

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

### **Release Document**

**September 2018**

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

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

## **Submission to New Zealand tax working group**

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit on the consultation document. This is an individual submission. The document raised many important issues and was clearly written.

**The following are issues that I believe are of high priority:**

- 1. Tax avoidance and tax havens. This is an issue of fundamental importance to New Zealand and internationally, and NZ has the opportunity to play an important part to play in addressing this.**

**I support the Oxfam recommendation that:**

- the Tax Working Group should extend the remit of its recommendations to Cabinet to examine New Zealand's role and responsibility to fix the global tax system.
    - The Paradise and Panama Papers demonstrated that the lack of tax transparency is a global problem that needs a global solution.
    - Developing countries are missing out on \$150 billion each year due to multinational tax avoidance
    - Tax avoidance deprives governments around the world (including NZ) the money they need to tackle poverty and inequality.
  - Governments must act together to force this system to end. Countries must work collaboratively to remedy the system.
  - New Zealand must stand in solidarity with developing countries and call for a new generation of global tax reforms. This will be most easily done through a new UN-based global tax body.
  - A UN Tax body will ensure all countries participate on an equal footing and ensure multinationals pay their fair share of tax.
- 2. Capital gains tax and property investment.**
    - a. Including capital gains, and addressing the inequities favouring investment in property over other investment is important to reduce increasing household inequity after housing costs.

This would require much detailed work to address the issues identified as concerns within the consultation document and this detail is beyond the scope of my expertise.

- 3. Use of the taxation system to modify behaviour.** I would support
  - a. taxation of sugar sweetened beverages, and
  - b. consideration of removal of GST on fresh fruit and vegetables

The Group and the secretariat may contact me to discuss the points raised, if required. The best contact is via email.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Vogel