

STATES OF JERSEY



PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025): THIRTIETH AMENDMENT (P.70/2025 AMD.(30)) – AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 1st December 2025
by the Council of Ministers
Earliest date for debate: 8th December 2025**

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSED BUDGET (GOVERNMENT PLAN) 2026-2029 (P.70/2025):
THIRTIETH AMENDMENT (P.51/2024 AMD.(30)) – AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (b)(vi) –

After the words “provided that no” insert the words - “more than 10% of the total funding allocated to the”

After the words “Agricultural Loans” insert the word “Fund”

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Note: After this amendment, the amendment would read as follows –

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (b)(vi) –

After the words “in excess of estimates provided in this plan”, insert the words –
“, provided that no more than 10% of the total funding allocated to the Agricultural Loans Fund are to be given for the purpose of supporting the cultivation in Jersey of cannabis-based products for medicinal use”.

Note: After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

- (a) In accordance with Article 16 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 (the Law) to approve an amendment to the Government Plan 2025 – 2028 (entitled “Budget 2025 – 2028”) to a reduction in the 2025 head of expenditure “Grants to States Funds” as included in Table 5(i) Revenue Heads of Expenditure of that Government Plan from £119,821,000 to £69,821,000.
- (b) To receive the Government Plan 2026 – 2029 (entitled “Budget 2026-2029”) specified in Article 9(1) of the Law and specifically –
 - i. to approve the estimate of total States income to be paid into the Consolidated Fund in 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 1 to the Report, which is inclusive of the proposed taxation and impôts duties changes outlined in the Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(a) of the Law.

- ii. to refer to their Act dated 24th June 2003 in which they approved that no new ‘user pays’ charges be introduced without any such charge receiving prior in principle approval by the States Assembly and accordingly to approve the introduction of two new charges, to be levied by Health and Care Jersey to promote appropriate use of the Emergency Department and for repeated non-attendance of outpatient appointments, detailed in the section entitled “Departmental Income Sources” as set out in the Appendix to the accompanying Report.
- iii. to approve the proposed Changes to Approval for financing/borrowing for 2026, as shown in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 2 to the Report, which may be obtained by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, as and when required, in line with Article 9 (2)(c) of the Law, of up to those revised approval amounts.
- iv. to approve the transfers from one States fund to another for 2026 of up to and including the amounts set in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 3 in line with Article 9(2)(b) of the Law.
- v. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Stabilisation Fund in 2026 of up to £50 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on the availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of the estimates provided in this plan, or from budgeted underspends identified before 31st December 2026.
- vi. to approve a transfer from the Consolidated Fund to the Agricultural Loans Fund in 2026 of up to £5 million, subject to a decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources based on availability of funds in the Consolidated Fund as at 31st December 2025 in excess of estimates provided in this plan, provided that no more than 10% of the total funding allocated to the Agricultural Loans Fund are to be given for the purpose of supporting the cultivation in Jersey of cannabis-based products for medicinal use.
- vii. to approve each major project that is to be started or continued in 2026 and the total cost of each such project and any amendments to the proposed total cost of a major project under a previously approved Government Plan, in line with Article 9(2)(d), (e) and (f) of the Law and as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 4 to the Report.
- viii. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for 2026, for each head of expenditure, being gross expenditure less estimated income (if any), in line with Articles 9(2)(g), 10(1) and 10(2) of the Law, and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Tables 5(i) and (ii) of the Report.
- ix. to approve the estimated income, being estimated gross income less expenditure, that each States trading operation will pay into its

trading fund in 2026 in line with Article 9(2)(h) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 6 to the Report.

- x. to approve the proposed amount to be appropriated from each States trading operation's trading fund for 2026 for each head of expenditure in line with Article 9(2)(i) of the Law and set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 7 to the Report.
- xi. to approve the estimated income and expenditure proposals for the Climate Emergency Fund for 2026 as set out in Appendix 2 – Summary Table 8 to the Report.
- xii. to approve, in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Law, the Government Plan 2026-2029, as set in the Appendix to the accompanying Report.

REPORT

The Council of Ministers feel it would be inappropriate to exclude a specific type of agricultural enterprise from accessing the Fund, particularly when the [Agriculture \(Loans\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 1974](#) already prescribe the businesses which are eligible for loans. These permit businesses or individuals engaged wholly or mainly in work of an agricultural nature in Jersey to apply for a loan from the Agricultural Loans Fund (the 'Fund').

The production of medicinal cannabis is a horticultural activity which satisfies the definition of being an agricultural enterprise.

All businesses and individuals seeking access to the Fund are required to complete a comprehensive application process with Jersey Business providing details of proposed projects which are verified by qualified accountants before referred to the Agricultural Loans and Guarantees Advisory Board, who in turn make a recommendation to the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development (MSED) for the award of loans from the Fund, using the criteria specified under Article 7(5) of the Regulations:

7 Procedure on applications

- (5) *In deciding on the recommendation to be made to the Minister with regard to an application, the Board, in addition to considering the information in pursuance of paragraph (3) and any additional information furnished in pursuance of paragraph (4), shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, such circumstances shall include –*
- (a) *where the purpose of the loan is to assist or enable an applicant who does not already occupy and farm agricultural land to purchase agricultural land to be occupied and farmed by the applicant, whether the land in respect of which the application is made is capable of yielding a sufficient livelihood to an occupier skilled in husbandry;*
 - (b) *whether the carrying out of the purpose for which the application is made is likely to contribute to the more efficient and economic farming of the agricultural land occupied and farmed by the applicant;*
 - (c) *the cost of carrying out the purpose in respect of which the application has been made in relation to the benefit to be derived therefrom;*
 - (d) *the skill and experience in husbandry of the applicant or, in the case of an application by an agricultural company, of the beneficial owners of the company;*

- (e) *the financial assets of the applicant whether arising from the farming of the agricultural land in his or her occupation or otherwise;*
- (f) *the financial liabilities, whether present or contingent, of the applicant.*

Following the Loans Board recommendation, the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development is then able to determine the award of Agricultural Loans (Article 7(7) of the Regulations). For borrowings from the Fund in excess of £150,000, the Treasury Minister must also approve the award of any Agricultural Loan.

Given the oversight of the delivery of Agricultural Loans by both Ministers, based on the evidence and recommendations of the Loan Board, it is felt that the decisions around the allocation of resources from the Fund are adequately managed under the current process without the need to restrict access to the Fund from any particular agricultural sector.

The members of the Agricultural Loans Board (which includes the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of Jersey) and the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development and the Treasury Minister can ensure that the correct strategic investment decisions are made for the use of the Agricultural Loans Fund without the need for the proposed policy restrictions.

So far in 2025, there have been 9 applications formally approved by the Agricultural Loans Board with a total of over £4 million worth loans complete or in process. None of these have yet been for medicinal cannabis producers but there is live engagement with the scheme from businesses in this area as they are currently eligible to apply.

Amendment 30 would signal a lack of political support for an emerging area of the agricultural sector which could play an important role in ensuring the future sustainable economic growth of the industry.

As with other parts of agricultural, exporting is a major component of the market and so this loans scheme should be distinct from a debate on the local regulations and impacts of medicinal cannabis.

The Agriculture (Loans) (Jersey) Regulations 1974 is currently under review to modernise the process with the proposed updates anticipated to come to the States Assembly for debate before the election.

Financial and staffing implications

There are no additional financial and/or staffing implications arising from this amendment.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

The Council of Ministers consider that this Amendment has no direct or indirect impact on children and that the duty to have due regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not arise. Accordingly, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment is not required under the Children (Conventions Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022.