

## **Tax Working Group Public Submissions Information Release**

### **Release Document**

**September 2018**

**[taxworkinggroup.govt.nz/key-documents](http://taxworkinggroup.govt.nz/key-documents)**

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)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

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.

27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Mr. John Wright

[1]

The attached paper is my submission on the future of taxation in New Zealand and argues for a complete change in the basis of taxation, suitable for the technological realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our current tax system is unwieldy and has been patched many times, resulting in complexity and compliance costs at very high levels.

Much of it has been designed with the assistance of tax experts who have a vested interest in producing complexity and loop-holes.

This paper argues for simplification, low compliance costs and broadening the tax base to take in inefficient activities adding costs to the producing economy, while enabling us to phase out old and inefficient forms of taxation.

It will take some time to show its full benefits, but if the design work is commenced this year it should be possible to pass legislation following the next election and commence the reform shortly thereafter.

John A. Wright

Past Member of Parliament and Under-Secretary for Revenue