

I write to urge that the Federal Government, in reviewing and renewing the Australia Tax system, consider and implement the following:

1. A Currency Transaction Development Levy - as in the model proposed by several NGO's. Some cogent details can be found at:

<http://www.innovativefinance-oslo.no/pop.cfm?FuseAction=Doc&pAction=View&pDocumentId=11742>

Further, the Australian Govt. in adopting this measure should act on the international level to encourage other countries to follow its leadership in adopting the levy.

My partner and I make regular contributions to an international development NGO (Oxfam Aust.) by way of automatic deductions. We find this a particularly painless way of giving. A Currency Transaction levy at the level proposed would afford many of our commercial institutions a similar "painless" way of contributing to the common good!

2. Stop the continual trend towards lowering taxes, both personal and corporate. Taxes are how our shared facilities, infrastructure, education, health, defence etc etc are funded.

Australians are egalitarian and big-hearted enough to contribute heavily to the common good willingly PROVIDED they see that the contributed taxes are being used efficiently, and fairly. More effort should be spent ensuring this and showing it - not with big glossy campaigns, but with steady and constant reference to it whenever possible, by politicians and public servants alike. The culture that promotes the idea that taxes are inherently bad must be challenged and changed. To develop Australian society to its full potential, more collective effort (i.e taxes) WILL be needed.

3. More efforts must be made to stop any tax avoidance by wealthy individuals and companies using Tax Havens such as Lichtenstein, and companies avoiding responsibilities by moving off-shore e. to the Netherlands... Current efforts in this regard are to be applauded...much more remains to be done.

4. I support a carbon TAX in general as a measure for climate control, but recognise the Govt. has opted for an emissions trading scheme. However, the govt. has the opportunity to bring pressure towards more efficient vehicles by modifying motor vehicle taxes to favour low-emission vehicles, and to penalise those which are high emmitters.

5. I support a greater tax on luxury goods and vehicles in order to fund social benefits such as housing affordability. Much has been said in the media about the "politics of envy" in relation to the luxury car tax - far too little has been said about the "politics of greed" which drives the push to avoid such taxes.

A strong and fair tax system which DOES redistribute some benefits from the rich to the poor is essential for the maintenance of a just, cohesive Australian society.

I look forward to your findings

Jim Richardson