

ACT: For Rural New Zealand

ACT knows that rural and regional New Zealand are where our wealth is created. We will make National take rural issues seriously and address the problems they've ignored for far too long. ACT has supported the National-led government since 2008, because the opposition is too great a risk. Labour, Green and New Zealand First policies will harm rural businesses.

Cutting Red Tape

ACT wants to keep the government off your farm and out of your business.

The Resource Management Act

ACT believes that the Resource Management Act is one of the greatest obstacles to economic development in New Zealand. Even small-scale consents cost too much in fees, and take too long in processing and consultation.

National has stalled on real RMA reform, and made it worse by creating new iwi participation provisions. National voted down ACT's proposed amendment that would have recognised property rights in the RMA, and rejected our offer of support for reform without new iwi participation provisions.

ACT will replace the RMA to make it easier for rural businesses to operate and grow.

Water and Irrigation

ACT opposes the scapegoating of irrigation and dairying to score votes. This tactic, employed by Greenpeace and the Green Party, ignores the economic and environmental benefits of irrigation. Their solutions are simplistic and aimed more at punishing our primary industries than encouraging sustainable use of resources.

ACT would reform water use rights, moving away from fixed limits and first-in-first-served arrangements, to a more economically efficient market-based system of pricing tradeable water use rights.

Loopy Rules

National continues to apply more and more costly regulation and legislation to businesses in the primary sector. The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 puts more compliance cost on businesses and takes up too much time in plans and paperwork.

ACT is against heavy-handed rules and regulations. To be competitive, adaptable and resilient, the primary sector needs government to get out of the way. There are too many legislative barriers in front of businesses at every stage: production, processing, marketing and distribution.

ACT is committed to lowering the cost of complying with regulations.

Firearms

ACT opposes proposed changes to the firearm registration process as they are expensive and unenforceable. ACT is also against giving Police new powers to enter the property of firearm license holders, and the plan to create blunt new categorisations of firearms.

Cutting Tax for Rural New Zealand

ACT's is the party of low taxes. We promote more efficient government spending with lower, flatter taxes - and no new taxes. Lower tax leads to a more productive economy, with higher growth and lower unemployment.

ACT's Income Tax Cut Plan

ACT will lower personal income tax in every bracket, with no income taxed above 25% for any earner.

Current Tax Rates:	Tax Bracket:	Rate:	ACT's Tax Cuts:	Tax Bracket:	Rate:
	Up to \$14,000:	10.5%		Up to \$14,000:	10%
	\$14,001 to \$48,000:	17.5%		\$14,001 to \$48,000:	15%
	\$48,001 to \$70,000:	30%		\$48,001 or more:	25%
	\$70,001 or more:	33%			

ACT's Company Tax Cut Plan

ACT will cut the company tax rate from 28% to 25%, with the goal of cutting it further in the future. This will allow small and medium-sized businesses to spend more on equipment and staff that they need to grow.



ACT will cut wasteful spending of taxpayer money, and eliminate corporate welfare handouts. We will maintain spending on core services, like health, education and law and order, and fund the majority of our tax cut plan using the forecasted rising surpluses over the next few years.

We are the only party willing to act now on superannuation, to reduce the escalating future cost of retirement. Our superannuation plan adjusts the retirement age gradually, starting in 2020.

Championing Free Trade

ACT has always been the strongest supporter of free trade in Parliament. ACT will continue to champion free trade agreements so that New Zealand businesses have access to large overseas markets.

ACT understands that many rural businesses need continued access to skilled migrant workers. ACT is a pro-immigration party, honouring our heritage as a nation of immigrants. We know there are pressures on infrastructure as a result of immigration, but solutions to this must not come at the cost of businesses in regional New Zealand.