

## **Barton Deakin Brief: New Zealand Government 2016-17 Pre-Budget Announcements No. 2 and the Pre-Budget Speech on 12 May 2016**

**13 May 2016**

New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon Bill English MP, will hand down the National-led government's eighth budget on 26 May, 2016.

The Government has recently announced policies on:

- Additional teacher aides in schools through new funding worth \$15.3 million over four years;
- 3,000 emergency housing places and new grants funded through a commitment of \$41.1 million over four years;
- New funding of \$12.6 million over four years to invest in Maori Housing; and
- New funding of \$20.7 million for the conservation initiative Battle for our Birds 2016.

The Hon Bill English MP made his 2016 Pre-Budget Speech to the Wellington Chamber of Commerce in the Members Gallery.

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines these new Budget policies and the Pre-Budget Speech on 12 May 2016.

### **Teacher Aids in Schools**

On Wednesday, 11 May the Minister for Education, the Hon Hekia Parata MP, announced funding for additional teacher aids in schools. The Government will commit \$15.4 million over the next four years toward approximately 1,250 students in New Zealand by providing them with the support of a teacher aid in classrooms.

To view the media release from the Minister for Education, click [here](#).

### **Emergency Housing Places**

On Thursday, 9 May the Minister for Social Housing, the Hon Paula Bennett MP, released the Government's policy to pay for emergency housing placements. The National-led Government will provide funding in the 2016-17 Budget for 3,000 emergency housing places with a commitment of \$41.1 million over four years. This will provide funds for Non-Government Organisations (NGO) to provide approximately 3,000 housing places each year, as well as a [Special Needs Grant](#) to cover the cost of housing for up to seven days if there is no place available at an NGO facility.

To view the media release from the Minister for Social Housing, click [here](#).

### **Maori Housing Initiative**

On Monday, 10 May the Minister for Maori Development, the Hon Te Ururoa Flavell, announced that the [Maori Housing Network](#) would receive an additional funding contribution of \$12.6 million



over four years. This commitment brings the total funding for the Maori Housing Network to \$17.6 million.

To view the media release from the Minister for Maori Development, click [here](#).

### **Battle for our Birds 2016**

On Saturday, 7 May the Minister for Conservation, the Hon Maggie Barry MP, announced the Government's Battle for our Birds 2016 pest control programme. The programme will receive an additional \$20.7 million in funding for the 2015-16 year.

To view the Battle for our Birds 2016 website, click [here](#).

To view the media release from the Minister for Conservation, click [here](#).

### **Pre-Budget Speech to the Wellington Chamber of Commerce – 12 May 2016**

The Minister for Finance, the Hon Bill English MP reported on the economic progression of New Zealand including initiatives delivered by the Minister for Economic Development, the Hon Steven Joyce MP through the [Business Growth Agenda](#). The more than 350 initiatives include:

- Reducing annual ACC levies by around \$2 billion in the last 5 years;
- Negotiating new free trade agreements, including the [Trans-Pacific Partnership \(TPP\)](#);
- \$11.5 billion in capital investment programme to include an ultra-fast broadband rollout; and
- Launching three new ICT Graduate Schools.

The Government has announced that there will be no provision for tax reduction in this upcoming budget. They aim to prioritise additional debt repayment.

To view the media release from the Minister of Finance, click [here](#).

### **Further information**

To view more media releases from the National-led Government, click [here](#).

To view the Barton Deakin Brief on the New Zealand Government 2016-17 Pre-Budget Announcements, click [here](#).

To view more Barton Deakin Briefs on the New Zealand jurisdiction, click [here](#).

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