

This submission concerns the state taxes on house purchase, namely Stamp Duty.

This tax is a crippling, money-for-nothing, component that all house-buyers dread.

No-one has ever attempted to explain why a house-buyer has to pay the State Government a five-figure sum, probably because it cannot be justified.

Abolishment or, at least, reduction to a reasonable figure (ie the actual cost of any paperwork) of this insidious tax burden would stimulate the housing industry by removing the hurdle that prevents many people from entering the house market or selling up and buying another house.

One proposal seen was to replace stamp duty with a modified land tax. That should be discouraged as this would just rename the tax while retaining the burden. The simple fact is that any amount above the cost of processing of information due to the house purchase should not be considered.

J S Pettigrew