

Preparing for a new government – briefings and cost savings

Published 10/13/2023

The 2023 general election is taking place on Saturday 14 October.

Following every general election, a new government is formed, and ministers are appointed.

We have a programme of work underway to ensure we are ready to support the incoming government and help them to deliver their priorities.

As part of preparing for an election, each government agency prepares a briefing to the incoming minister (BIM).

Here at Toitū Te Whenua, a team of people, led by Strategy, Policy and Design is in the final stages of preparing our BIM, which will be finalised once the new government is formed.

The Minister for Land Information will want to know how we can deliver on their priorities and will want more detailed information about particular topics to help them understand their new portfolio.



It is important that we are ready to respond to any requests. In preparation for this we are also getting supporting information together on the products and services we deliver for New Zealand.

We need to be well co-ordinated and planned in how we engage with the new minister and what we focus on. It is important to understand and prioritise what the incoming minister needs to do their job.

There are different conventions in place depending on how long it takes to form a government after the election, and these need to be carefully navigated.

There will be more information on the different phases, such as a caretaker period, published on Whatukura soon.

If you are planning to send a briefing to the Minister, or if you receive any requests for information, it's important to talk to your leader and Head of Function as early as possible as this needs to be managed centrally for the period around and after the election.

The Ministerial and Government Services Team manage the process for sending information to the Minister's Office, or responding to requests for information, and you will also need to discuss with the Chief Executive's Office in advance.

Any requests for information or analysis as part of any government coalition negotiations must be managed through the Chief Executive.

Savings and cost efficiencies – tightening our spending

New Zealand is in a challenging fiscal environment. Across government tax revenue is down, and costs have increased.

Budgets and public service expenditure is an area of significant public focus, and this is going to continue after the election.

The government has already [asked all Public Service Departments to find permanent savings](#) that will be included in Budget 2024. Toitū Te Whenua must deliver savings of \$2.33 million per year.

We anticipate that a new government will expect us to further reduce costs, and this is something that we will respond to at an organisational level.

Kaihautū and Heads of are already looking at our priorities and identifying ways we can make sensible savings and introduce more discipline to our spending.

We must, as always, be prudent with any spending of public money from taxes or fees in performing our functions.

As a first step, discretionary spending is being tightened, including expenses like travel, training, catering and team building. Please talk to your leader before committing to any of this type of spending.

Engaging or extending contractors and consultants must be discussed and approved at Kaihautū level.

More information

Given the importance of our first engagements with a new minister, our incoming government programme is a high priority for Adrienne and our Kaihautū. If you have any questions about this, please contact Richard Hawke in the first instance.

You can contact Integrity Champion Michael Appleyard with any questions you have about election-related guidance and processes or matters of political neutrality.

Te Kawa Mataaho also have comprehensive guidance available here: [General Election Guidance 2023 ↗](#).

For more information on the timeline of this year's election, see this page on the Parliament website: [Election 2023 Timeline ↗](#).

Released under the Official Information Act 1982