

Tax Working Group Information Release

Release Document

February 2019

taxworkingroup.govt.nz/key-documents

This paper has been prepared by the Secretariat to the Tax Working Group for consideration by the Tax Working Group.

The advice represents the preliminary views of the Secretariat and does not necessarily represent the views of the whole Group or the Government.

Some papers contain draft suggested text for the Final Report. This text does not constitute the considered views of the Group. Please see the Final Report for the agreed position of the Group.

Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- [1] 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people;
- [2] 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials;
- [3] 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions;
- [4] 9(2)(j) to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Final Report – Revised Outline

Volume I: Assessment and recommendations

Foreword

Executive Summary

Part 1: Purposes and frameworks

- 1. The purposes of tax
- 2. Frameworks for assessing tax policy

Part 2: An assessment of the tax system

- 3. The structure, fairness and balance of the tax system
 - Brief recap of the main features of the tax system
 - Key issues: treatment of capital income, and limited use of environmental taxation
 - Opportunities to improve productivity (e.g. incentives for allocation of investment)

Part 3: Recommended directions

- 4. Improving environmental and ecological outcomes
- 5. Increasing the fairness, progressivity and efficiency of the tax system
 - Set out main strategic choices and high-level decisions reached by the Group
 - Main focus on treatment of capital income and personal income tax
 - Housing and retirement savings could sit here, or in a separate chapter
- 6. Building a productive economy
 - Business tax and compliance cost measures

Part 4: Tax reform to support a fairer society and stronger economy

- 7. Potential packages to improve the structure, fairness and balance of the tax system
- 8. Other recommendations to improve the tax system
 - Brief summary of recommendations on issues closed in in the Interim Report

Part 5: Concluding thoughts

9. Conclusion

Volume II: Design choices for taxing capital gains

- 1. Introduction
- 2. What should be taxed?
 - Included assets
 - Excluded assets
 - Revenue account property

3. How to tax?

- General principles
- Administration
- Social policy
- 4. When to tax?
 - Realisation versus accrual
 - What is a realisation event?
 - When realisation events will be ignored
 - When realisation events will be deemed to occur
- 5. Treatment of expenditure
 - General principles
 - Specific rules
 - Entering the tax base
- 6. Treatment of losses
- 7. Transitional rules
 - Valuation Day
 - Change of use
 - Migration
- 8. Who will be taxed?
 - Companies
 - Trusts
 - Partnerships and look-through companies
 - Non-residents
- 9. Specific regimes Taxation of foreign shares
- 10. Specific regimes Taxation of New Zealand shares

- 11. Specific regimes Taxation of managed funds
- 12. Specific regimes Taxation of corporate groups

Volume III: Appendices

Appendices

List of Secretariat advice

Glossary

References