

ACT Party economic proposals target Carbon Act, reinstating immigration

The ACT Party is urging a return to pre-Covid immigration settings and completely scrapping the Zero Carbon Act in its economic discussion document release.



Photo: RNZ / Samuel Rillstone

It is the party's third and final release - at Frasers eatery in Mount Eden, Auckland - of its "honest conversation" discussion documents, released on each of the three weeks of the Parliamentary recess.

The party calls for privately run managed isolation (MIQ),

a return to pre-Covid immigration settings and dumping the Zero Carbon Act.

It also called for:

- Rebalancing the Health and Safety at Work Act to allow immediate firings and abolish some restrictions
- Reinstate 90-day trials and repeal fair pay agreement legislation, reforming the Employment Relations Act with changes that de-emphasise unions and the Employment Relations Authority
- Replace the Resource Management Act with separate Environmental Protection and Urban Development Acts that - in contrast to the reforms being carried out by the government - would prioritise individual property rights and a reduction of environmental restrictions
- Replace the Zero Carbon Act with an Emissions Trading Scheme cap that matches targets with New Zealand's trading partners

It said all this could be achieved along with significant tax cuts in line with the [party's Alternative Budget](#) outlined in May, which proposes cutting Crown spending - including scrapping KiwiSaver subsidies and benefits like the Winter Energy and Best Start payments.

"If you work hard you should be rewarded, but under the Labour government it feels like people are rewarded for doing nothing while hardworking taxpayers are being

punished," ACT Leader David Seymour said.

Proposals for changes to MIQ would see hotel owners licensed to provide isolation facilities to vaccinated travellers only. It would require all those on site to also be vaccinated and undergo saliva testing every two days.

"With every passing day, New Zealand's isolation is turning from its great strength to its greatest weakness. As the rest of the world moves on from Covid, we must be prepared to move with them," Seymour said.

The proposals also seek feedback on how to reduce restrictions imposed by the then-National government's anti-money laundering legislation in 2009.

The party's associate finance spokesperson Damien Smith said it was unclear whether the law had delivered tangible results.

"A lack of understanding and support has led to employers feeling the need to over-compensate and have found it harder to access finance or real estate."

The party's earlier releases focused on [gangs](#) and [housing](#).