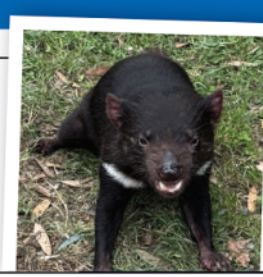


The Post

EST. 1865

TE UPOKO
O TE IKA

Wild about Tasmania
Nature puts on a show
for motorhome road trip
STUFF TRAVEL



Crunch time for Chrises

Christopher Luxon and Chris Hipkins have hit the malls in full campaign mode, diving into selfies, small talk and chaos. For a lively look at the walkabout ritual that defines campaign politics, read **Amelia Wade's** report on page 8.

Labour leader Chris Hipkins, right, visits Sylvia Park mall in Auckland, while, far right, National leader Christopher Luxon pops into a nail salon during a visit to an Auckland mall.



Focus on fiscal, cost of living

ACT says it will raise super age, NZ First to raise minimum wage, boost Working for Families

ELECTION 2026

POLITICS
Nick James

ACT's fiscal plan is promising an earlier return to surplus and an increase in the super age, NZ First pledges to raise the minimum wage and give a Working for Families boost, and Labour released its "action plan" to cut household costs.

As the election campaign grinds into its third week, parties over the weekend were focusing on proposals to ease the cost of living – top of mind for voters – while yesterday ACT released its fiscal plan, hot on the heels of Labour's plan,

released last week.

ACT Party leader David Seymour, in Auckland yesterday, said that plan would get New Zealand's books back in black a year earlier and he hinted at a "targeted" tax cut policy on the horizon.

The plan relies on starting to raise the superannuation eligibility age quickly, sweeping cuts to public service spending, and adding new criteria for disability benefits.

Under the current Government's preferred method for calculating surplus, OBEGALX, the plan would see a small surplus of \$79 million in 2028, a year prior to the Government's current plans in the pre-election fiscal update (PREFU).

However under the traditional measure, OBEGAL, a surplus is reached at the same time, in 2029, but much larger: \$5.1 billion in ACT's plan compared to \$2.06b in PREFU – that's much larger than the surplus forecast in Labour's fis-

cal plan, which was \$2.02b over the same period.

ACT made the savings through measures including shaving \$400m off the Government's operating allowance each year, raising the age of superannuation by three months a year, reaching 67 by 2035, binning government contributions to KiwiSaver, and reducing foreign aid to 2017 levels, excluding money to Ukraine.

ACT assumes that the savings would have borrowing costs drop to \$452b in 2031 and that by that same year, net Crown debt would be \$12.4b lower than in the PREFU forecasts.

Seymour said less debt gave New Zealand room to respond to the next earthquake, financial crisis, pandemic or other disruption without burdening taxpayers.



ACT leader David Seymour announced the party's financial document yesterday.

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