce funding for the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, implementation of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme and other climate work programmes such as Climate Data Infrastructure and Enabling a Scaled-up, High Quality Voluntary Carbon Market.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(3.761)	(4.458)	(13.610)	(13.653)	(35.482)	-

### Evidence and Data

This savings initiative returns funding for evidence and data functions to align with the Government's priorities. These savings are delivered by reducing spending on consultants, external agencies and external and internal specialists that supply a range of evidence and data services, including updates to environmental standards, monitoring, reporting, policy work and science assurance.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(1.783)	(3.585)	(2.194)	(2.111)	(9.673)	-

### Freshwater Programmes

This savings initiative returns funding for freshwater programmes to align with the Government's priorities. These include the Jobs for Nature Secretariat, freshwater investment and implementation of freshwater policy and initiatives under the Essential Freshwater Fund (EFF). The EFF savings return funds that were yet to be contracted or fully distributed. All existing projects and contracts established through the EFF will be honoured.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(15.522)	(2.765)	(2.645)	(2.668)	(23.600)	-

### Partnerships and Engagement

This savings initiative returns funding by scaling back resourcing that supports delivery of communication, engagement, and partnership functions to align with the Government's priorities. These savings include removing funding for the Community Environment Fund, the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund, Indigenous Biodiversity implementation funding and regional planning support for environmental non-governmental organisations.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(10.551)	(10.850)	(8.191)	(8.203)	(37.795)	-

## Waste Minimisation

This savings initiative returns funding for waste minimisation to align with the Government's priorities. \$9.689 million of savings come from scaling back resourcing for waste minimisation policy and non-levy funded operational work programmes, and returning funding for administering waste minimisation projects funded by the Climate Emergency Response Fund, along with behaviour change and data projects. The remainder of the savings will be funded by Waste Disposal Levy revenue, enabled by amendments to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to expand the scope of activities levy revenue can be used for.

This initiative contributes to the baseline savings target for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(10.896)	(17.030)	(11.979)	(12.067)	(51.972)	-

## Further Savings and Revenue Measures

### Reallocation of Funding – Waste Disposal Levy

This savings initiative returns funding by reallocating Waste Disposal Levy revenue to a wider range of waste-related and environmental activities permitted under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. This includes reducing emissions from waste, remediation of contaminated sites and vulnerable landfills, freshwater improvement, Kaipara Moana remediation, and the Ministry for the Environment's waste and hazardous substances work programme. The corresponding Crown funding for these activities is reduced to deliver savings.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(88.225)	(61.130)	(14.500)	(13.900)	(177.755)	-

## Return of Tagged Contingencies

### New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Market Governance

This savings initiative returns funding previously held in contingency for proposed New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme market governance improvements. The ETS Market Governance programme will be progressed within baseline funding for the Ministry for the Environment.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Tagged Contingency	-	(9.437)	(9.437)	(9.437)	(6.000)	(34.311)	-

Mini Budget

Environment

Resource Management Reforms

This savings initiative returns funding for implementation of resource management reforms following the repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act in December 2023.

Vote	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Operating Total	Capital Total
Environment	-	(61.107)	(78.027)	(80.156)	(82.306)	(301.596)	-