Bitcoin Policy New Zealand
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Bitcoin Policy New Zealand welcomes ACT's digital finance plan and its move to make everyday Bitcoin payments tax-free

Bitcoin Policy New Zealand (**BPNZ**) has welcomed the policy paper released today by ACT, *Unlocking New Zealand's Digital Economy*[1], describing it as a constructive step toward the clear, predictable rules New Zealanders need to use and hold Bitcoin and other digital assets with confidence.

BPNZ supports any political party willing to modernise New Zealand's tax and regulatory settings for digital assets. ACT's paper is consistent with the case BPNZ has been making for some time: that Bitcoin is money and that our rules should reflect how people actually use it.

"This is the kind of practical, principle-led thinking New Zealand needs," said Kevin Whitmore, Chairman of BPNZ. "We don't need the government to pick winners or subsidise anyone. We need clear rules that let people use sound digital money without tripping over tax paperwork designed for a different era. ACT's paper moves in that direction, and we welcome it."

Everyday use: the standout for Bitcoin holders

Of particular interest to BPNZ is ACT's proposal to exempt low-value everyday purchases made with digital assets from tax. Under current rules, a New Zealander who buys a coffee with Bitcoin is technically required to calculate the acquisition cost, the disposal value and any resulting gain or loss on the amount spent — an absurd compliance burden that raises little revenue and discourages ordinary use.

This mirrors the case BPNZ made in its November 2025 policy paper, *Bitcoin as Money: De minimis tax exemption for Bitcoin payments under NZD $1000*,[2] which argued that Bitcoin functions as money and should be treated as such. That paper called for a *de minimis* threshold below which gains on digital assets used for day-to-day purchases should be neither reportable nor taxable.

BPNZ proposes setting that threshold at $1,000 as a sensible starting point, but we understand ACT is contemplating a higher figure. "The exact number matters less than the principle: no one should need to file a tax calculation to buy a coffee with Bitcoin. We'd welcome the chance to work through the details — including the right threshold — with any party serious about getting this done."

Broader support

BPNZ also welcomed several other elements of the paper, including:

- A **12-month bright-line test** for long-term personal investment in digital assets, which replaces subjective, intent-based assessments with a clear, objective rule.
- A review of **de-banking**, so that lawful individuals and businesses are not shut out of basic financial services simply because their activity involves digital assets.
- A commitment to **regulatory certainty** and a proportionate innovation sandbox, giving New Zealanders and New Zealand businesses room to build.

"Certainty is the thing that's been missing," said Kevin Whitmore. "New Zealanders who have and want to spend Bitcoin, and the businesses that want to serve them, have been operating in a grey zone for too long. Clear rules protect people from fraud and abuse while letting honest activity flourish. That's the balance this policy is aiming for, and it's the right one."

As New Zealand approaches the upcoming general election, we look forward to engaging constructively with all political parties, including ACT, as the detail of these proposals is developed.

1. https://www.act.org.nz/news/unlocking-new-zealand-s-digital-economy
2. https://nzbitcoin.org/BPNZ_Policy_Paper_De_minimis_Tax_Exemption_2025-11-12.pdf

About Bitcoin Policy New Zealand

Bitcoin Policy New Zealand is a non-partisan organisation advocating for clear, fair and forward-looking policy on Bitcoin in Aotearoa New Zealand. We aim to empower New Zealand individuals, businesses, and government to fully participate in the Bitcoin Network, embracing its potential as a transformative monetary technology. Through education, advocacy, and practical support, we provide the knowledge and tools needed to achieve financial sovereignty, foster economic growth, and unlock the wide-ranging benefits of Bitcoin adoption.

https://nzbitcoin.org/