

Premier Jay Weatherill Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Wednesday, 11 February 2015

State Tax Review Discussion Paper released

The State Government today released a Discussion Paper on options to reform our State taxation system.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the State Tax Review Discussion Paper will stimulate an informed debate and encourage businesses, industry and advocacy groups, and individuals to put forward ideas that are competitive, sustainable and fair.

“The State Government is open to radical reform to our State taxation system,” Mr Weatherill said.

“Nothing is out of bounds, be it taxes, levies or concessions.

“Our State taxation system offers the means to provide high-quality services that the South Australian community values and that make our State a great place live and raise a family.

“But our State taxation system must also assist investment, create new opportunities, and encourage business owners to employ more South Australians.

“Getting this balance right is crucial to the Government’s vision to ensure South Australia remains a place where people and business thrive.”

Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis said the Discussion Paper provides a summary of the State’s current tax system and canvasses tax reform options that have been suggested in the past through various tax reviews.

“The Discussion Paper includes a range of information not normally available, including the estimated budget impact as well as potential incidence effects on taxpayers of certain taxation reforms,” Mr Koutsantonis said.

“It is important to note that the Discussion Paper canvasses ideas and options for State taxation reform as a first key step in engaging with the community.

“This information is intended to encourage an informed debate on tax reform and provide a useful resource for those in the community that wish to contribute to this process.”

The Discussion Paper also outlines key objectives South Australians should consider as part of the review.

These include:

- Our taxation system needs to provide enough revenue to deliver high-quality services and infrastructure to the community, now and into the future.
- Our taxation system must support entrepreneurship, investment and job creation. Business must pay its fair share of State taxes, but the taxes paid by the business sector should not stand in the way of those who are actively investing in creating new opportunities.

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- Our taxation system should be fair and have regard to people’s ability to pay.
- Our taxation system should collect revenue as efficiently as possible.
- Our taxation system should be as stable and predictable as possible.

Over the coming weeks, Mr Koutsantonis will meet with business, industry and advocacy groups, as well as community representatives in regional areas to discuss the review.

“It will be a difficult task to build consensus on lasting reform,” Mr Koutsantonis said.

“But we accept the challenge and I look forward to my discussions with South Australians on how to bring about competitive, sustainable and fair tax reform in this State.”

For more information, or to lodge a submission online, visit the YourSAy website www.yoursay.sa.gov.au

Submissions can also be lodged via mail: Department of Treasury and Finance, State Tax Review, GPO, Box 1045, ADELAIDE, SA 5001 or hand delivered: Department of Treasury and Finance, State Tax Review, 200 Victoria Square, Adelaide, SA, 5000.

Submissions close Friday, April 10.