

# A brief history of ACT proposing real change during the cost of living crisis

ACT has consistently been ahead of the political pack when it comes to addressing the cost of living crisis. Today's cost of living crisis discussion document is the third policy document released by ACT in the past eight months.

In **December 2021**, after listening to New Zealanders, ACT called it first and said Kiwis faced a cost of living crisis.

In **December 2021**, we also released the discussion document *Hard Labour: Tackling the cost of living crisis*, which included proposals to:

- Reduce the middle-income tax rate from 30% to 17.5%
- Open the border to students and tourists, dump MIQ and legalise RAT testing
- Repeal Labour's employment law changes
- Repeal the ute tax, Zero Carbon Act, and Significant Natural Areas

**DEC  
2021**

**FEB  
2022**

In **February 2022**, three months later, National joined ACT in acknowledging a cost of living crisis.

In **March 2022**, Jacinda Ardern finally admitted there was a cost of living crisis.

**MAR  
2022**

**MAY  
2022**

In **May 2022**, ACT showed the Government there was a way to deliver an aspirational Budget for the future that would rebuild our economy by increasing productivity and growth with our fully-costed alternative *Real Change Budget*. It included proposals to:

- Create a simple two-rate tax system of 17.5% and 28%
- Get back to surplus and pay down debt faster
- Scrap new housing taxes
- Gradually raise the superannuation age
- Reduce wasteful spending by \$6.8 billion
- Reduce the number of bureaucrats and government departments
- Extend the Mixed Ownership Model to all SOEs
- Scrap remaining COVID-19 rules that no longer make sense
- Welcome overseas investment from OECD countries
- End the oil and gas ban, repeal the Zero Carbon Act
- Repeal Labour's employment law changes

**Today**, in response to the cost of living crisis that is still besieging New Zealanders, ACT has released nine concrete changes to lower the costs being felt by Kiwis:

- Unilaterally abolish all tariffs
- Simplifying the Accredited Employer Work Visa scheme
- Allow foreign supermarket chains from OECD countries to bypass the Overseas Investment Act
- Create a Materials Equivalence Register
- Incentivise councils to build by sharing GST with them
- Cut taxes for every earner
- Replacing the RMA
- Restoring monetary policy credibility to the Reserve Bank
- Reversing the Government's workplace relations changes that are hammering businesses

**JUL  
2022**