

Thanks for the opportunity to be heard. I would like the following ideas included in a future tax system:

1. The system must be fair to all. I'm pleased that ATO is pursuing people who default on this responsibility, especially high-income earners.
2. I'm generally in favour of consumption tax (GST) but fearful that it places a proportionately heavier burden on the poor. It seems to me that a combination of personal income tax and a consumption tax is the best solution ... getting the balance right is the trick.
3. As a nation we must arrest the knee-jerk handouts, and tax sweeteners, that occur as elections are approaching. We need long-term planning and consistent policy so we use taxation revenue wisely for genuine nation building. I have a hard time trying to think of a significant, publicly funded, nation-building program that we have undertaken since the Snowy River Scheme.
4. Can we find creative ways of using taxation to improve overall-health and wellbeing. These can be both positive incentives such as access to proven illness prevention strategies and health promotion activities through the Medicare system and punitive measures such as a tax on fat, higher taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, a tax regime high-in-carbon products and services.
5. As a nation we are caught in a culture of greed and over-consumption which is killing our children and turning us into a nation of selfish, indulgent slobs. Wise tax policy is one way to turn this around.

best wishes in your deliberations

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