

ACT's plan to get you an extra \$500 a week, beat Australia, and bring our children home.

by ACT Leader Rodney Hide and former Minister of Finance Sir Roger Douglas

act Policy	Countries where similar policy works well	Benefit	Boosts NZ annual growth by...	Boosts NZ average weekly pay by...	Vote YES or NO
1 Government waste. Cut state spending to Australian levels.	Australia	Lower inflation. Lower interest rates. More money left with those who earn it.	1/2%	\$50.00	
2 Tax. Cut and flatten rates. Start by abolishing the Cullen 39c 'envy tax'.	Russia, Estonia, Slovakia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Latvia, Lithuania	More incentive for people with initiative to create wealth and jobs.	3/8%	\$37.50	
3 Local government. Limit to core activities. Cap rates.	Ireland	Lower rates. Keep money for other things.	1/4%	\$25.00	
4 Public service:			1/4%	\$25.00	
Close departments we don't need.	Australia (Labor)	Millions saved for things we do need.			
Reduce bureaucracy.	Australia (Labor)	Good state servants freed up for more productive jobs.			
Return bureaucracy to non-political role.	Hong Kong	Unbiased advice.			
Limit Cabinet to 12 ministers.		Better decisions sooner. Fewer baubles of office.			
Limit Parliament to 100 MPs. The many countries with fewer MPs per capita than NZ include...	Japan, Netherlands, France, Israel, Spain, Belgium	Millions saved for things we need.			
5 Red tape. Get rid of all nutty regulations.		The state no longer wastes productive people's time on pointless form-filling.	1/4%	\$25.00	
Appoint Minister of Regulatory Reform.	Australia (Labor)	Firms cut free of red tape can focus on creating more wealth and more jobs.			
Pass Regulatory Responsibility Act – to set checklist for good lawmaking.		Politicians must consider national interest, so can't easily pass laws for cynical political reasons.			
6 Resource management. Reform the Resource Management Act.	US (Houston)	Good projects start and finish sooner.	1/4%	\$25.00	
7 Education. Create competitive market.	Sweden, Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Australia, UK Conservative policy	Kids learn more, faster. (State funds parents. Parents choose schools. Schools reward good teachers. Good teachers drive education – to please parents, not bureaucrats.)	1/4%	\$25.00	
8 Healthcare. Create competitive market.	Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden (Stockholm)	Hospitals cure more patients, sooner. (State gives health policies to all. Patients choose hospitals. Doctors, not bureaucrats, drive healthcare.)	1/4%	\$25.00	
9 Accident compensation. Create competitive market – as used to work well here.	Most wealthy nations, New Zealand 1998-99	Accident victims back at work sooner. Lower fees.	1/4%	\$25.00	
10 Welfare. Create competitive markets for sickness, invalid, and unemployment insurance.	US (Democrats), Switzerland, Australia	Welfare recipients back at work sooner. More generous support for those who can't work.	1/8%	\$12.50	
11 Immigration. Welcome more good quality immigrants.	Australia, US	Industries get the skilled workers they need.	1/4%	\$25.00	
12 Labour. Allow freedom of contract to make it easier to trial new workers and replace poor performers.	UK, Ireland, Denmark, Japan, Switzerland, US	Business runs better with right staff. Workers and company earn more. Contract protects both parties.	1/2%	\$50.00	
13 Privatisation. Sell state businesses where private firms can serve customers better.	Practically all except Cuba, Myanmar, North Korea	Happier customers. Lower prices. More product variety and choice.	1/4%	\$25.00	
14 Infrastructure. Build better networks (e.g. roads, water, electricity).		Better service for less money.	1/4%	\$25.00	
Replace user charges with tolls that reward off-peak use.	Australia, Norway (Oslo), US, Singapore, France	Smoothing demand reduces bottlenecks. No need to pay for more capacity.			
15 Tariffs. Cut remaining tariffs on imports.	Hong Kong, Singapore	Cheaper imports. Exporters who can't compete switch to fields where they can.	1/8%	\$12.50	
Strengthen bonds with the US.	Australia, Chile, Canada, Mexico	US Free Trade Agreement would earn NZ \$1b+ a year. More Kiwis exposed to US entrepreneurial skills.			
16 Housing. Free up more land for homes.	US (Houston)	Cheaper sections. More people achieve Kiwi dream of owning home.	1/8%	\$12.50	
17 Law and order:			1/8%	\$12.50	
Bring back private prisons – now best practice overseas.	UK (Labour Party), US, Australia	More secure, more humane, cheaper prisons.			
Let private firms free up cops for 'zero tolerance' policing.	New York	Young taggers don't progress to worse crimes. People feel safer.			
Speed up courts (e.g. night courts) to reduce unfair delays.	US (New York, California), Singapore, Canada	More decisions sooner.			
18 Climate change. Adopt saner policies. Low carbon tax better than carbon trading.	US, Canada (British Columbia), Australia	Don't hurt Kiwi families and businesses needlessly. (Nations that cause 75% of emissions must lead.)	3/8%	\$37.50	
19 Constitutional framework. Strengthen.		Makes democracy more democratic.	1/8%	\$12.50	
Adopt Taxpayer Bill of Rights	Hong Kong, US (20 states e.g. Colorado)	State spending capped. Taxes kept low.			
Pass Regulatory Responsibility Act – to set checklist for good lawmaking.		Hard to make bad laws like Electoral Finance Act.			
Return to Privy Council	UK, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, Bermuda	Free access to best judicial minds from a population of 58 million.			
Hold referendum on MMP voting system.		People get long-overdue say on how they like MMP.			
20 Families at risk. Appoint mentors to teach parenting and life skills.	Sweden, Norway, Denmark, US (Philadelphia)	Less family violence. Fewer damaged children. Thriving families less drain on taxpayers.	1/8%	\$12.50	
TOTAL BOOST TO NEW ZEALAND'S GROWTH RATE AND AVERAGE WEEKLY PAY			5%	\$500.00	

Take out a pen and come and play finance minister...

In the right-hand column, you can make the kind of choices that Roger Douglas had to make in the '80s.

(Oh, and if anyone says these policies are 'hard right', note how many of them have been adopted by left-wing governments, from Sweden to the UK to Bill Clinton's America. They're simply international best practice.)

OK. Now vote Yes or No to each policy. We don't

expect you to like them all. But any time you vote No, check how much annual growth and how much weekly pay you're costing yourself in doing so.

(Growth, by the way, is what allows us to pay for things like better medicines, great teachers and more roads.)

You see, running a country is just like running your home. You need to make tough choices. It takes guts.

We'll need a ton of that if we're going to close the

average trans-Tasman income gap of \$450 a week and bring our kids home.

As Kevin Rudd adopts many of ACT's policies in Australia – like \$31 billion in tax cuts, and plans to trim public service fat – we have no choice but to make even more good choices than our big neighbour.

Ireland did it in the '90s. So can we. Strong leadership from an ACT-like party created a booming economy and

brought Irish kids home in droves.

Over thirty countries now boast a better living standard than New Zealand's. Why?

Because they've had what we need: the right policies and leaders with the guts to do what's right.


The Guts To Do What's Right.